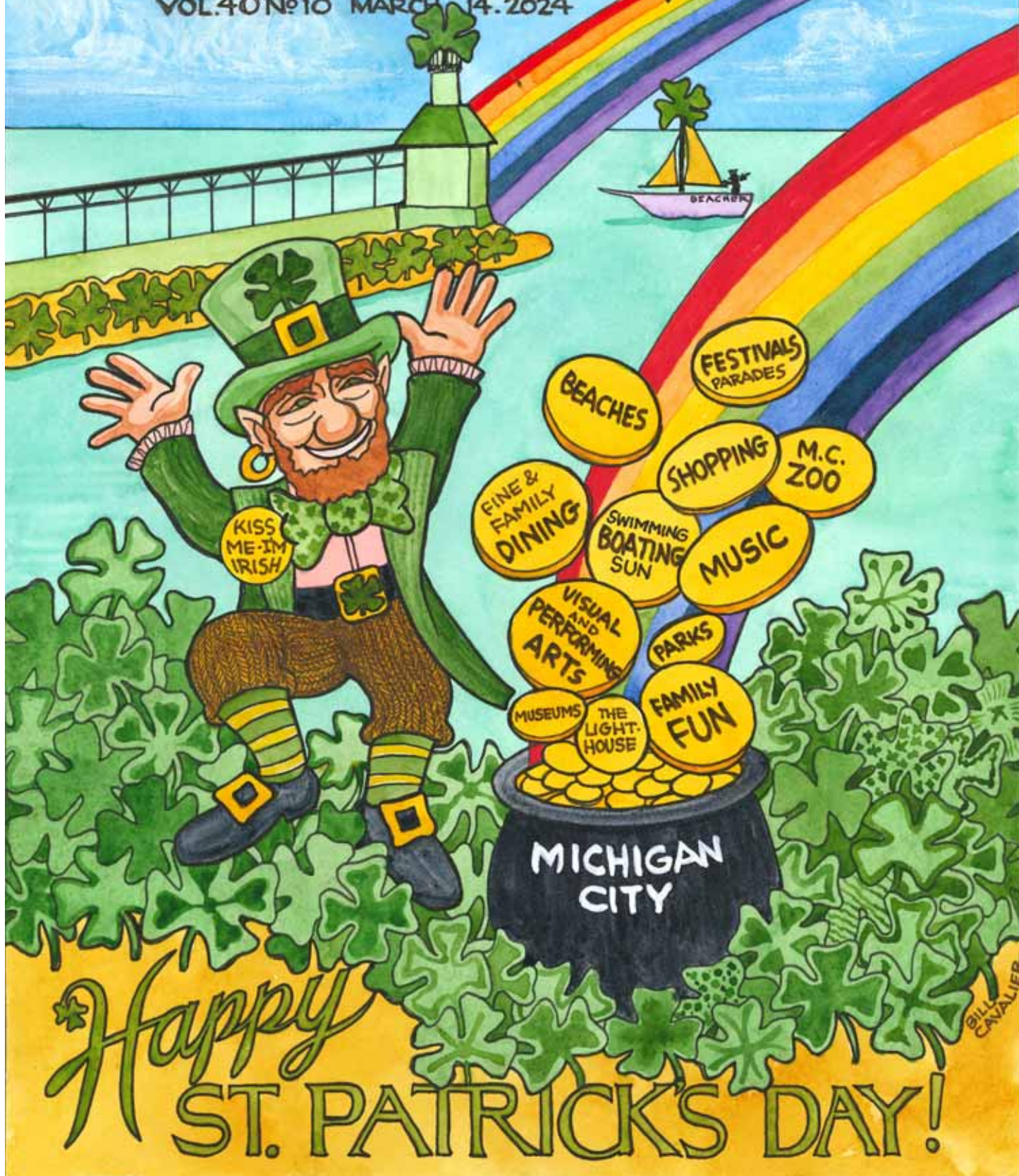


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Inspiring the Future

by Andrew Tallackson

The images consume you. The boldness in color choices, the sweeping inspiration found in messages of hope and resilience.

Some achieve grand spectacle. Like a magnificent phoenix rising from the ashes. Others invoke mighty symbolism, like the two fists raised in solidarity. Yet another takes on a wistful air, animals of all shapes and sizes captured in playful splendor.

These nine murals, largely the work of students, are transforming the more traditional, institutionalized look of a high school cafeteria into a vibrant setting.

A mural club has existed at Michigan City High School for about five years, guided by school art teacher/club sponsor Sue Cleveland. But the driving force behind the nine colossal murals under way in the cafeteria



Freshman Erebus Lawson (foreground) and sophomore Amber Boltz work on one of the murals.

Photo by Andrew Tallackson.



Laura Panozzo is photographed by *The Beacher's* Andrew Tallackson standing before a mural in the school depicting a phoenix rising from the ashes.

is Long Beach artist Laura Panozzo.

“Our environment has changed here. It has been transformed,” she told *The Beacher*. “The results we are experiencing are spectacular, but almost even mystical and magical that the whole building is no longer the same place that it was last year. We are in a new environment.”

Panozzo’s vision is grand in vision and execution, but then again, that’s who she is. To know her is to embrace someone who feels larger than life. Full in emotion and gesture.

The inspiration for the nine murals began with her son, Enzo, a MCHS senior. Through some of his own ex-

periences and, more so, that of his fellow students, Panozzo was offered a window into the turbulent lives of today's teens: lives confronted by depression, thoughts of suicide, gender identity, even victimized by acts of violence.

During Enzo's junior year, Panozzo joined Cleveland and her son's art class on a field trip to The Art Institute of Chicago, her alma mater. In spending time with these teens, and in speaking with Cleveland, Panozzo says a plan began to formulate.



Laura's son Enzo, a Michigan City High School senior, helped her provide insight into what teens experience today.

"I knew that if I could mural in a very aggressive way the whole school, these young, wonderful children who were hurting and needed hope and encouragement, and no other means of getting it beyond school," she said, "combined with students such as my Enzo, who is trying to make great grades, and work with charities, and at times is maybe feeling down, well, I instantly knew what I had to do."

The first mural Panozzo worked on at the high school was close to the nurse's office. This year, she approached Cleveland about creating the nine murals around the school cafeteria.

And here's the thing. Panozzo embarked on the project entirely of her own volition. Her own money, paints, supplies and, most importantly, her time. All of it considered donations to the school mural club. At press time, she reported logging 525 hours and counting on the project.

On her Facebook Page "LMP ECO ART," she describes the project in detail, revealing how it, and the students, have inspired her:

Continued on Page 4

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Inspiring the Future

Continued from Page 3

- I have donated every can of paint and all brushes from my personal studio to MCHS Mural Club.
- I have not received one copper penny, not one piece of green paper.
- I have received many gifts, however.
- I have been hugged more times than I have in my entire life in the past year.
- I have learned to paint with my left hand after my exhausted right hand could no longer keep painting all these walls.
- I have been told “I love you” by my students.
- I have shared smiles, stories and laughter with my students, and on a few occasions, I have wiped away their tears.
- I have learned American Sign Language from my deaf student.
- I have had many unexpected heart-to-heart talks with teachers, kitchen and maintenance staff.
- I have received joy from the tremendous, uplifting change, created by my tired hands and my full heart.

Cleveland certainly appreciates Panozzo's efforts. Heck, she is a key component of it. On the afternoon *The Beacher* stopped by the cafeteria, she was seated along a curved wall, applying paint to the many animals she's envisioned there.

Employed with Michigan City Area Schools since 1982, she's enjoyed watching students get involved in the mural project.

“The whole place has blown up,” she said, pointing to the many walls in the cafeteria. “It's really nice. The kids enjoy it, and it gives them an outlet.”

Cleveland is not the only employee lending a hand. School counselor Danielle Reed is part of the project as well.



Junior Madelyn Shinn stands by her mural that features two swans. Photo by Andrew Tallackson.

“I first started seeing all the changes going on the walls in the cafeteria, and I didn't really know what was going on,” she said. “I stayed after school and saw her (Panozzo) and all the students and realized, she is the mom of one of my students. We became fast friends. I already love painting outside of school, so I started coming whenever I can.”

Observing the students at work, there is an air of calm about them. A peace. That they are exactly where they should be, doing precisely what they should be doing at the moment.

Panozzo gushes about the students, almost with a mix of guiding mentor and caring parent. Junior Madelyn Shinn, for instance, she repeatedly praises for being exceptionally talented.

Shinn says she's always been drawn to painting, so the mural project is right up her alley. And, she adds, working with Panozzo is a blast.

“I love the lunchroom looking way more appealing,” she said. “For kids at school... if they walk in and see this, it can make



Sue Cleveland, a Michigan City High School art teacher and mural club sponsor, works on one of the murals in the cafeteria. Photo by Andrew Tallackson.

their day. Make them feel better.

"I hope they see the emotions of the paintings," she added. "Artists are subjective so what they feel, I want them to feel that, too."

Infusing healthy doses of color into the cafeteria is something senior/mural club president Makenzie Rojas has enjoyed.

"Now, every time I go to the cafeteria, I can, like, look and never stop looking because there's so much to look at," she said. "It all blends together. I like that cohesion. It's very creative."

Panozzo loves watching the students interact with each other, bonding over the shared experience, of their collective talent achieving something special.

"They love it," she said. "It is a magical experience, and all those different kids — the cool kids, the not-cool kids, the grungy kids, the Emo kids — they all love each other," she said. "We



School counselor Danielle Reed shows how she dipped her hand in paint to create a handprint on the wall. She is featured by freshman Erebus Lawson. Photo by Andrew Tallackson.

all know each other's names. We all compliment each other. We experience all the goodness we wish they could have every day together."

Continued on Page 6



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Inspiring the Future

Continued from Page 5

Panozzo will host an open house, a walk-through, for family and friends once the murals are finished. Updates on the open house specifics will appear on her Facebook page, "LMP ECO ART." It is on that page, too, where people can make donations to the project.

What is Panozzo's wish, her hope, once everything is said and done?

It's simple.

"This place will be a vehicle of hope, of healing, of love, support and inspiration for our future," she said. "These young people need so much love and hope and inspiration, and this world for our teens is so very brutal and difficult. I say to my students, 'This world is very difficult, but it's also very beautiful'."

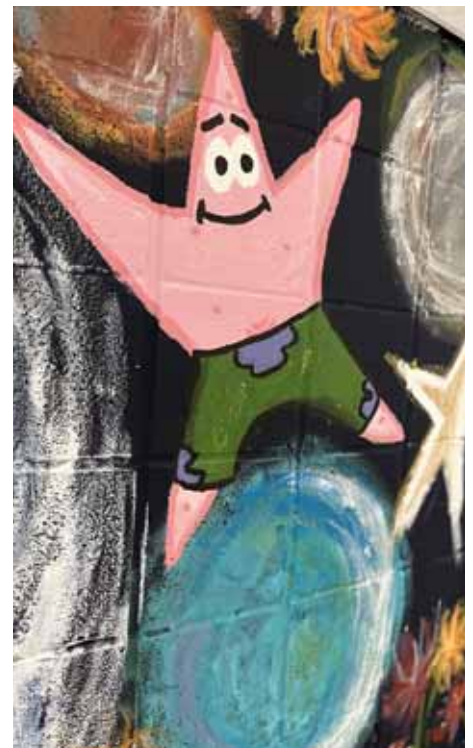
Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



One mural shows hands raised in solidarity. Photos by Andrew Tallackson.



Senior/mural club president Makenzie Rojas works on her portion of a mural.



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Celebrate this year by trying
one of my favorite Irish recipes!

CORNER BEEF & CABBAGE

Cut up vegetables and place in bottom of large roasting pan. Place corner beef on top of vegetables and cover beef with contents of spice packet and a few bay leaves. Add 2-3 of water to cover bottom of pan and cover TIGHTLY with foil. Bake at 325* for 4-4 1/2 hours or fork tender. Slice against the grain. Add butter to vegetables and season with salt and pepper.

Ingredients

- 2 - 3-4lb Corned Beef flats or points
- 1 - Head of cabbage cut into eighths
- 1 - Bag of carrots
- 1 - bag of peeled & halved red potatoes



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Entries Sought for LaPorte County Poet Laureate/Junior Poet Laureate

by Edmund Lawler

Residents with a poetic bent can reflect on the natural and cultural features of their environment in a bid to be named LaPorte County Poet Laureate.

Entries for the 2024 Barbara Friedman LaPorte County Poet Laureate Program are due by March 28. Permanent and summer LaPorte County residents can submit one or more original poems. The maximum length is two pages.

The new program honors Barbara Friedman, a former LaPorte resident and attorney with a long history of civic involvement and charitable good works in the community. She died in 2021 at age 86. In Friedman's later years, she developed a love of reading and poetry, which inspired her family to sponsor the poet laureate contest. The program is supported by Unity Foundation of LaPorte County and curated by The Center for Creative Solutions. Funding comes from a Unity Foundation trust set up by the Friedman family.

In addition to proclaiming the wonders of LaPorte County, the program is designed to encourage the enjoyment and joy of reading, as well as expressing feelings through poetry, according to organizers.

Poems, reviewed by a panel of judges, should be based on a theme that describes the nature or culture of LaPorte County, or celebrates Lake Michigan or other natural features of the region.

For the second year, LaPorte County high school students may apply to be named the Barbara Friedman Junior LaPorte County Poet Laureate Program. The inaugural winner was Carmen Navarro, now a junior at La Lumiere School in LaPorte. That submission deadline also is March 28. The rules are similar to the adult program, and the poem can proclaim the wonders of LaPorte County or any theme.

The LaPorte County Poet Laureate, as well as the

Junior Poet Laureate, will work with local schools and other organizations to encourage the reading and enjoyment of poetry.

The poet laureates will play an active role in the community's cultural affairs. They will read the winning poem at civic functions, as well as write original verse for special occasions. They will be expected to attend at least two programs during their one-year term. They will use their own initiative to advance the art of writing and enjoyment of poetry reading throughout the community during the term.

All poems for both contests should be submitted by 11:59 p.m. March 28 to thenestmichigancity@gmail.com or online at tinyurl.com/55j6mbys

Co-chairs are William Halliar and Ester (who only uses a single name), operator of The NEST, a gallery and performance space in downtown Michigan City. Questions can be directed to Halliar at william.halliar@gmail.com or (219) 629-5853, or Ester at thenestmichigancity@gmail.com or (219) 262-5200.

Winning poems will be published in *The Beacher*.

The poet laureates, who receive a cash prize, are announced by April 12 (April is National Poetry Month).

The program is in conjunction with the Poetry Showcase, which marks its eighth year. It is a broader program that celebrates poems submitted by residents of all ages from throughout LaPorte, Porter and Lake counties.

For the Poetry Showcase, Northwest Indiana residents can submit as many poems as they like. According to organizers, the poems can be humorous, thoughtful, fantastical or serious. Songwriters are encouraged to submit lyrics, which are, of course, poetic.

Winning student poets will read their creations at a special "Afternoon of Poetry" at 1 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at LaPorte County Convention and Visitors Bureau, 4073 Franklin St., Michigan City.

For more information about the Poetry Showcase, visit www.CenterforCreativeSolutions.com, send an email to creativity52@comcast.net or call (219) 326-7259. The non-profit center encourages a culture of innovation in Northwest Indiana, according to Cynthia Hedge, Center for Creative Solutions CEO.

Throughout April, the center will celebrate World Creativity & Innovation Week (April 15-21) and National Poetry Month.



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Studebaker National Museum Unveils Station Wagon Exhibit

The Studebaker National Museum will host its new exhibit, "Family Haulers: The American Station Wagon," through July 28.

The exhibit provides an immersive exploration of the vehicle that has been a staple of American family life for generations. It features vintage models, rare prototypes and everyday haulers. Highlights include:

- Eight station wagon models from the early 20th century through the 1980s.
- Images and literature showcasing the station wagon's cultural significance in American life.
- Special events, including a special talk this summer as part of the "Studebaker Speaker Series" program.

The museum is located at 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m.-5 p.m.



Monday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$11 for adults, \$9.50 for seniors 60 and older and \$7 for youth ages 6-18. Call the museum at (574) 235-9714 or (888) 391-5600, or visit www.studebakermuseum.org for more details.



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Belle Gunness Lecture



LaPorte County Historian Bruce Johnson will present the lecture "The Story of Belle Gunness" at 2 p.m. EDT Sunday, March 17, at South Bend's The History Museum.

Johnson will discuss what happened when Gunness' LaPorte farmhouse burned down April 27, 1908. Remains of several bodies were found in the basement rubble, but it is unclear if it was Belle who perished. In the weeks that followed, the mystery of her life began to unravel as more bodies were discovered buried at her farm.

Guests also can view the "Indiana Lore" exhibit before or after the program. Presented in conjunction with Indiana Historical Society, it showcases Hoosier legends and folklore.

The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Admission is \$5, or \$3 for members. Seating is limited. Reservations are strongly recommended at www.historymuseumSB.org. Call (574) 235-9664 for more details.



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“Dueling Divas” Free Family Concert

The School of American Music will present the free family concert, “Dueling Divas,” at 3 p.m. EDT Sunday, March 17, at Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

The concert, part of the SAM Family Concert Series, features sopranos Rebecca Selvidge and Carrie VanDenburgh accompanied by pianist Maggie Martin. It spans jazz, musical theater and classical. A food-item donation is requested for the non-profit Neighbor by Neighbor.

Selvidge and VanDenburgh are members of Three Divas, a singing group that performs throughout Southwest Michigan. VanDenburgh is the choir director at Berrien Springs Middle and High School, where she teaches seven ensembles. She’s also the Harbert Community Church choir director. Selvidge is the director of choral music and a lecturer at Lake Michigan College. She also performs as a singer with Lake Effect Jazz Big Band. Martin is a classically trained pianist with extensive experience as an accompanist. She is the choir director of Harbor Country Singers, SAM’s community choir, and a small business owner in Harbert.

SAM’s Family Concert Series, now in its sixth season, is supported by a Pokagon Fund grant and donations. This is the first of three free family concerts this year.

Contact SAM at (269) 409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com, visit School of American Music on Facebook or <https://schoolofamericanmusic.com/> for more details.



VanDenburgh



Selvidge



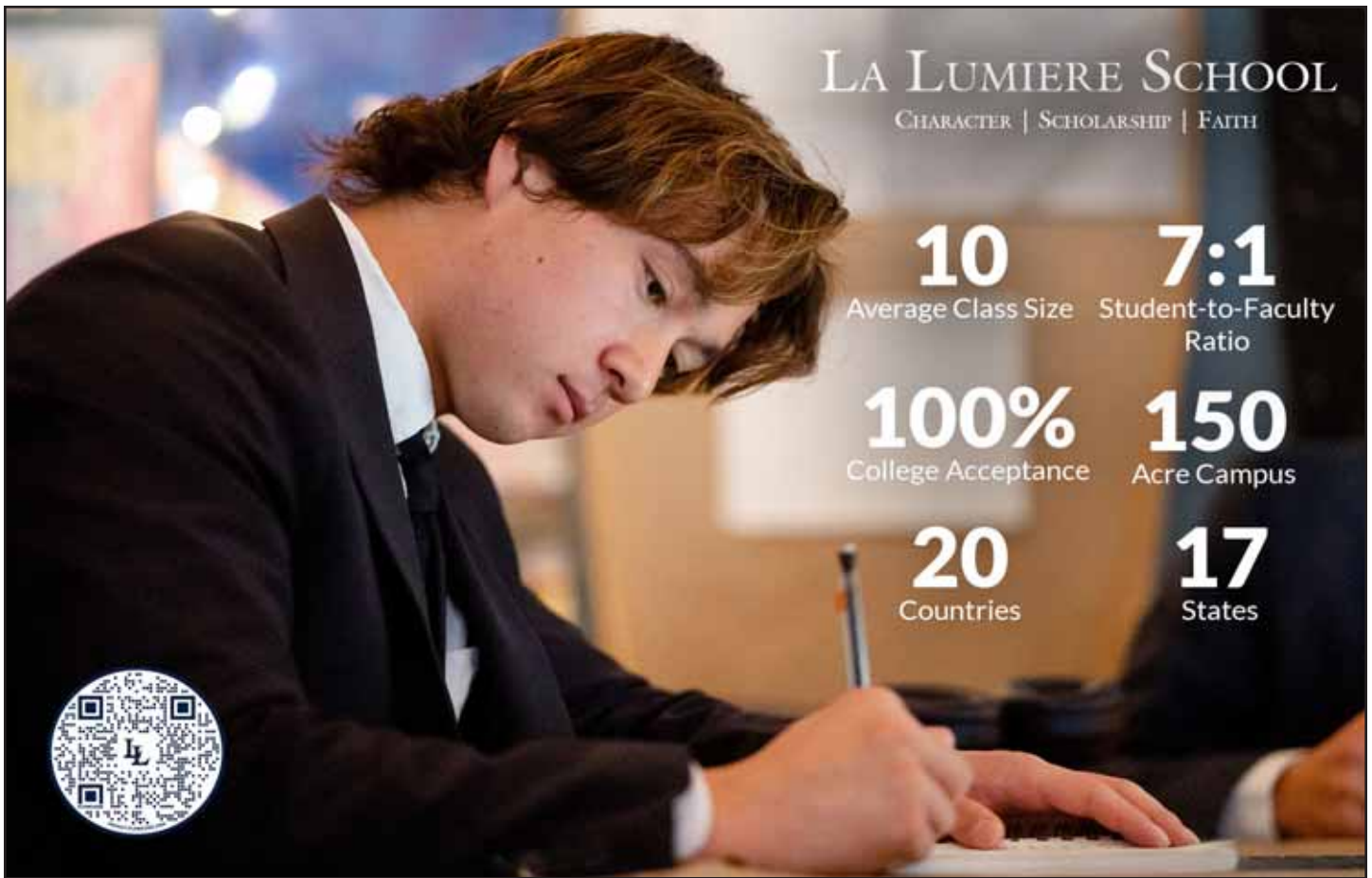
Martin

River Valley Garden Club

Holistic educator Karen Hardin Edwards will reveal how to create home remedies from available ingredients during the next River Valley Garden Club meeting.


The program is at 1 p.m. EST, with Edwards’ presentation at 2 p.m. EST, on Tuesday, March 19, at Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich. The meeting also includes discussion on starting new plants for the annual garden club plant sale on May 18.

The public is welcome. Contact Elizabeth Palulis at (269) 426-3513 or email evpalulis@yahoo.com, or visit www.rivervalleygardenclub.org for details.



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MCAS Kindergarten Roundup

Michigan City Area Schools' kindergarten enrollment is open online for the 2024-2025 school year.

Children must be 5 by Aug. 1. Parents and guardians can visit www.EducateMC.net/kindergarten to begin the process. Once basic information is received, parents receive instructions on creating a PowerSchool account to finalize enrollment. In addition to completing forms in PowerSchool, parents/guardians should take to the school their child will attend:

- The child's official birth certificate.
- Parent/guardian's driver's license or state photo ID.
- Proof of residency, such as a utility bill or lease.
- The child's immunization records and proof of lead testing.
- Custody paperwork (if applicable).

Elementary schools will be available to assist families with enrollment by appointment throughout March.

Kindergarten students should be enrolled at the school that serves the area in which they live. If a family is unsure of which school their child will attend, information is available by contacting the MCAS Transportation Department at (219) 873-2127.

Also, MCAS' Little Wolves Early Learning Center, 1001 U.S. 20, is accepting new enrollments for the 2024-2025 school year. Children entering the preschool program must be potty trained and age 4 by Aug. 1. Full- and half-day options are available. There is a fee; however, CCDF vouchers are accepted. More information and a link to enroll are available at www.EducateMC.net/littlewolves or by calling (219) 873-2035. Prospective families are encouraged to attend an open house from 3-6 p.m. Thursday, March 14.

MCAS also is accepting applications for its K-6 magnet schools, which include Pine Elementary School (a magnet school for the visual and performing Arts) and Lake Hills Elementary School (an Indiana-certified STEM school). Most magnet spots for the 2024-2025 school year will be available at the kindergarten level. Slots in higher grades will be filled as space allows before the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Information and applications are available at www.EducateMC.net/magnets. The deadline for applications is April 26.

Memorial Hospital Reunion

Memorial Hospital of Michigan City will hold its second employee/staff reunion from 5-9 p.m. Saturday, May 18, at Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 75, 416 U.S. 20.

The cost is \$25 per person, and a guest may attend for an additional \$25. A buffet and cash bar are planned.

Visit the Memorial Hospital of Michigan City Reunion Facebook page to make reservations or for more details.



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Historical Society Museum



Part of the Kingsford Heights display.

Two new exhibits celebrating Women's History Month and Kingsford Heights are on display through March 30 at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.

For Women's History Month, learn about the many women's clubs and societies here, while the Kingsford Heights exhibit includes information on the KOP, local businesses and history.

Also, Chris Maniel, a LaPorte County Public Library librarian, will discuss "The Lost Towns of LaPorte County" during the Historical Society meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, at the museum.

Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.

Spring Garden Show

LaPorte County Master Gardeners will host its Spring Garden Show from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Michigan City High School, 8466 Pahs Road.

Admission is \$10, while children 12 and younger are free. The speakers are:

- Susan Betz, "Magical Moons and Seasonal Cycles: Garden Phenology."
- Dr. Spencer Cortwright, "The Gem of Chicago Wilderness: Ecology and Restoration of a Great Ecological Area in the United States."
- Jack Pizzo, "Restoring the Indiana Ecosystem."
- Dolly Foster, "The Time is Now to Begin a Butterfly Habitat in Your Garden."

The event also includes vendors, food and drink concessions, raffle prizes and children's activities. Free seeds will be given at admission.

Visit www.lpmastergardener.org or call Sue Salisbury at LaPorte Purdue Extension Office at (219) 324-9407 for more details.

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The Spectacle of “Dune: Part Two” Deserves to be Seen in Theaters

by Andrew Tallackson



Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet, left) squares off against Feyd-Rautha (Austin Butler) in “Dune: Part Two.”

I regret having seen “Dune: Part One” at night, after a long day at work. Drowsy, my “critic” senses dulled, I found the movie visually stunning...but boring. Dry as the planet Arrakis itself.

Revisiting the movie a week ago saw me do an about-face. Admiring the simplicity of the storytelling, the epic, yet uncluttered visuals. If David Lynch’s 1984 adaptation was hectic camp, then director Denis Villeneuve found a more direct approach to bringing Frank Herbert’s story alive.

“Part Two” delivers on Villeneuve’s promise of more action, less talk. It also has more shape: a definitive beginning, middle and end. There are scenes of such vast size and scope, we are reminded certain movies deserve to be seen on the big screen. It is only during the last act, when I wanted more out of the performances, that I started feeling the movie’s nearly three-hour run time.

As spectacle, “Part Two” reaffirms Villeneuve (“Blade Runner: 2049,” “Arrival,” “Prisoners”) as a major talent. This portion of the “Dune” saga essentially is a revenge tale, with Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) and his mother, Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson), joining forces with the indigenous Fremen of Arrakis. Itching to avenge the death of Duke Leto, they attack every spice-mining opera-

★ ★ ★^{1/2}

“Dune: Part Two”

Running time: 166 minutes. Rated PG-13 for sequences of strong violence, some suggestive material and brief strong language.

tion overseen by the treacherous Harkonnens.

David Lean’s “Lawrence of Arabia” gets the most love as the pinnacle of exotic desert visuals, but Villeneuve, joined again by cinematographer Greig Fraser (his work on the first film won an Oscar), makes Arrakis shimmer. Enriching the baked gold colors of the planet to delirious extremes.

There’s also a wide shot of Paul pacing back and forth as a gigantic sandworm approaches that is moviemaking of the tallest order. In fact, every scene of the characters riding the worms is a triumph of imagination. The battle scenes frequently frame the actors against hulking machinery, and the result is a rare case where size is conveyed with convincing awe.

But as “Part Two” introduces more of the Fremen, as well as Austin Butler’s carefully modulated take on psychotic Harkonnen Feyd-Rautha, I found myself somewhat detached from the characters. Chalamet, Ferguson, Zendaya, Butler, Josh Brolin,



Zendaya frequently is the most engaging presence in the film.

Florence Pugh, Javier Bardem — they're all great actors, but no one really pushes the envelope here. They all function at the same pitch. Zendaya has a few emotional moments, but strangely enough, I wanted more out of Butler ("Elvis"). He's committed to the role, shaving not just his head, but also his eyebrows. But the unstable element is missing. There have only been a few instances on film where it felt like I was in the presence of dangerous evil: one being Anthony Hopkins in "The Silence of the Lambs" (1991), the other Ray Liotta in "Something Wild" (1986). Sting may have pushed the role *too* far in the 1984 picture, but the crazed look in his eyes was enough to make the character intriguing. That same scary energy is missing from Butler.

The artistry, the triumphant spectacle of "Dune: Part Two," makes it a must. Villeneuve has said in interviews if "Part Two" does well, he intends to keep going with the "Dune" saga, tackling the author's second book, Dune Messiah. He's clearly left the door open for more since the story is nowhere near over. If that happens, then Villeneuve needs to invest more time on the characters. Rediscover why they fascinated readers for decades. Pump a little more of that energy into the franchise, and "Dune Messiah" will be a masterpiece.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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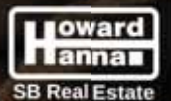


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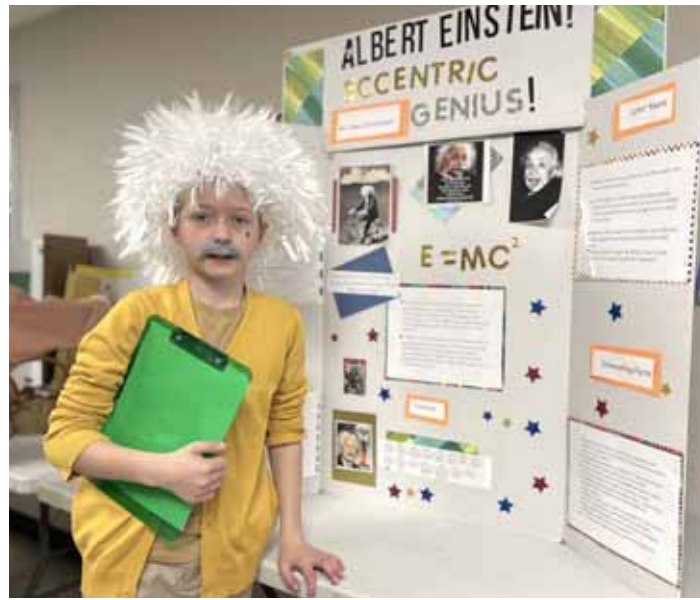
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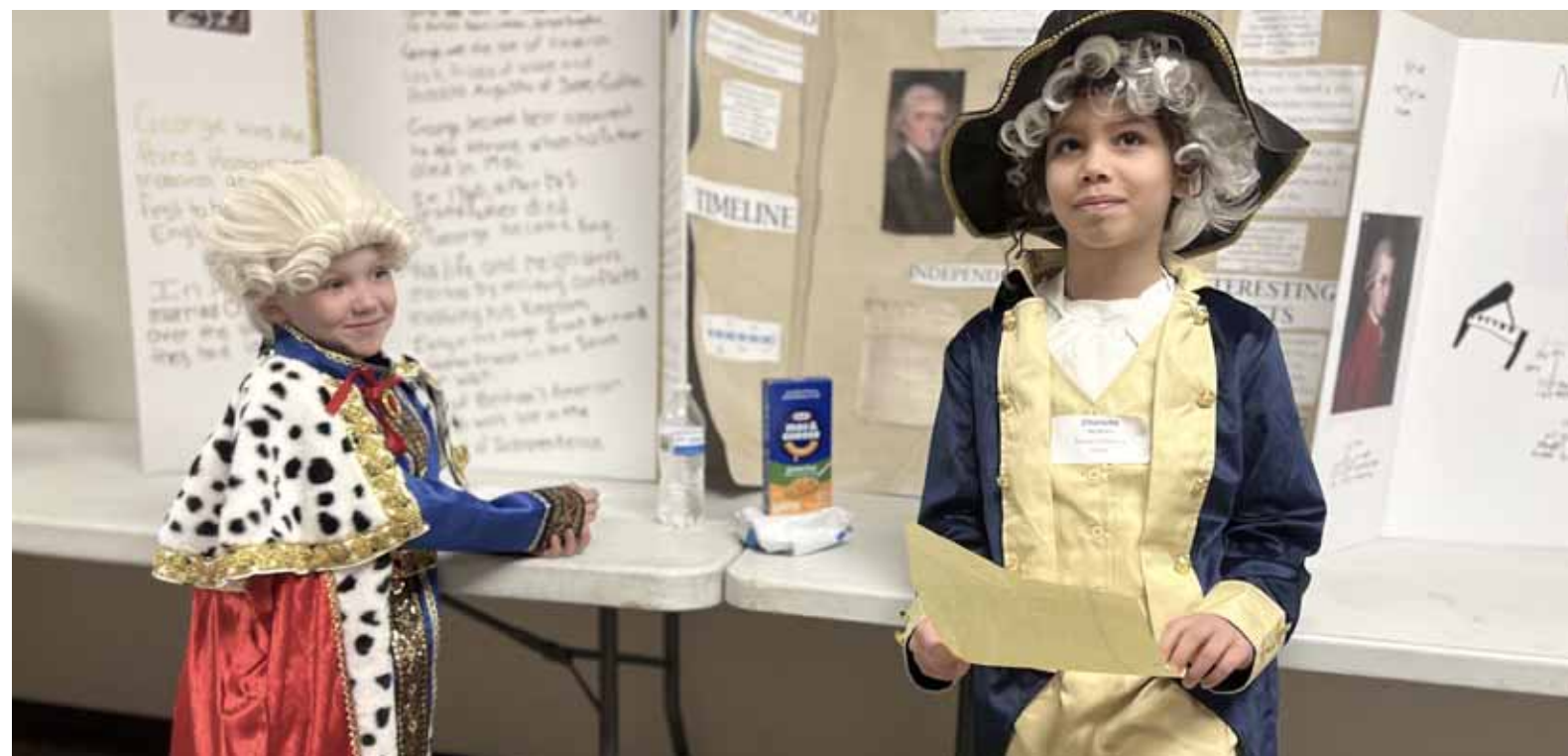
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LIVING HISTORY



Renaissance Academy hosted its first History Fair/Living Wax Museum on March 2 at Barker Middle School. The school's first- through eighth-graders dressed up as historical figures and prepared displays for visitors to experience. All photos by Andrew Tallackson.



Adam Sandler Proves He's Up to the Challenge of Moving "Spaceman"

by Andrew Tallackson



Adam Sandler stars as a cosmonaut battling loneliness and depression in "Spaceman."

Dare it be said...but Adam Sandler is very, *very* good in "Spaceman," the new dead-serious Netflix film that may be one of his best.

Is there a more divisive performer than Sandler? I've stumbled into many an argument where friends maintain "The Waterboy" is the crown jewel of sports comedies, my look of disapproval ticking them off to no end. That film, to me, is typical Sandler, bleeding the overgrown man-child shtick dry.

On the rare occasion he goes serious, it's either mildly pleasing ("Punch-Drunk Love") or so abrasive ("Uncut Gems"), I called it quits after an hour.

"Spaceman" surprised me. It is a somber, existential tale about loneliness. There are none of Sandler's old tricks, but a genuinely affecting performance of surprising maturity. Maybe age has mellowed him.

The movie is based on Czech science-fiction writer Jaroslav Kalfar's 2017 novel Spaceman of Bohemia. That it centers on the first independent Czech cosmonaut, yet few of the actors are from the Czech Republic, does not jive...but I suppose when you get A-list actors for your project, small details become irrelevant.

Sandler's Jakub is amid a solo mission to Jupiter where dazzling pink formations have attracted Earth's attention. He's instructed to study them, possibly collect dust particles within them.

★ ★ ★^{1/2}

"Spaceman"

Running time: 107 minutes. Netflix. Rated R for language.

When we first see Sandler, as Jakub, aboard his ship, he looks like hell. Weary from troubled sleep. Dark circles under his eyes. Speaking with forced enthusiasm during a live press conference. The actor requires no adjustment period to accept him in the role. We believe him instantly, that Jakub is at a dangerous crossroads.

How so? His personal life is disintegrating. Back on Earth, his wife, Lenka (Oscar-nominee Carey Mulligan), is pregnant and abandoning the marriage. She's said so through a video message his superior, Commissioner Tuma (Isabella Rossellini), does not let him see. She fears learning the news will derail him from his mission, chip away at his focus and, more to the point, his sanity.

It is here that Jakub encounters a surprising stowaway. It is not human, sort of resembles a spider. And, it is voiced by Paul Dano ("There Will Be Blood") with a breathy sadness. The creature, which Jakub names Hanuš, is not out to harm him, but study him.

Is the spider a hallucination? A sign of Jakub's crumbling mental state? I won't give that away; suf-



Carey Mulligan is excellent as Jakub's estranged wife back on Earth.

face it to say, Swedish director Johan Renck is a literal director, meaning nothing in the film is left to the imagination. You will have your answers.

The spider is direct in its conversations. It knows why Jakub is sad amid self-imposed exile. And it is here the beating existential heart of "Spaceman" reveals itself. Jakub, through this odd creature aboard his ship, comes to accept that his inability to savor love, and those who bestow it on him, has caused his misery.

I kept waiting for the moment when Sandler slips back into his old gimmicks, especially in dramatic moments where we see, through flashbacks, Jakub's failing marriage. Instead, we get a man who shuts down emotionally at key points, his face a blank slate. And Mulligan does what she always does: creates an intelligent, instantly relatable woman whose needs deserve to be met.

Because of Mulligan and Sandler, because of how authentic their relationship is, we believe in them. We accept the stowaway spider as not a weird special effect, but the vehicle for Jakub to mend the cracks in his life. Sandler's big moment, when he speaks by phone to his wife, is genuine. Not one false note.

By the end of "Spaceman," we are moved. Not terribly so, but Renck is subtle enough not to lay on the sentiment thick. We are touched because of the message of hope. We want the rift between these two to be mended. How the movie tries to get there, well, it's worth the trip.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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MCHS Students Place Second in Indiana Japanese Olympiad

Michigan City High School students Lorenzo Panozzo and Alejandro Aguirre placed second in the state at the Feb. 25 Japanese Olympiad at Ball State University.

The duo competed at Level 4, the division for students in their fourth year of Japanese.

"While Lorenzo competed last year, Alejandro made a brave rookie appearance at the Japanese Olympiad this year and scored well," MCHS Japanese teacher Mike Tsugawa said in a press release.

MCHS also competed at levels 2 and 3. At Level 3, MCHS was represented by Hannah Parker, Aaverie Wingard and Natalie White on one team, and Nathan Groszek, Zoe Brooks and Vivian Taylor on another. Competing at Level 2 were Jimmy Biela, Torey Morris and Makenna Nowatzke.

"Level 2 is the hardest level to break through since it has the biggest field," Tsugawa said. "All of our students at Level 2 are sophomores, and they did great in their first competition."

The Japanese Olympiad of Indiana is an annual, day-long academic tournament. Nearly 100 students participated this year from 10 high schools, including Lafayette Jefferson, Bloomington North,

Chesterton, Fort Wayne Carroll, Highland, Wabash, Michigan City, Columbus North, Muncie Central and Penn.



Mike Tsugawa (from left) is photographed with Lorenzo Panozzo and Alejandro Aguirre.

The Olympiad places students in a playoff against all other competing schools at the same level, with only three scoring teams advancing to the finals. It is judged by Japanese professors (all native speakers) from Indiana University-Bloomington, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, Purdue University-West Lafayette, DePauw and Earlham College.

The experience also allowed students, as well as spectators, to learn more about Japanese culture through demonstrations of dance, calligraphy, origami and *kendama*. Students also could try on a traditional *yukata* (cotton kimono) and enjoyed folk and festival dances performed by the Japan America Society of Indiana. A karate demonstration was offered by a student in BSU's Japanese program who went on to become world champion.

As competitors met with other students of Japanese from around the state, they gathered information about Japanese studies at several Indiana colleges and universities.

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Spring Prescribed Fires

The National Park Service will conduct five prescribed fires this spring, with an estimated 1,280 acres targeted through the park's natural resources and fuels management programs.

In Gary's Miller Beach Neighborhood, the park will burn 16 acres immediately surrounding the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education on North Lake Street. The aim is to reduce the wildfire threat to the center by creating defensible space around it. Immediately west of the Douglas Center, another 211 acres of wooded dune and swale will be burned.

Also in Miller, the NPS will burn 374 acres immediately east of the Douglas Center, extending east towards County Line Road. The Grand Boulevard/Marquette Trail prescribed fire follows along the north side of the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks and includes wetlands, woodlands and dunes. This portion may be burned over multiple days due to its size and roads intersecting the burn unit.

In Porter, the park intends to burn approximately 60 acres of Mnoke Prairie, which has been undergoing restoration efforts for more than 20 years, making it one of the region's last tall-grass prairies.

Also in Porter, on the west and south sides of Dune Acres, is the 619-acre Cowles Dune Prescribed Fire. The area is where Dr. Henry Chandler Cowles first developed the concept of plant succession during his studies in 1899-1901. The large complex of dunes and small ponds is one of the largest untouched tracts in Indiana Dunes National Park.

Prescribed fire is an essential element in the parks' long-term natural-resources restoration goals. It restores invasive species, opens tree canopies and increases wildlife habitat. Prescribed fire also reduces the threat of wildfires by removing available fuels before a wildfire occurs.

An online map of the planned areas is available at <https://bit.ly/Spring2024Fires>

Scholarships Deadline Extended

March 15 is the extended deadline for two Members Advantage Credit Union scholarships.

They are:

- The Leona Bruno Scholarship, established in 1994 in memory of the first MACU manager. The \$1,000 award goes to a graduating high school senior who demonstrates scholastic achievement.
- The Gail Walker Scholarship, established in 2010 in memory of the former board member's years of service. The \$1,000 award goes to a graduating high school senior or first or second-year college student who shows academic achievement.

Visit www.macuonline.org/college-scholarships for qualifications, criteria and to apply. Call (219) 874-6943 for more details.



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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 following programs are scheduled:

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, March 14.** The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- **For Pete's Sake: Get Your Irish On! at 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 15.** Live music celebrating St. Patrick's Day includes Celtic music and stories by For Pete's Sake and Debra Plays Harp.
- **The Magic of Kalita! (all ages) at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 16.** The show is planned immediately after the St. Patrick's Day parade.
- **Cookies and Canvas at 5 p.m. Monday, March 18.** Registration at tinyurl.com/4wsfwvx6 is required because supplies are limited. Light refreshments are served. Call Sydney at (219) 873-3044 or Jennifer at (219) 873-3042 for more details.
- **Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays in March.** Harris can offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical record
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in March.** Membership is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Also, the group has organized a local chapter of the Warm Up America Foundation. Volunteers are knitting and crocheting handmade squares (7x9 inch) that will be joined together to make full-size afghans.
- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in March.** Create with

LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D pens. 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.
- **"Kung Fu Panda" Scavenger Hunt in March.** Find the characters hidden in Youth Services for a prize. Locations change each week.
- **Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens.** Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Makerspace.
- **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance aid needed.** Volunteers help at least one day a week during tax season. The IRS provides some training, and passing the VITA test through the intermediate level is required. Testing and training are online. Call (219) 873-3049 for more details.
- **Learning Center volunteers needed for children and adults.** Areas include reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. Volunteers are needed two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the Learning Center for more details.
- **The 2024 Genealogy Bus Trip to Allen County is Wednesday, April 17.** The trip is sponsored by the library and LaPorte County Genealogical Society. The center has an extensive collection of North American genealogy resources. The bus leaves Marquette Mall at 7 a.m. in front of the former Marquette Theatre. The next stop is Kabelin Ace Hardware, 512 Andrew Ave., LaPorte, at 7:30 a.m. It leaves the library for the return back at 4 p.m. The \$35 cost is due by March 25. Send reservation forms to LaPorte County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 365, LaPorte, IN 46352. *Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org or call (219) 873-3049 for more details.*

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LaPorte County Public Library

Patrons are no longer charged daily overdue fines. Customers only will be charged for items they damage, lose or never return.

The following programs are planned:

- **Virtual Author Talk with Christopher Paolini from 3-4 p.m. Thursday, March 14.** Paolini is the author of the "Eragon" series. Register through the website.
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, March 15, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **How to be a Super Spy: Secret Codes from 10-11 a.m. Saturday, March 16, at the Coolspring branch.** Learn about secret codes and how to write one.
- **Logos and Business Cards for Your Small Business from 5:30-7:15 p.m. Monday, March 18, in the main library Study Cafe.** Participants learn the basics of Canva to craft a logo. Once choosing a design, they print a sheet of business cards. If possible, take a laptop. A limited number of library laptops will be available.
- **Stretch and Refresh Yoga from 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, at the Coolspring branch.** The class is for adults of all abilities. All poses are adaptable. Take a yoga mat if possible.

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.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **New Buffalo Township Library Annual Tea.** The event is at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 17.

Weekly programs:

- Story Time at 10 a.m. Mondays.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Craft Time from 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Lego Club from 9-4:30 p.m. Fridays and 9-1:30 p.m. Saturdays.
- Yoga from 9-10 a.m. Saturdays.

All times are Eastern. New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Call (269) 469-2933 for more details.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The annual Michigan City St. Patrick's Day Parade is at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 16, in the Uptown Arts District.

The route is along Franklin Street from Ninth to Fourth streets.



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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

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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.

La Porte 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.

Celestial Night Hike

A "Glow in the Dark" night hike is from 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, March 15, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte.

Families can search for glowing leprechauns while also learning about constellations.

Nature's Tiny Tots

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

The free program is from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 19, at Luhr County Park.

Drum Fit for Boomers

All ages are invited to the program from 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, March 19, at Red Mill County Park.

Drum on yoga balls to the beat of music. Instruction, drum sticks and yoga balls are provided.

Breakfast With the Birds

The program is from 8-10 a.m. Wednesday, March 20, at Luhr County Park.

Visitors can experience the bird-viewing area. Pancakes are served.

Women on the Rise

As part of Women's History Month events, Purdue University Northwest will host the second Women on the Rise reception from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21, at the Westville campus Dworkin Center.

Presented by The Society of Innovators and Leadership Institute at Purdue Northwest, 24 local women leaders and entrepreneurs will be recognized for shaping business, guiding communities and encouraging economic growth. Local honorees include: Felicia Blakely, Whitney Bradshaw, Liliana Franco López, Kylee Frazee Norman, Gretchen Kalk-Castro, Beverly Mack-Martin, Jacqueline Thomas, Becca Tuholski and Shannon Walker.

Register at tinyurl.com/yc4va8xx

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JROTC Team Earns Award

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps competed in a military drill meet March 2 at Fort Wayne Concordia High School.

MCHS earned a fourth-place trophy for Color Guard out of 20 teams, and remained competitive in Armed and Unarmed Regulation, Armed Exhibition and Personnel Inspection. Many of the best Army JROTC schools from Chicagoland competed, along with strong Marine schools Indianapolis Ben Davis and Louisville Fern Creek. Concordia is an Army JROTC school, and all but one judge were Army soldiers.

"This is the best we have drilled this year," Senior Marine Instructor Maj. Tom McGrath said in a press release.



Master Sgt. Jeff Benak, the Marine instructor, is optimistic about next year.

"We anticipate having a strong freshmen enrollment, based on our presentation to the eighth-graders," he said in a press release. "Since we are only losing one senior, I think that we will be competitive to earn a spot for the national championship in Washington, D.C., which is our goal."

If MCHS qualifies for that trip, it would be at no cost to the student nor the school, instead funded by the Marine Corps.

The cadets will support MCHS during the regional and semi-state boys basketball tournaments. They also will march in the Michigan City St. Patrick's Day parade on March 16, and help with setup for the LaPorte County Master Gardeners Spring Garden Show on March 16.

Tree/Shrub Seedling Fundraiser

April 12 is the deadline to submit orders in Berrien County Conservation District's annual tree and shrub spring fundraiser.

A variety of bare root seedlings of evergreens, deciduous trees, shrubs and fruit trees are available, along with strawberry, asparagus and horseradish starts. Dune grass, rain barrels, composters and other items also are available.

Orders may be placed at www.berriencd.org, forms may be printed from the website or request one by mail by calling (269) 471-9111, Ext. 3. Quantities are limited.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Science Fridays Series from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Friday, March 15, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Dr. Spencer Cortwright from Indiana University-Northwest will discuss Midwest amphibians, including: different species in the area, ideal features of wetland and terrestrial habitats, choosing mates and how offspring survive.
- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, March 15, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.
- **Porter Beach Restoration from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 16.** Meet staff and volunteers at Porter Beach Parking Lot at Wabash Avenue and Johnson Beach Road. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment will be provided. Temporary passes will be available.
- **Chellberg Farm Care from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, March 16, at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter.** Meet a ranger and fellow volunteers to care for the farm. Equipment and protective gear will be provided.
- **First Day of Spring Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 17.** Meet the ranger at Paul H.

Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary. The trail meanders around wetlands, sand dunes and through a lush black oak savanna. Be prepared for muddy conditions.

- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays in March.** Rangers and volunteers share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse/garden and visit the animals. Passes are required. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit tinyurl.com/2p83798v for more details.

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

The following programs will be offered:

- **The 24th Annual Running with the Irish 5K Race from 7-11 a.m. Saturday, March 16, to benefit St. Patrick Catholic School, Chesterton.** The course uses paved roads through IDSP. Visit tinyurl.com/yyehzt3h to register.
- **Signs of Spring Photo Scavenger Hunt from noon-3 p.m. Saturday, March 16.** Take a camera or phone to the Nature Center.
- **Wetlands Awakening Walk at 10 a.m. Sunday, March 17.** The easy one-mile walk delves into life in a wetland.

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.

"Mustang Magic" Screening

The Region of Three Oaks Museum will celebrate the glory days of River Valley High School basketball with a screening of "Mustang Magic" at 7 p.m. EDT Friday, March 15, at Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich.

The film, produced by RVHS alumnus Mark Behnke, focuses on basketball teams from the 1970s-1980s that either won a state championship or came close. After the screening, Behnke and players from some of those teams will answer questions and swap stories.

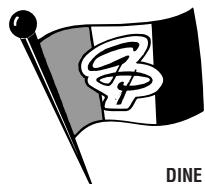
Admission is \$5 for museum members, while regular Vickers pricing applies to non-members. Tickets are available at the door or online at <https://vickerstheatre.com>

Contact Nick Bogert at (773) 991-6239 or email trotommuseum@gmail.com for more details.



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Supporting Silver Birch



Michigan City Elks Lodge 432 members spent an afternoon at Silver Birch of Michigan City retirement community after purchasing slippers and pajamas for all residents. Elks members helped serve a pizza/soda luncheon, and socialized with residents. In addition, they made a cash donation contributing to residents' welfare. The club also is a top contributor to Silver Birch's annual Angel Tree.

Beverly Shores Depot

April 21 is the deadline to submit entries in The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery's annual 5x5 event, which is set for May 3.

Artists may work in any medium. The piece must hang on a wall with a finished dimension of 5" in height, 5" in width and not to exceed 5" in depth. The depot will provide 5x5 canvases while supplies last at Glenn L. Firme Art Supply, 92 U.S. 12, Beverly Shores. Artists, however, don't have to use provided canvases. They also may submit more than one work dropped off either at the art supply store or the depot.

Donated works will be exhibited for sale for \$55, proceeds supporting The Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway.

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

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The Chaos Agent by Mark Greaney (*hardcover \$30 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 543 pages.*)

“Don’t think of me as evil, think of me as what I really am. I am an agent of chaos, no more and no less than that.” — Anton Hinton

AI. Artificial intelligence. It’s the most talked about subject since the invention of the wheel. I joke, but the ramifications are brought to the forefront in the latest thriller from a master storyteller.

In this series, Court Gentry, a.k.a. The Gray Man, a former CIA operative, has battled terrorists and other enemies of the state, but he’s never faced an adversary quite like this. For heart-stopping thrills and adventure, there is nothing like a Gray Man story, and his popularity is evidenced by the fact that this is No. 13 in the series.

The story begins sublimely enough with Gentry and his girlfriend, former Russian spy Zoya Zakharova, living quietly and comfortably in Central America. Days of sunshine on the beach, dinners at their favorite restaurant...did he really think this would last? And would he want it to? Even Zoya notices his restlessness.

Gentry needn’t worry, as word quickly comes about chilling, strange deaths all over the globe. There’s a man killed in Sydney, Australia, another shot amid a home invasion in Bangkok, a man shot in Japan. The list goes on to 13 men and women in four days. And, these people have a connection: all are scientists or researchers working on AI. Is someone taking out the competition one by one? Could be.

Gentry and Zoya have other things on their minds. Zoya’s old friend wants her help in extracting a possibly compromised Russian scientist because of the AI race to build the first super-intelligent robot. Unbeknownst to them, Russians followed the friend, and put out a kill-or-capture order on Zoya and Gentry for some past run-in. The Russians hired a professional assassin, Scott Kincaid, code name Lancer, to take out Gentry. The pair met before, but not with millions of U.S. dollars on the line for Lancer if he kills Gentry. Time to leave Guatemala. Now begins the running and hiding. After Zoya’s friend is killed, she and Gentry become enmeshed in the whole AI fiasco after contact with one of his old associates from back in his CIA days.

There are a number of characters in this story, to be sure, but as the action unfolds, I found myself

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



totally wrapped up in trying to separate the seemingly good from the truly evil. It will all come out in the end, but not before your hair is standing on end, your mouth wide open, wondering what could possibly come next. As usual in a Gray Man novel, there is non-stop action in all kinds of fascinating places around the world.

One thing is for sure: This may be a novel, but the possibility of an army of AI bots is an alarming thought. Is this the way the next war will be fought? Robots with no built-in conscience to keep them under control? Only a need to destroy?

It’s a chilling thought as we laugh at a bot like the Roomba vacuuming the carpet, or a bipedal-type AI dusting and cleaning our houses, but how dangerous is this really? Unfortunately, there will always be the prospect of someone ready to use AI for nefarious purposes — consider them first as help mates before morphing into war machines, with world domination as the obvious end game.

Gentry meets up with his old crew and soon is hip deep in trying to sort out who is the master AI producer in the world, and who is merely trying to find ways to make life better for all of us. Gentry is sure Anton

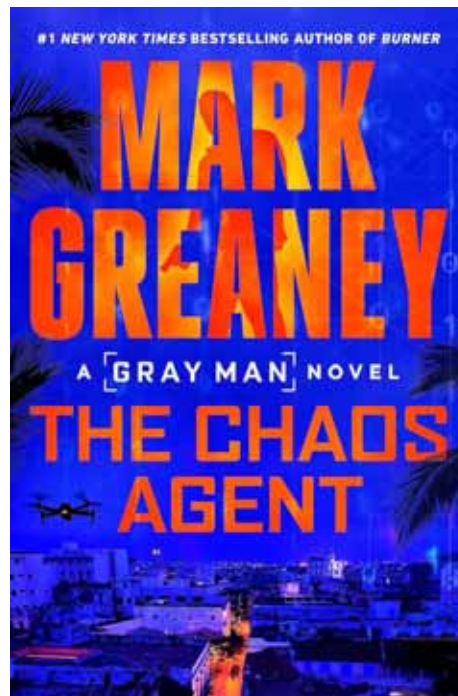
Hinton is not the righteous researcher he claims to be, working out of an old Soviet facility deep in the woods of Cuba. Maybe it has something to do with the lab three levels underground for which only he has a key.

Gentry finds out that Hinton developed a super AI brain he named Cyrus that shortly may find him to be an inferior being — *“Artificial general super intelligence. It was the dreaded end state of AI, a synthetic sentience. Cognition. Machines that think like humans, albeit better, faster and utterly without remorse.”*

It will be a race to shut down Cyrus while Hinton fights Gentry to keep Cyrus “alive.” Battles galore? Of course. Be prepared for lots of fighting.

The final word: I know I said before I don’t like antiheroes, and Court Gentry certainly falls into that category, except he falls into that gray area that is murkier and harder to define as good or evil. I guess that’s why he’s The Gray Man. It just fits.

Till next time, happy reading!





American Red Cross

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

- St. John Lutheran Church, 111 Kingsbury Ave., LaPorte, 2-6 p.m. Monday, March 18.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-6 p.m. Monday, March 18.

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.

Irish Garden Fundraiser

Friendship Botanic Gardens will host a St. Patrick's Day party, "Irish Garden Fundraiser," from 2-5 p.m. Saturday, March 16, at Krueger Memorial Hall, 801 Liberty Trail.

The donation is \$20 per person, while children 12 and younger are free. Traditional Irish food, along with beer, wine and soda, will be available.

Email info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org or visit www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org for more details.

SAM Awards Grant

The School of American Music, Three Oaks, Mich., and Garth Taylor have awarded a \$21,000 grant to The Episcopal Church of the Mediator to establish a Music and Arts Endowment Fund.

Income from the fund will support music and arts programs at the church. Additional donations can be made to the fund. Visit www.schoolofamericanmusic.com/ for more details.



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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

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In the Area

March 14 — Virtual Author Talk with Christopher Paolini, 3-4 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

March 14 — Duneland Stamp Club, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 14-17 — Footlight Players, “A Night of Old Tyme Radio Comedy featuring Alien Invasion,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Fri., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$12/children & Thursday shows. Reservations: www.footlightplayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

March 15 — For Pete’s Sake: Get Your Irish On!, 4:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 15 — “Glow in the Dark” night hike, 7-8:30 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: (219) 325-8315, www.laportecountyparks.org

March 16 — LaPorte County Master Gardeners Spring Garden Show, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Michigan City High School, 8466 Pahs Road. Admission: \$10, children 12 & younger/free. Info: (219) 324-9407, www.lpmastergardener.org

March 16 — How to be a Super Spy: Secret Codes, 10-11 a.m., Coolspring Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

March 16 — Michigan City St. Patrick’s Day Parade, 1 p.m., Ninth-Fourth streets.

March 16 — The Magic of Kalita! (all ages), 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 16 — Friendship Botanic Gardens Irish Garden Fundraiser (St. Patrick’s Day Party), 2-5 p.m., Krueger Memorial Hall, 801 Liberty Trail. Donation: \$20, children 12 & younger/free. Info: info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org, www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org

March 17 — ST. PATRICK’S DAY.

March 18 — Cookies and Canvas, 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Registration: tinyurl.com/4wsfwvx. Info: (219) 873-3044, (219) 873-3042.

March 19 — Nature’s Tiny Tots, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: (219) 325-8315, [\[countyparks.org\]\(http://countyparks.org\)](http://www.laporte-</p>
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March 19 — Drum Fit for Boomers, 9-10 a.m., Red Mill County Park, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, LaPorte. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

March 20 — Breakfast With the Birds, 8-10 a.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

March 20 — Stretch and Refresh Yoga, 5-6 p.m., Coolspring Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Through March 31 — Work by Cheryl Kaper, The Legacy Center Gallery at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Legacy Center hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Info: lucia@qas.org

Through April 2 — Indiana Historical Society traveling exhibit, “Endangered Heritage,” 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.

Mondays in LaPorte — Weekly line dance lessons, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1130, 181 W. McClung Road. Cost: \$5. Beginner lessons, 2-3 p.m. Improver lessons, 3-4 p.m. Info: (219) 363-8301.

Tuesdays — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 109 Ann St. Doors open: 3:30 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. \$45 entrance fee (includes all cards). Info: (219) 336-3099.

Tuesdays in March — Genealogy Help with Pat Harris, 1-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Tuesdays in March — Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17), 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

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

Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30 a.m. Info: Jan at (219) 241-8757, Paula at (219) 588-3127, www.oa.org

Fridays Through March 22 — Knights of Columbus Council 12951 annual Lenten Fish Fry, 4-7 p.m., Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 606 S. Woodland Ave. Cost: \$15/adults, \$12/seniors. “Season Passes”: \$85/adults, \$67/seniors. Online orders: <http://qas.org/kofc>

Saturdays in LaPorte — Guided tours, 2-3 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

In the Region

March 14 — Open Mic Night featuring Jack Whittle, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Performer inquiries: openmic@acornlive.org. Info: www.acornlive.org

March 15 — Science Fridays Series, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

March 15 — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

March 15 — Great Lake Swimmers, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25 + \$4.50 convenience fee, \$50 + \$4.50 convenience fee (reserved). Info: www.acornlive.org

March 16 — Porter Beach Restoration, 9 a.m.-noon, Porter Beach Parking Lot, Wabash Avenue & Johnson Beach Road. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

March 16 — Chellberg Farm Care, 9 a.m.-noon, Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

March 16 — The 24th Annual Running with the Irish 5K Race, 7-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park. Registration: tinyurl.com/yyehzt3h

March 16 — Signs of Spring Photo Scavenger Hunt, noon-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

March 16 — Fruition with Willy Tea Taylor, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$55 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Info: www.acornlive.org

March 17 — Wetlands Awakening Walk, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

March 17 — First Day of Spring Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

March 17 — New Buffalo Township Library Annual Tea, 2 p.m. EDT, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

March 17 — LaPorte County Historian Bruce Johnson, "The Story of Belle Gunness," 2 p.m. EDT, The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Admission: \$5, \$3/members. Reservations: www.historymuseumSB.org

March 17 — The School of American Music free family concert, "Dueling Divas," 3 p.m. EDT, Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Food-item donation. Info: schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com, (269) 409-1191.

March 19 — River Valley Garden Club, 1 p.m. EDT, Harbert Community Church, 6444 Harbert Road, Sawyer, Mich. Info: evpalulis@yahoo.com (269) 426-3513.

Through March 14 — Chesterton-based plein air oil artist Christine Newton, The Village Gallery

at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

Through March 30 — Women's History Month & Kingsford Heights exhibits, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Through March 31 — "Being There" (oils by Julie Christian Bender), Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Hours: 9 a.m.-noon EDT weekdays. Info: www.mediatorharbert.com

Through April 28 — Kevin Firme, "Sculpture and Drawings," Midwest Museum of Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. *Noontime talk (Eastern)*: March 14.

Through May 5 — "Radiator Mascots: Art, Style & Story," The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors 60+, \$7/youth ages 6-18. Info: (574) 235-9714, (888) 391-5600, www.studebakermuseum.org

Through May 12 — "Indiana Lore," South Bend's The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors, \$7/youth 6-17, free/members. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Through May 12 — Photo exhibit of 1926 Valparaiso fire, Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse), 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Free admission. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Sun. Info: www.pocomuse.org, @pocomuse on social media.

Through May 12 — "Facing the Giant: 3 Decades of Dissent," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Also on display: Joe Matty's "A World Apart" (through March 24), Aaron Martin's "Nébwakat Mshiké: Wise Turtle," through 2024. Info: www.krasl.org, (269) 983-0271.

Through July 28 — "Family Haulers: The American Station Wagon," The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors 60+, \$7/youth ages 6-18. Info: (574) 235-9714, (888) 391-5600, www.studebakermuseum.org

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

Saturdays-Sundays in March. — Chellberg Farm Open House, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: "The Monk and the Gun." Rated PG-13. Times: 4 & 7 p.m. March 16-17. *Also*: "Mustang Magic: When Every Friday Night Mattered." Not Rated. Time: 7 p.m. March 15. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On March 14, 1743, America's first town meeting was held in Boston's Faneuil Hall.

On March 14, 1812, to buy military equipment to use in the war against England, the United States issued America's first war bonds.

On March 14, 1923, President Warren Harding became the first chief executive to file an income tax report.

On March 14, 1943, Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man" premiered in New York.

On March 14, 1945, the American flag was raised on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima in World War II.

On March 15, 44 B.C., Julius Caesar, Roman general, statesman and one of the great men of history, was assassinated by a group of Roman aristocrats, led by Marcus Junius Brutus, and Gaius Cassius.

On March 15, 1892, New York became the first state to authorize the use of voting machines.

On March 15, 1913, President Woodrow Wilson held the first open presidential news conference.

On March 15, 1919, the American Legion, now the largest veterans' organization in the United States, was founded in Paris by a group of about 20 officers who served in France as part of the World War I American Expeditionary Forces.

On March 15, 1937, the world's first blood bank, under the direction of Chicago's Dr. Bernard Fantus, was established in Cook County Hospital.

On March 16, 1521, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan, for whom the South American "Straits of Magellan" is named, discovered the Philippine Islands.

On March 16, 1792, Sweden's King Gustav III was shot and mortally wounded during a masquerade party. The assassination inspired the Giuseppe Verdi opera "The Masked Ball."

On March 16, 1802, the U.S. Military Academy was founded at West Point, N.Y.

On March 16, 1830, in the slowest trading day in Wall Street history, only 31 shares exchanged hands on the New York Stock Exchange.

On March 16, 1850, Nathaniel Hawthorne's famous novel, The Scarlet Letter, was published in New York City.

On March 17, 461, so tradition tells us, St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, died in the town of Saul. Legend says he drove all of the snakes and venomous creatures from Ireland by beating on a drum. He did it so well that, even to this day, we are

told that death occurs instantly to any such creature which dares touch Irish soil.

On March 17, 1843, St. Patrick's Day was celebrated in Chicago for the first time.

On March 17, 1902, American golfer Robert Tyre "Bobby" Jones, the only person ever to win the U.S. Open, British Open, U.S. Amateur and British Amateur tournaments in one year was born in Atlanta.

On March 17, 1910, the Camp Fire Girls was formed. It was formally presented to the public on this day two years later.

On March 17, 1941, Washington's National Gallery of Art was officially opened.

On March 18, 1909, Elinar Dessau of Denmark used a shortwave transmitter to converse with a government radio post about six miles away in what is believed to have been the first broadcast by a ham radio operator.

On March 18, 1925, there were 689 deaths, 1,980 injured and in excess of \$17 million in property damage as a series of tornadoes struck the states of Missouri, Illinois and Indiana.

On March 18, 1931, Schick Razor Co. began marketing the nation's first electric razor.

On March 18, 1951, Herman Wouk's war novel, The Caine Mutiny, went on sale.

On March 19, 1831, robbers removed \$245,000 from City Bank in New York, gaining the dubious distinction of participating in the nation's first bank holdup.

On March 19, 1859, "Faust," an opera by Charles Gounod, premiered in Paris.

On March 19, 1917, The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Adamson Act, which provided for an eight-hour work day for railroad workers.

On March 19, 1918, Congress approved Daylight Saving Time for the nation.

On March 19, 1931, gambling was legalized in the state of Nevada.

On March 19, 1942, during World War II, American men between the ages of 45 and 64 were ordered to register for non-military duty.

On March 20, 1896, American Marines landed in Nicaragua to protect U.S. citizens in the wake of a revolution.

On March 20, 1899, Brooklyn's Martha Place, convicted of the murder of her stepdaughter, became the first American woman to be put to death by electrocution at Sing Sing prison.

On March 20, 1965, Martin Luther King led more than 3,000 civil rights demonstrators as they began a march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

On March 20, 1969, John Lennon married Yoko Ono.

On March 20, 1976, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was convicted of armed robbery for having taken part in a San Francisco bank robbery staged by the revolutionaries who had kidnapped her.

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Chesterton Art Center staff announced the new Emerging Artists Society for local artists ages 21-35 interested in networking experiences.

“We created this new program with the hope of establishing a sense of community for these adult artists, providing a space to make creative connections with one another,” CAC Education Director Jillian Bridgeman, who spearheaded the effort, said in a press release.

The callout meeting is from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 21, at the center. Members will get to meet each other through collaborative art activities and sharing creative interests.

The plan is for the group to meet the third Thursday of each month. It will work with guest artists, organize exhibit opportunities and public art projects, and offer additional professional development workshops.

Email Bridgeman at programs@chestertonart.org or (219) 926-4711 to join.*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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Mike offers 31 years of local real estate expertise for both Residential and Commercial Real Estate. He has been recognized as one of the top 1% of Real Estate Agents in the country for 8 years. The past 12 years Mike has held the position of Managing Broker at ReMax and then Century 21, respectively, and most recently Made The Move to MTM Realty. Common words from reviews that are used to describe Mike's work ethic are Integrity, Professionalism, Knowledgeable, Competent, and Hard Working. Mike and his wife of 34 years, Joann, joined forces in 2014 and then elevated their level of service by adding team member Hailee Hills in 2020 to provide the best buying and selling experience in LaPorte County and surrounding areas. The entire team looks forward to working with the MTM Realty group and bringing their expertise to help clients with their real estate needs.

Hailee Hills

I was born in LaPorte and raised on a small farm. It was here that my parents taught my brother and me the importance of family, community, hard work & determination. These are the principles on which I operate in everything that I do, and how I can best serve my clients. I pride myself on being an effective communicator, keeping my clients informed and educated, and being a true professional.

When I'm not working, I enjoy time with my husband and daughter, spending the day outside or out on the lake, golfing, or attending sporting events.



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