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# The Power of Positivity

by Kim Nowatzke

Despite a life-threatening setback early in life, Dave Lewis consistently defies the odds, crediting his determination to family, friends, positivity and, most of all, his faith in God.

Born in Michigan City to Robert and the late Edwina Lewis, Dave Lewis moved to LaPorte in the eighth grade, graduating from LaPorte High School in 1987. Sports were a big part of his life, beginning with T-ball at age 4 or 5. With baseball as his first love, he later played on an all-star Michigan City league and pitched a no-hitter, even if he didn't make his high school team. He tried his hand at tennis with his father, was part of the LaPorte High School team for a year and enjoying playing with high-school friends. He even played on an intramural volleyball team that won regional and state titles.

Just like many other guys his age, he was attending college, working as a manager of Loucks Rentals — friend Neal Loucks' business — and enjoying times with friends.

Then on June 28, 1989, just after his 20th birthday, a motorcycle accident left him paralyzed from the T5 vertebrae (his sternum) down. He was coming home from Loucks' house when he was thrown from his motorcycle while crossing a railroad track in rural LaPorte County. It's estimated he wasn't found for about an hour, spent 10 days in an induced coma, then was moved to Chicago, where he would remain hospitalized until mid-October.

To say it was a defining moment that changed his life forever is an understatement.

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Dave Lewis and Brian Bogar proudly hold their trophies in July after winning first place in men's doubles at LeRoy Courts in LaPorte's Kesling Park.

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# The Power of Positivity

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“At that point, I didn’t know what I was going to do now, being paralyzed and mostly just knowing sports,” Lewis said.

What got him through?

There was his 3-month-old nephew, Scott Typpi, whom he recalls holding in his hospital bed as he looked to both of their futures and what it would hold for them. There was Scott’s mom, Lisa, his parents and a host of friends and extended family who supported him, including “just keeping me busy,” he said. And there was Loucks, who helped him navigate through the maze of insurance logistics.

Lewis eventually graduated from Purdue University-North Central (now Purdue University Northwest) with an associate degree in liberal arts.

“Because of my disability,” he explained. “I found out that my college was mostly funded through Indiana’s Vocational Rehabilitation program.”

It wasn’t long before Lewis realized his mechanical aptitude could fill a niche in his community and launch a successful business, one that would never have entered his mind beforehand.

“During and after college, I would fix things for others – cars, wheelchairs, anything mechanical – because I was good with my hands,” he explained.

He became interested in rehabbing antique cars, over the years owning gems such as a 1966 Chevy Cobra, 1967 Ford Mustang, 1968 Dodge Charger, 1969 Chevy Camaro and 1970

Chevy Chevelle.

“I’m finishing up my last, and then I think I’m done,” he said, adding with a smile, “I think I’m done crawling on the ground under cars.”

With a steady supply of people coming to him for wheelchair repairs, Lewis opened up The Wheelchair Shop at 3944 Frontage Road in Michigan City in 1997. He soon became an authorized Bruno Independent Living Aids Inc. dealer. Then, the Veteran Readiness and Employment program contacted him and he became a provider.

“There wasn’t anyone around that was taking care of the needs of those with disabilities,” Lewis said. “Every disability is different, even if it’s the same injury. There are variables with each disability. We modify for people with whatever they can and can’t do.

The Wheelchair Shop helps with mobility needs, including the sale and repair of wheelchairs and scooters, vehicle lifts, porch lifts, stair lifts, modular ramps, handrails and grab bars and other accessories. Customers can purchase a wheelchair accessible vehicle, with people across the nation taking advantage of this service.

Last year, Lewis handed the reins of The Wheelchair Shop, which now employs five others, to Scott Typpi. Being “semi-retired,” he enjoys traveling and “being a ‘snowbird’ now, spending part of the year in warmer climates.

“Since he (Typpi) was 10 or 11, he was always around,” Lewis said. “I taught him by having him hand me parts at first.”

Lewis said he told his nephew when he graduated high school that if he stuck with him, helping him grow his business, it



Dave Lewis, founder of The Wheelchair Shop, is photographed with his nephew, Scott Typpi, who now owns the 27-year-old Michigan City business. Photo by Kim Nowatzke

would be his once he retired.

The uncle kept that promise.

Lewis also has ventured into the world of real estate, owning and managing local commercial property rentals.

“Nothing stops anybody in a wheelchair if they set their mind to it,” he said.

Not only did Lewis find success in the business world, but he also learned his love of sports – including competition – could continue.

It began with a National Wheelchair Sports Camp at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch in Stewartville, Minn.

“It introduced me to wheelchair people – those with new injuries, veterans, those who had been disabled for a long time,” Lewis said. “It opened my eyes to all I could do: wheelchair racing, tennis, baseball, softball, horseback riding, water skiing ...I heard ‘softball’ and thought, ‘There’s my thing.’ It introduced me to the new world that I had to live in.”

Lewis got in touch with the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab Rehab Institute of Chicago (formerly Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago), a non-profit, nationally ranked physical medicine and rehabilitation research hospital.



Dave Lewis' parents, Robert and the late Edwina Lewis, prepared him for a future with paraplegia by teaching him adaptability at a young age

After a brief try at basketball, which he decided wasn't the right fit for him, he ended up playing first base for the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago Cubs National Wheelchair Softball Association Team. For more than two decades, he helped his teammates win nationals and world series games close to 10 times.

He “got to travel around the nation for free,” including to Minneapolis; Columbus, Ohio; Orlando, Fla.; and Biloxi, Miss. But over time, the drive two to three days a week to Chicago became tiresome.

So, at 43, Lewis tried his hand at tennis, which was closer to home, and discovered he was quite good at it. In 2022, he was ranked first in the nation in the “A” division of the United States Tennis Association Wheelchair Division. (There are five divisions, with Open as the highest, then A, B, C and D). Interestingly, the only difference between a regular game of tennis and one played from wheelchairs is that the players are allowed two bounces of the ball instead of one before returning it.

More recently, Lewis competed against able-bodied tennis players. On July 20, he and teammate

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# The Power of Positivity

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Brian Bogar won first place in a LaPorte City Tennis Tournament for men's doubles. Lewis was the only athlete playing in a wheelchair.

Lewis recently joined the pickleball craze. While visiting Palm Springs with his father three years ago, Lewis met a retired football player.

"Being two jocks," he said, "we got to talking about sports, and he suggested I give it (pickleball) a try."

With his talent for tennis, Lewis was a natural. Now, he's been invited to play in October at the 2024 Pickleball World Cup in Lima, Peru, where he may compete with able-bodied and wheelchair players.

"I try to be the best I can be in whatever I do, (inspiring others to think) 'If he can do it that good, why can't I at least try?' I try to be seen – not heard – more than anything. I try not to play 'that card'...



Kevin Green (left) and Dave Lewis are photographed about five years ago at the Mary Free Bed Midwest Wheelchair Tennis Championship in Grand Rapids, Mich.



Skiing is just one of the sports Dave Lewis (shown here on the right) has enjoyed.

except for the parking spots. Those are good," Lewis said with a laugh.

On a more serious note, he said, "To be top dog, I have to work three times as much to be as good as able-bodied people."

The power of positivity, however, is not lost on him.

"Always try to have a positive outlook," he emphasized. "It's the key for your own mental health and for others, too."

This year, Lewis is trying something new. He's assisting coaching the LaPorte High School boys tennis team.

"Hopefully, I can teach them and inspire," he said. "What I've learned, I can pass on."

This isn't the only way Lewis is trying to motivate others. About 15 years ago, and now in June, he re-

turned as a mentor/sponsor to the same National Wheelchair Sports Camp at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch that impacted him so many years ago. One helpful tip he demonstrated to young campers in wheelchairs is how to get up on a curb on their own.

"It was so fun and just cool to teach them how to do that," he said. "It was so good to for me to hand out that information to them. I know it was going to help them, and they would use it every single day of their lives."

Looking back on his life, Lewis credits his parents for his can-do attitude.

"They taught me young before the accident to adapt, so when it happened, I was able to overcome with God's help," he said.

A member of First Church of God in LaPorte, Lewis isn't shy about testifying of "God having His hand" in his life, and the "huge" part his faith plays in his every move.

"I couldn't have done this by myself. I don't make decisions without God. I pray that He will show me in obvious ways the direction to take and to be patient enough to wait for the answer," he said. "There's no way I could be as successful as I am on my own skill level."

Lewis admitted being interviewed for this article gave him a reason to pause and reflect on his life.

"I've never stopped to notice everything I've done over the years," he said. "Where there's a will, there's a way. I'm so blessed to have gotten to do all of these things and met the friends along the way. God is good."

Lewis also was reminded recently of advice he passed on to someone else years ago: "They told me that I'd told them, 'Don't ever let anyone tell you what you can't do until you try and figure out what you can.'"



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## “Beetlejuice” Sequel is Flimsy Fan Service

by Andrew Tallackson



Michael Keaton and Winona Ryder return to their roles from the 1988 hit.

“Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” feels like it was made by people with a vague memory of the original. Rarely funny, with a who-cares story, it’s little more than tardy, flimsy fan service.

I wasn’t a huge fan of the 1988 original, but then it grew on me. It established the template for Tim Burton’s eccentric style, particularly his skewed visuals. The treat, too, was watching the movie try to keep up with Michael Keaton’s title mischief maker. All Burton could do was match the actor’s frenzied pace through editing and other camera trickery.

This sequel, unfortunately, does not resemble a comedy in any shape or form, more like an early draft deserving a serious overhaul.

In the film, still-goth Lydia Deetz (Winona Ryder), now the host of a hokey ghost hunter show, is having visions of Beetlejuice. At the same time, her father dies, forcing his artist wife Delia (Catherine O’Hara) to corral the family, which includes granddaughter Astrid (Burton’s “Wednesday” star, Jenna Ortega), for the funeral back in Winter River.

With the original film, Burton was sharing his love of German Expressionism, especially his vision of an afterlife with slanted hallways and ceilings at sharp angles. The sequel, by comparison, has the tired feel of a director out to make a quick buck. There is no joy, particularly the first half which moves at a sloth’s pace through dead-weight characters, including:

- Beetlejuice’s vengeful ex-wife (Monica Bellucci), who is neither deliciously scary nor deviously funny. She’s just an exercise for Burton to toy with special effects makeup
- A potential boyfriend (Arthur Conti) for Astrid who

★ 1/2

### “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice”

Running time: 104 minutes. In theaters. Rated PG-13 for violent content, macabre and bloody images, strong language, some suggestive material and brief drug use.

factors heavily into the plot, but with no payoff.

- Rory (Justin Theroux), Lydia’s boyfriend and the producer of her show...and the film’s most tedious presence with not one funny line of dialogue.

What does it say, in fact, about the human characters when the only fun presence is a special effect: shrunken head Bob and his what-the-heck reactions. Because until Keaton’s character re-enters the real world, “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” feels shapeless. Like it’s headed nowhere. Sad, because you can feel O’Hara trying *really* hard to milk scenes for laughs, but after a career high with her Emmy-winning turn in “Schitt’s Creek,” this is a letdown.

Keaton is always good for a chuckle — a throw-away gag involving Richard Marx’s “Right Here Waiting” easily earns the biggest laugh — but a wedding sequence set to “MacArthur Park” goes on forever, stranding the cast in a prolonged misfire of a joke.

The world did not need a “Beetlejuice” sequel, but the starting point for one should have been Keaton, the original characters and how they react to each other. There’s not enough of that here. Not enough of the off-kilter lunacy that gave the original its oomph.

That’s the problem. There’s no oomph.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [atallackson@gmail.com](mailto:atallackson@gmail.com)



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**Hoosier Star is This Weekend at LaPorte Civic**



Eleven finalists will compete for the title of Hoosier Star — now in its 19th year — at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

The annual concert and vocal competition, which benefits LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, features six finalists in the youth division and five from the adult division. They are:

**Youth Division**

- Olivia and Selah Branco (duet), LaPorte.
- Sophia Grubbs, Elkhart.
- Bayleigh Miller, LaPorte.
- Charles Nwakanma, Fort Wayne.
- Chloe Virijevich, Kouts.

**Adult Division**

- Alyssa Atkinson, South Bend.
- Lindsey Brown, LaPorte.
- Noah Garcia, Hammond.
- Cynthia O'Heran, LaPorte.
- Max Principe, LaPorte.

Contestants are afforded the rare opportunity of performing with the symphony. Celebrity judges include Matt Fuller, Jordan Dollins and Melanie Dorn Kraut. Audience members can cast votes for their favorite finalists.

Tickets, which can be purchased at <https://lcso.net/>, cost \$25 for adults and \$10 for children. They also are available at the door starting at 6 p.m.



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**“Voices from the Heartland,” “Constitution” at The Dunes**

Dunes Summer Theatre will host “Voices from the Heartland,” its second new plays festival, with performances at 7 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, Sept. 18-21, and 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22.

The Dunes also will present special performances of Heidi Schreck’s Pulitzer Prize-finalist “What the Constitution Means to Me” at 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, and 7 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22.

All performances are at the Michiana Shores theater, 288 Shady Oak Drive.

The new plays showcase highlights works by writers in Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan presented as concert readings.

“We had so many wonderful plays submitted this year that we expanded the festival from four nights to five, including historically-based dramas, off-the-wall comedies and a one-act thriller,” Dunes Artistic Director Steve Scott said in a press release

Performances also will include an audience talkback with the writer, led by DST Dramaturg Annaliese McSweeney.

The full schedule is:

**Wednesday, Sept. 18**

- Two One-Act Plays: “Wingman” (Dean Johanson) and “Legs” (Bill Svelmoe).

**Thursday, Sept. 19**

- Two One-Act Plays: “Doofus Ex” (William Johnston) and “Nelson and Simone Do the Laundry”

(Corya Kennedy Channing and John Lisbon Wood).

**Friday, Sept. 20**

- “Grand Beach” (David Littell).

**Saturday, Sept. 21**

- 2 p.m.: “What the Constitution Means to Me.”

- 7 p.m.: Baby by Number (Zachary Mark).

**Sunday, Sept. 22**

- 2 p.m.: “Wormwood Radio Show” (Michael Thomas).

- 7 p.m.: “What the Constitution Means to Me.”

“What the Constitution Means to Me” is an analysis of gender and racial biases inherent to the U.S. Constitution. The piece is based on the experiences of 15-year-old Schreck, who put herself through college by giving speeches about the constitution. Now, she resurrects her teen self to trace the document’s impact on women’s bodies, starting with her great-great-grandmother, a mail-order bride who died under mysterious circumstances.

The play had an extended, sold-out run on Broadway in 2019 and was nominated for two Tonys. It had subsequent sold-out runs at the Kennedy Center and Mark

Taper Forum. It also was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in drama in 2019.

Tickets for “Voices from the Heartland” are \$10 per show or \$35 for all performances. Tickets for “What the Constitution Means to Me” are \$35, or \$25 for four or more. They can be purchased at [www.dunesARTS.org](http://www.dunesARTS.org). Bar and concessions open one hour prior to curtain. Pepe’s Fork in the Road Mexican Food Truck will be on site in the parking lot one hour before showtime.



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### “Touring Creativity Through Architecture” Forum

Registration is due by Sept. 13 for “Touring Creativity Through Architecture,” part of this year’s Fall Innovation Forum through The Center for Creative Solutions.

The free program, starting at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21, features award-winning designer, artist, educator and author Matthew Kubik. He will lead a walking tour of significant buildings in Michigan City’s Uptown Arts District. The tour begins at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., and ends at the newly-renovated Barker Hall, 600 Franklin Square. Afterward, Sweet Lou, That’s Who will serve refreshments.

A Purdue University professor emeritus, Kubik has taught courses in architecture, engineering technology and interior design, winning grants and awards for his developments in online teaching. He is nationally recognized as an invited lecturer at conferences, professional meetings and college campuses speaking on issues of sustainability.



Matthew Kubik

Kubik also is a proponent of experiential learning, especially educational travel. He has led more than 25 student and community summer travel programs to Rome, London and Egypt. In 2015, he began sharing his travel knowledge with a small group of travelers. He still guides the tours each summer.

Reservations are limited to the first 25 people. Registration may be done by calling the center at (219) 326-7259 or emailing [creativity52@comcast.net](mailto:creativity52@comcast.net)

The fall forum is funded through the B.R. Foundation and Dr. Rakesh and Bina Gupta. Community partners include: the Bethany Church Foundation of LaPorte; LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau; LaPorte County Historical Society Museum; Lakeshore Public Radio, Art on the Air program; Old Lighthouse Museum; Sinai Temple;

Michigan City Society of Innovators at Purdue Northwest; Westville Public Library; and WIMS Radio.

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# Community Comes to the Aid of Methodist Church, Soup Kitchen

by Andrew Tallackson

Blessings have a way of emerging amid life's setbacks.

That's what the Rev. Nancy Nichols, First United Methodist Church minister, was reminded of after a mechanical issue involving the church's elevator made the building inaccessible. But thanks to the community, not only does Sunday worship continue at Rittenhouse Village At Michigan City, 4300 Cleveland Ave., but its Tannehill Community Soup Kitchen has temporary homes.



Nichols

"I'm very proud that we have not missed a day of feeding hungry people," Nichols, who also is a soup kitchen board member and volunteer, told *The Beacher*. "The community has been great. Multiple churches have called and offered space, and we may take that up down the line, but because we can worship together at Rittenhouse, it's really been kind of cool."

Sometime between Aug. 10-11, the elevator pump failed at the church, 121 E. Seventh St. The details get pretty technical from there, but when all was said and done, Nichols said, "some sort of oily, vaporized crud, and that's the best way I can describe

it, found its way through a good part of the building, including the kitchen and the stairwell."

Since then, air and surface testing has been conducted at the church. Food contained in the soup kitchen freezers may be OK, Nichols said, but everything else, that remains to be seen.

So, the soup kitchen now is at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St., daily except Tuesday and Friday. On Tuesdays, it is at New Disciple Fellowship Church, 1411 Pine St., and Fridays at Macedonian Missionary Baptist, 3007 Ohio St.

Sunday worship is at Rittenhouse, with residents invited to join the congregation.

"I love this, because it reminds us that we are a church in mission. We're not just about our building," she said. "We've been able to take our ministry on the road...and we hope to create a deeper connection there."

Back at FUMC, obviously, there is much work to be done in terms of repairs, cleaning, working with the insurance company. The extent of everything, Nichols said, is not known at this time, but the goal is for the congregation to return to downtown Michigan City. Plans are in the works for children's programming at a local park, she said. The Blessing of the Pets is being planned for early October.

"We would like to maintain a presence in the downtown area," she said. "That is our church. That is our community."



Call (219) 872-7200 if interested in volunteering or making any donations to the soup kitchen.



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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, Sept. 12.** The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in September.** 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.
- **Genealogy Help with Pat Harris and Colleen Miltenberger at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14.** The two offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical record.
- **Any Book Book Club (adults only) from 5-6 p.m. Mondays in September.** Participants can discuss any books they are reading. Meetings are the second Monday of the month. Light refresh-

ments will be served.

- **Angels Among Us at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17.** Ange Benz, who leads the discussion, can be contacted at (219) 874-3754.
- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in September.** 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.
- **Reading Scavenger Hunt in September.** Find the pictures hiding in Youth Services and receive a prize. The theme is "Minecraft."
- **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.

*Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit [www.mclib.org](http://www.mclib.org) or call (219) 873-3049 for more details.*



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## American Red Cross

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

- LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13.
- Marquette High School, 306 W. 10th St., 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 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](http://www.redcrossblood.org) for more details.*

### Duneland Weavers Guild

Duneland Weavers Guild meets from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Sept. 14, at Three Moons Fiberworks, 402 Broadway, Chesterton.

The meeting is a “show and tell” for attendees to share work done during the summer. Handouts for the Weavers and Spinners Challenge are planned.

Visit [www.dunelandweaversguild.org](http://www.dunelandweaversguild.org) or Duneland Weavers Guild of Northwest Indiana on facebook for more detail.

### Chris Klug Foundation 5K for Life

The inaugural Chris Klug Foundation’s 5K for Life, hosted in honor of organ, eye and tissue donation, is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at the CoDee Preserve, Chesterton.

Registration is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children. On-site registration and pickup starts at 9 a.m. Vendors and booths are planned

The CKF is a national nonprofit founded by Klug, an Olympic snowboarder and liver transplant recipient. His mission is to eliminate the wait for a transplant by inspiring and educating individuals to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

Register at [www.runsignup.com/Race/IN/Chesterton/CKFs5KforLife](http://www.runsignup.com/Race/IN/Chesterton/CKFs5KforLife)

### First Responder Appreciation Event

The fifth annual First Responder Appreciation & Demonstration Day is from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Multi Agency Academic Cooperative Foundation First Responding Training Campus, 4203 Montdale Park Drive, Valparaiso.

This year’s event will feature more than 50 live demonstrations from various first-responder disciplines. Highlights include: Touch a Truck and Helicopters; opportunities to meet and thank first responders; live music; Little Obie the CN Locomotive; Clifford the Big Red Dog; food and refreshments.

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Lindsey Brown  
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## Community Identity Through Public Art Works

Sometimes, it just hits you.

You get up, dress and head out the door, telling yourself it's time to explore and see what's new: a day's excursion without traveling a distance. In my case, it was to Michigan City first, then LaPorte, seeking recently completed or installed public art.

Art is a language, a conversation that speaks to anyone who chooses to look and listen. Sometimes, the work may sing like a fine violin solo; other times, it beats like a hard rhythm. It's all in the interpretation, which makes it so enjoyable.

If you've been putting off an art excursion, don't wait any longer to enjoy these new sculptures and murals. Spend a moment or two considering what the artist is communicating. Develop your own interpretations and insights.

### Michigan City

One group enriching the cultural life here is Michigan City Public Art Committee. Making public art available to everyone since 2011, MAC has pushed the envelope to include not only sculpture, but other artworks as well.

This year's SculptFusion kicked things off with six new works scattered along Franklin Street, Michigan Boulevard and Ohio Street. New public murals in local parks extend the outreach into area neighborhoods.

Begin the journey by heading north on Franklin, where you'll encounter four of the six new sculptures. The first is Ohio artist Pam Reithmeier's "Greater Than" at Franklin and Coolspring Avenue. A blue, painted steel work, this piece, depending on

## The Inquisitive Artist

Linda Weigel



your viewpoint, can look like the more than or less than symbol used in math. I like the way the piece gives direction, direction to continue north to the lake. The design makes perfect sense when you realize that Reithmeier spent 34 years as an educator before deciding to become a sculptor.

Continuing into the Uptown Arts District, you'll find Iowa artist Tim Adams' 10-foot painted steel work "Set Sail." After closing his landscape architecture and garden center, Adams immersed himself in creating large-scale pieces. This particular sculpture made me think of full sails, wind at one's back pushing me along faster and faster. I also thought of the summer race to Mackinac Island with sails unfurled and boats competing against each other. The sculpture is sited appropriately, considering its proximity to Washington Park and Lake Michigan beaches and boats.

Continuing with the boat/sailing theme, discover two works by Minnesota artist Kyle Fokken. "High and Dry" took me by surprise with its whimsical, sweetly reminiscent nature. Made of painted steel and aluminum, the first thing that ran through my mind was the Beatles song "Yellow Submarine,"



A partial view of the commissioned Canada Park mural by Felix Maldonado.



The "Set Sail" sculpture by Tim Adams.



"High and Dry" by Kyle Fokken.



"Song of The Flying Dutchman (Over the Moon)"  
by Kyle Fokken.

which immediately made me smile and hum as I walked around it. A block away is his "Song of the Flying Dutchman (Over the Moon)." Made of bronze and steel, the ship sits atop a crescent moon. If you look carefully at the bow of the ship, you'll discover the neck of a violin, perhaps representative of the continuous loop of never-ending sound of seas and wind, much like the Dutchman's never-ending sail.

Two more new sculptural additions await. South Korean-now Chicago artist Sunny Han's "Crystal Effect" can be found at Ann and Ohio streets across from the old Burnham Glove Factory. Made of steel, the work features interlocking compact forms painted in the three primary colors red, blue and yellow. Interestingly, I read that after heating the steel forms in an oven, the artist later inflates them with compressed air. Fascinating, and not a method I was familiar with, which explains the slight puffy look of each of the three shapes.

Michigan artist John Sauve's "Dasein" is a metal work located at 2510 Michigan Blvd. in front of the Michigan City Fire Training Center. Its wrapping red flame, like form with cutout shapes, enlivens the area, bringing a colorful addition to the neighborhood.

Completed several months ago, East Chicago's Felix Maldonado introduced "Canada Park Mural" on Center Street across from Dune Billies Beach Café. Under Maldonado's skilled hands, a dull concrete border defining the outline of the park is

transformed into an explosion of high value color featuring plants and animals reflective of the area. A must-see, it's well worth the excursion.

Be sure to download Otocast, available at the Apple/Google Play Store. After installing, scroll down to locate "Michigan City, IN SCULPTFUSION." Choose a sculpture and listen to the artists speak in their own words about their pieces. Hearing the artists' voices firsthand is a real treat.



"Crystal Effect" by Sunny Han.

**Community Identity** Continued from Page 23

**LaPorte**

In LaPorte, new public works have sprouted featuring two of the above-mentioned artists.

Adams' "HoopLA 2" is located within Plaza 618 at Lincolnway and Monroe Street. The painted aluminum, stainless steel and Lexan work is a perfect match to join the large history-themed mural in this wonderful downtown spot. The pink and purple hoops reflect the joy of the park with its picnic ta-

bles and splash pad. It captures your attention and imagination, and for those of us who actually used hula-hoops, sweet memories as well.

Maldonado was commissioned to create a huge mural on a large external brick wall at Holy Family Parish-St. Joseph school building, 201 Bach St. Titled "*Familia Mundi*" (Latin for "Family of the World"), the work covers the entire brick wall with vibrant color and figures. Up close, it is a marvel to see how skilled Maldonado was in executing this large piece atop the rough brick. It's a beautiful, thoughtful work.



The "*Familia Mundi*" mural by Felix Maldonado

I am not naive enough, by the way, to think all this outdoor art comes together effortlessly. There needs to be a team that pulls it together. Taking art off the gallery walls to an exterior location is a challenge. It takes more than the artist creating the work to place a sculpture or paint for outside public viewing. In the case of the works discussed in this article, there are several key individuals linking everyone together, one of whom is Janet Bloch, Lubeznik Center for the Arts executive director. Bloch has dedicated herself to not only the LCA, but also to outreach, to linking artists with community. Working alongside various civic, private groups and public individuals, these people are making a difference in our region.

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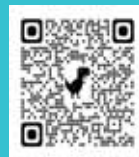
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### Sinai Forum

Only a limited number of tickets remain for PNW Sinai Forum opener Liz Cheney, which kicks off the 71st season at 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15, at Blue Chip Casino's Stardust Event Center.

The program title is "Defending Democracy: A Conversation with Liz Cheney." Cheney served as the U.S. representative for Wyoming's at-large congressional district from 2017-2023. She chaired the House Republican Conference from 2019-2021, and served as vice chair of the Select Committee to Investigate the Jan. 6 Attack on the U.S. Capitol.



Cheney

Mary Ann Ahern, political reporter with NBC 5 Chicago, will join Cheney on stage for the moderated portion of the program.

Single tickets cost \$125 and can be purchased at [www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum](http://www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum). College and high-school students are free by preregistering with a valid student ID.

### Harbor Country Singers

Harbor Country Singers will host a meet and greet for new and current members at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 17, at Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich.

Rehearsals for the holiday concert are from 6:30-8 p.m. EDT every Tuesday, Oct. 1-Dec. 3, at the church. The concert will be performed twice: 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Dec. 7, at the church and 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, Dec. 8, at The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich.



Martin

Maggie Martin, the director, has been the HCS piano accompanist since it started in 2016. She assisted with directing throughout that time, and became the director last year. She is a classically trained pianist with 25 years experience in choral accompaniment. She is from Three Oak and a small business owner in Harbert.

Text Maggie at (734) 730-1126 or email [maggiemartinpiano@gmail.com](mailto:maggiemartinpiano@gmail.com) for more details.



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## Eighth Grade Finale Concert

When Otsego (Mich.) Middle School proudly presented its “8th Grade Finale Concert” on May 16, I was one of the proudest members in the audience.

Not because I was there supporting a grandchild, but because I was there to see a friend’s grand-niece, Alie Bronson, demonstrate her command of the instrument I introduced her to just two years prior.

I speak, of course, of the clarinet, and I celebrate the amazing rise of a young musician who had never assembled a “licorice stick” until that summer day in 2021, in her backyard by the Kalamazoo River. I’d brought my clarinet over to play some tunes of comfort for Alie’s recently widowed great-aunt, Mary Lober. But then, Mary suggested I play for Alie and her friends, and well, I was amazed before I was halfway through assembling my clarinet by Alie’s wide-eyed response. I sensed having awakened a sleeping clarinet talent. I know for sure I did in spades that spring night in May when Alie and the eighth-grade band played one tightly rehearsed tune after another.

Tough little ditties like Robert Longfield’s “Vortex” and “Byzantine Dances” by Carol Brittin Chambers. Nothing easy, I assure you, and I stand by the following sentence: The cumulative effect was one of standing-ovation wonder.

What can I say?

I was proud as any grandparent there that night, because I had had a hand, or should I say an embouchure, in sparking a child’s interest in rising to meet the challenge of mastering that challenging instrument known as the clarinet.

And, truth be told, more than a little jealous.

“Hey,” I kept telling myself during the concert, “you never got that good on the clarinet when you were Alie’s age.”

“Yes,” I told myself, “that’s because you didn’t put in the work she has.”

And Alie Bronson has, indeed, put in the work. She has earned her seat in the middle-school band, just as I expect she will be welcomed into the Otsego High School Band.

And, as her great-aunt Mary said after the concert, “You do realize what you’ve gotten yourself

### Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



Satisfaction for a concert well-played.  
I was proud to be there.



into, haven’t you?”

“Yes,” I said, “four years of high school band concerts. And I want to be in the front row when Alie makes her debut at Carnegie Hall.”

I am serious.

And, yes, I will schlepp my clarinet to Otsego and practice with Alie. Only I won’t be the teacher.

I’ll be the student.

And with a teacher like Alie, how could I not learn to be a fairly decent old clarinetist? And, yes, Alie, let’s work on some jazz tunes, because there is no instrument better suited to jazz than the clarinet.

### Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Outdoor Adventure Festival daily through Sept. 15.** The festival showcases the region's natural and cultural significance through activities such as hiking, paddling, biking, photography, birding, and others. Visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for details.
- **Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park from 8-11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at the Great Marsh Trail Trailhead, 1336 County Road 600 East.** Join a ranger to hike the park's trails this summer, with each week featuring a new trail. It's 19 hikes covering 66 miles to honor the year the park was established.
- **Duneland Fall Festival from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Sept. 13-14, at Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12, Porter.** Learn about sustainable practices that can be done at home. Also planned are tractor-pulled wagon rides, a Kid's Corner with games and crafts, and apple pressing.
- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays through Sept. 22 at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.
- **Feeding at the Farm from 4:30-5 p.m. Sundays in September at Chellberg Farm.** Join a volunteer or ranger to feed the cows and chickens. Friends of Indiana Dunes sponsors the program.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9 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](http://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](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for details.

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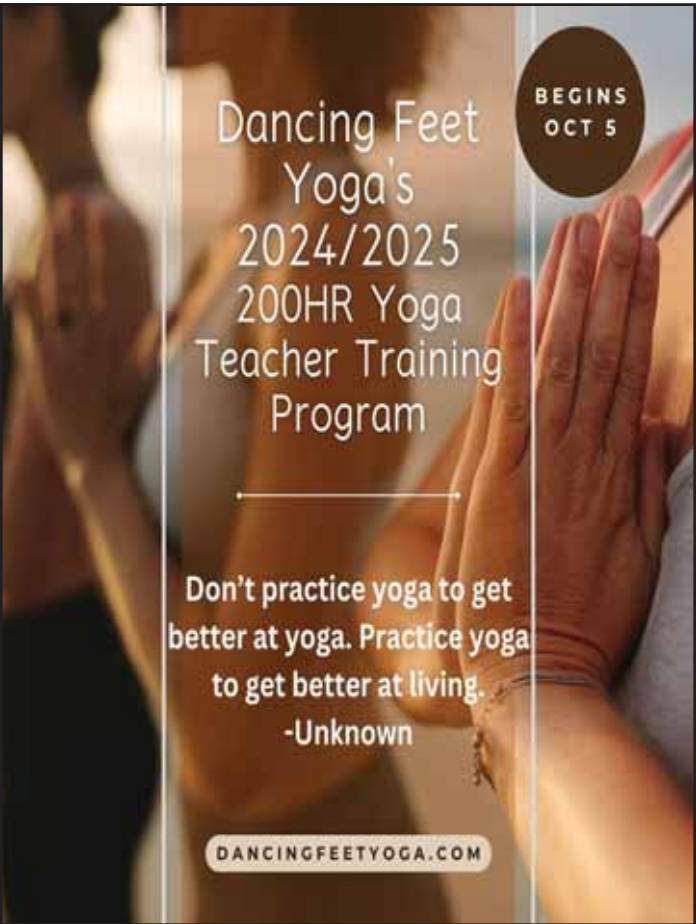


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### Opera in the Gardens



Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, again was the setting for the popular “Opera in the Gardens” on Aug. 25. The program featured a blend of opera classics and Broadway hits. All photos by Lance Werner.





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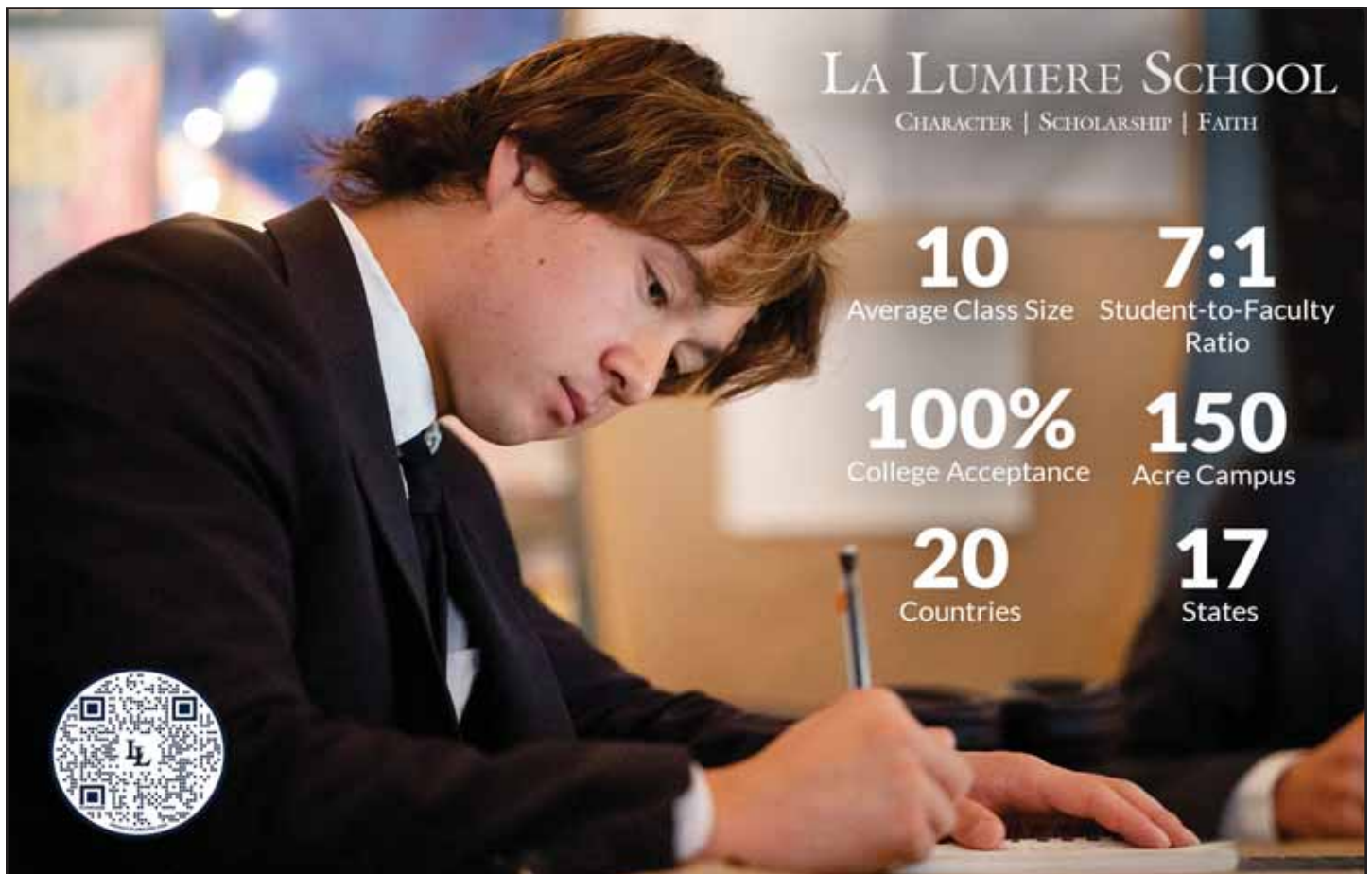
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- B Flight – Nancy Trainor.
- C Flight – Mary Weithers.
- D Flight – Jackie Purcell.

Most Improved 9-Hole Player – Anne Heeren.

## Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff

Purdue University Northwest will kick off Hispanic Heritage Month festivities from noon-2 p.m. Monday, Sept. 16, during the Power Hour at the Westville campus, 1401 U.S. 421.

The celebration includes a DJ, T-shirt giveaways, snacks and activities. The remaining events are at the Hammond campus. The schedule is available at [www.pnw.edu/hhm](http://www.pnw.edu/hhm)

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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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### Harbor Country Hikers



Hikers prepare for a 2020 walk through Chikaming Township Park and Preserve.

Harbor Country Hikers will visit Chikaming Township Park and Preserve for a hike at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 14.

The theme is "Cloud Gazing." HCH President/hike leader Pat Fisher will explain what various cloud formations predict about the weather. The park and preserve, located on Warren Woods Road in Three Oaks, Mich., offers more than 263 acres with at least eight distinct ecosystems and miles of hiking trails. The venue is popular with hikers, birders, dog walkers, fishermen and trail bikers, and includes plots for gardeners.

The hike will take about two hours, including a 10-minute introduction, and cover approximately two miles of trail. Its physical difficulty is rated easy to moderate. Hikers should wear long pants, sturdy shoes or boots and a cap or hat. Insect repellent and water also are recommended.

HCH membership is preferred; however, the event is open the public.

Visit [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com) or the group's Facebook page for more details.

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Stop by The Beacher, 911 Franklin St., with a resume, email [atallackson@gmail.com](mailto:atallackson@gmail.com) or call us at (219) 879-0088

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## Historical Society Museum



The "Kingsbury History Pop-Up."

The following events are at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave.:

- Through Sept. 30 — "Kingsbury History Pop-Up." Learn about the town of Kingsbury through the eighth of the museum's "Towns of LaPorte County Pop-Up Exhibits." Highlights include items from the high school, famous residents and business memorabilia. In conjunction with the exhibit is Kingsbury Free Admission Day for all Kingsbury residents on Saturday, Sept. 14.
- Sept. 17: Historian of the Year Awards at 7 p.m. at the museum.
- Sept. 17: "Lost Cemeteries of LaPorte County" exhibit, which runs through Nov. 27.
- Sept. 18: Veteran Free Day in honor of Air Force Founding Day.

Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.

## LaPorte County Parks



All registrations/questions go through the Red Mill County Park Administrative Office, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, LaPorte. Call (219) 325-8315 or visit [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org) for more details.

### Storytime at the Park

The free program is from 10-11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18, at Bluhm County Park, 3855 S. County Road 1100 West, Westville.

Hear a story and participate in a craft from LaPorte County Public Library, then learn about butterflies and crickets from Ranger April.



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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:*

- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Sept. 13, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Technology One-on-One from 2-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, in the main library Study Cafe.** Individuals can book a one-hour session with a tech team member. Take a device, charger and list of questions. Registration closes at 2 p.m.
- **Tai Chi Easy for Health and Relaxation from 6-7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 16, in the main library Reading Wi-Fi Garden.** Kristy Putnam, Tai Chi Easy senior trainer of the Integral Institute of Qigong and Tai Chi, leads the six-week series. Register online.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Nate Klemp from 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18.** The *New York Times* bestselling author will discuss his new book Open: Living with an Expansive Mind in a Distracted World.

*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](http://www.laportelibrary.org) for more details, including programming through the Exchange building.*

## New Buffalo Township Library

- **Essentrics Exercise for Seniors.** The program is at 10 a.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 13, 20 and 27.

### 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.-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Teen Maker Space from 3:30-7:30 p.m. Thursdays.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Spanish Story Time at 10 a.m. Fridays.
- Lego Club from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturdays.

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



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### In the Area

**Sept. 12** — Duneland Stamp Club, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Sept. 12** — United Way of LaPorte County Women United Power of the Purse, 6-9 p.m., Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St. Tickets: \$75. Info/reservations: [www.unitedwaylpc.org/events](http://www.unitedwaylpc.org/events)

**Sept. 13-November 2** — Chesterton Art Center glass artists, The Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 U.S. 12, Beverly Shores.

**Sept. 14** — Hoosier Star, 7 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Tickets: \$25/adults, \$10/children. Available at door or <https://lcsa.net>

**Sept. 15** — Save the Dunes Monarch Music Fest, 1-5 p.m., The Brewery Lodge & Supper Club, 5727 N. County Road 600 West. Tickets: \$50/online, \$60/door. Reservations: [www.savedunes.org](http://www.savedunes.org)

**Sept. 15** — **HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH BEGINS.**

**Sept. 15** — PNW Sinai Forum, Liz Cheney, 4 p.m., Blue Chip Casino's Stardust Event Center. Single tickets: \$125. Reservations: [www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum](http://www.pnw.edu/sinai-forum)

**Sept. 16** — Purdue University Northwest Hispanic Heritage Month kickoff, noon-2 p.m., Westville campus, 1401 U.S. 421. Info: [www.pnw.edu/hhm](http://www.pnw.edu/hhm)

**Sept. 16** — Tai Chi Easy for Health and Relaxation, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Sept. 17** — Angels Among Us, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Sept. 17** — Historian of the Year Awards, 7 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

**Sept. 17-Nov. 27** — "Lost Cemeteries of LaPorte County" exhibit, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

**Sept. 18** — Storytime at the Park, 10-11 a.m., Bluhm County Park, 3855 S. County Road 1100 West, Westville. Info: [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org), (219) 325-8315.

**Sept. 18** — Virtual Author Talk with Nate Klemp, 1-2 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Sept. 18-21** — "Voices from the Heartland," Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Drive, Michiana Shores. Times: 7 p.m. Wed.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$10/show, \$35/all performances. Reservations/info: [www.dunesARTS.org](http://www.dunesARTS.org)

**Through Sept. 15** — "Iterations: Beyond Photography," The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: [www.bsdepot.org](http://www.bsdepot.org)

**Through September** — Work by Bill Cavalier, 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](mailto:lucia@qas.org)

**Through September** — "Kingsbury History Pop-Up," LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. *Sept. 14*: Kingsbury Free Admission Day for Kingsbury residents. Info: (219) 324-6767.

**Through Oct. 19** — "KAPOW! Mighty Mythos," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org)

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

**Mondays in September** — Any Book Book Club (adults only), 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**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, 1506 Washington St. Doors open: 3:30 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. \$30 entrance fee (includes specials except Winner Takes All & Jackpot). Info: (219) 336-3099.

**Tuesdays in September** — Genealogy Help with Pat Harris/Colleen Miltenberger, 1-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. *Also*: 9:30 a.m. Sept. 14. Info: (219) 873-3049.

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

**Wednesdays** — Al-Anon meeting for Friends/Family of Alcoholics, 6 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square. Enter at Sixth Street Barker Hall side. Info: Candy at (708) 927-5287.

**Thursdays in September** — 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](http://www.oa.org)

**Saturdays through Oct. 26 in Michigan**

**City** — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Franklin streets. Info: [tinyurl.com/bdd5mxxr](http://tinyurl.com/bdd5mxxr)

**Saturdays in LaPorte** — Farmed & Forged Market, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe, LaPorte.

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

**Second Tuesday of the Month** — Stroke Support Group for Survivors and Caregivers, 2 p.m., Mother Maria Theresia Room, Franciscan Health Michigan City, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: Kelly Wise at [Kelly.wise@franciscanalliance.org](mailto:Kelly.wise@franciscanalliance.org)

### **In the Region**

**Sept. 12** — Cracker, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$60 + \$8 convenience fee, \$95 + \$8 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**Sept. 13** — Opening reception, Series 5 Exhibition, 5:30-7 p.m. EDT, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Exhibit runs through Oct. 27. Info: <https://boxfactoryforthearts.org/>

**Sept. 13** — Singer/songwriter Dave Rudolf, 7:30 p.m. EDT, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Advance tickets: \$12, \$15/cabaret seating. Walk-in tickets: \$15. Children 12 & younger/free. Reservations: [www.ticketstripe.com/daverudolf-britishinvasion](http://www.ticketstripe.com/daverudolf-britishinvasion)

**Sept. 13** — Danielle Nicole, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25 + \$4.50 convenience fee, \$50 + \$4.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**Sept. 13-14** — Duneland Fall Festival, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20/12, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Sept. 14** — Project 1966: Hike Every Trail in the Park, 8-11 a.m., Great Marsh Trail Trailhead, 1336 County Road 600 East. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Sept. 14** — First Responder Appreciation & Demonstration Day, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Multi Agency Academic Cooperative Foundation First Responding Training Campus, 4203 Montdale Park Drive, Valparaiso. Info: [www.maacfoundation.org](http://www.maacfoundation.org)

**Sept. 14** — CKF's 5K for Life, 10 a.m., CoDee Preserve, Chesterton. Cost: \$20/adults, \$15/children. Registration: [www.runsignup.com/Race/IN/Chesterton/CKFs5KforLife](http://www.runsignup.com/Race/IN/Chesterton/CKFs5KforLife)

**Sept. 14** — Duneland Weavers Guild, 10 a.m.-noon, Three Moons Fiberworks, 402 Broadway, Chesterton. Info: [www.dunelandweaversguild.org](http://www.dunelandweaversguild.org)

**Through September** — Monthly visual art shows, The Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Artist: Bill Boyce. Hours (Eastern): 9 a.m.-noon Mon.-Thur., 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sun. Info: [www.Mediatorharbert.com](http://www.Mediatorharbert.com)

**Through Oct. 6** — “Against the Grain,” Montague/Urschel Gallery at Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse), 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Also: “Building Memory: Artistic Interpretations of Notable Landmarks.” Info: [www.pocomuse.org](http://www.pocomuse.org), @pocomuse on social media.

**Through Oct. 20** — “Desperate Times, Desperate Measures: The Studebaker-Packard Corporation,” 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](http://www.studebakermuseum.org)

**Through Oct. 13** — “Resist!” exhibit, Beutter-Kernan Hall, Community Learning Center, St. Joe County Public Library, 305 S. Michigan St. Info: [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org), (574) 235-9664, Ext. 6256.

**Through Oct. 17** — Photographer Deb Potis, The Village Gallery, Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

**Through Oct. 30** — “Of Giants and Warriors” (local artists Diane Grams/Tim Lace), Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Reception: 4-7 p.m. Sept. 20. Artist-led gallery/discussion: noon Saturday, Sept. 28. Fresco painting demonstration: noon Oct. 19/RSVP to [gallery@chestertonart.org](mailto:gallery@chestertonart.org). Info: (219) 926-4711, [www.chestertonart.org](http://www.chestertonart.org)

**Through Nov. 10** — “Language as Form: Calligraphy & Sculpture by Gwen Yen Chiu/Nick Colvard’s “Forest,” Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.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](mailto:friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com)

**Saturdays in Chesterton** — Chesterton European Market, 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 220 Broadway, Chesterton. Info: [tinyurl.com/3wvav7pw](http://tinyurl.com/3wvav7pw)

**Sundays Through Sept. 22** — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Sundays in September** — Feeding at the Farm, 4:30-5 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Vickers Theatre** — *Now Showing*: “National Lampoon’s Vacation.” Rated R. Time: 7 p.m. Sept. 12. Also: “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice.” Rated PG-13. Times: 4 & 7 p.m. Sept. 13-15. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.vickerstheatre.com](http://www.vickerstheatre.com), (269) 756-3522.

## **“Seussical”**

Footlight Players will present “Seussical” on Sept. 13-15, 20-22 and 27-29 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times are 7 p.m. Fridays and 2 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays. Call (219) 874-4035 for reservations or more details.

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**Zombie Fest**

The first Zombie Fest is from noon-7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, at Michigan City Fish & Game Club, 3091 E. Michigan Blvd. It features music, artists, vendors, food, costume contests, crafts and games.

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**A Farewell to Arfs by Spencer Quinn** (hard-cover \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 278 pages.)

Many successful authors write about a specific character we like to follow through a series of books — the continuity of their exploits keeps us eagerly awaiting the next installment.

Spencer Quinn has a wildly successful series in Chet and Bernie. Bernie Little is the one behind Little Detective Agency and Chet is the big, beautiful black dog with the one white ear you see on the cover. What makes this series so popular is one amazing fact: Chet is the narrator of each story. I have never read a canine hero portrayed so realistically. His description of things he sees — understood and not — are exactly what a dog would surely sound like. Please note that this is not some silly talk between Bernie and Chet. Oh no. Chet is 100 percent dog, and his communication with Bernie consists of putting a paw on Bernie's leg, or barking in a certain direction to get his attention. Chet also freely admits he can't count past two or understand some human sayings, like "he let the cat out of the bag." Chet sees no cat or bag, so what is that all about?

His devotion to Bernie — "always the smartest human in the room" — is spot-on, and Bernie treats him like the equal partner he is in solving crimes. Yes, Chet's view of humans and their speech sometimes eludes him, but he is always ready to come to Bernie's aid.

Bernie met Chet on the last day of his K-9 training. Chet failed the test. He felt awful. He said all he could remember was, it involved a cat and some blood. Anyway, Bernie, a West Point graduate by the way, saw him and took him home to the Valley (I believe it's in Arizona, although it's never told) after his honorable discharge from the Army for an injury that left him with a sometimes obvious limp.

The pair live next door to the retired Mr. and Mrs. Parsons and their doggy friend to Chet, Iggy.

One day, Mr. Parsons calls on Bernie to tell him his bank account had been wiped out — some \$47K! The day before, his son, Billy, called needing \$2K. A trip to the bank by Mr. Parsons and Bernie proves someone, indeed, took the Parsons for all their savings.

Supposedly, Billy, an ex-con, has turned his life around and started an organization called ProCon,

## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



helping ex-cons like himself get straight. Although Mr. Parsons says Billy would not have stolen from his parents, Bernie isn't so sure. Especially when Billy's office says he is out of town for several days on business and can't be reached.

Now begins Bernie and Chet's sleuthing that

will take them to a casino and a man with large gambling debts who happens to be a scientist delving into the whole AI research, which leads to an arsonist, a fire, a coffee shop with a brothel in the back, and more...

Suffice it to say, there is enough action and interesting sidelines to keep you reading and, of course, there are Chet's sidelines — someone drops food on the floor, a cat passes by, smells from some unknown source — that send him off to do some research.

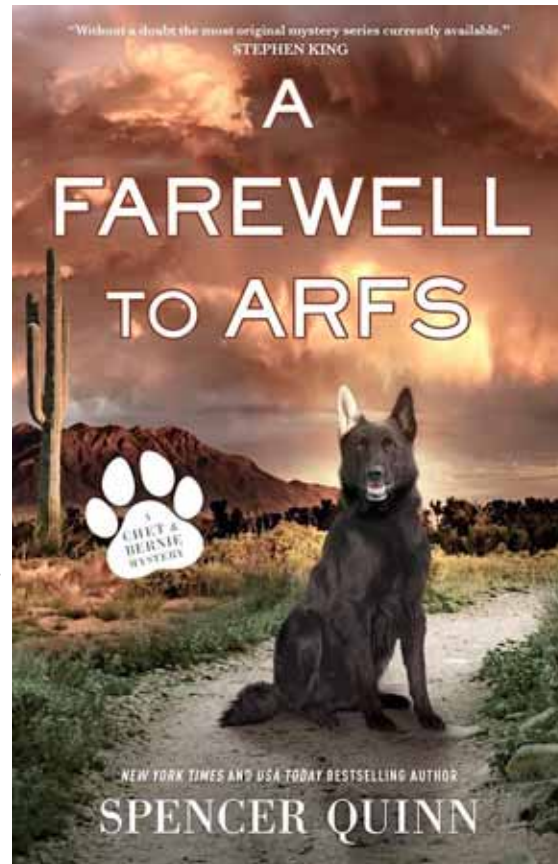
To add insult to injury, Bernie loses his PI license for helping a wise guy remember his place — he could have broken the guy's neck, but he held back. The reason for this lesson is the roughing up of a female policeman, Weatherly, who just happens to be Bernie's fiancée, and who just happens to be justifiably ticked off by that well-intentioned inter-

ference in her job which, by the way, lands her in the middle of an internal investigation by the department. Will there still be a wedding? Stay tuned.

Sometimes, doing the right thing doesn't always work out, right Bernie? But it's his big heart that makes him the character we all adore and his partner, Chet, the faithful friend who is always ready to lend a helping hand, er, make that paw, and even lay down his life for Bernie without a second thought. Analyzing may be Bernie's forté, but it's Chet's command of his seeing, hearing and smelling that fills in the blanks.

*The final word:* You won't find a more worthy PI partnership than Chet and Bernie. These adventures are pure joy, and remind us of the undying and unquestioning loyalty of our canine companions who are truly family members.

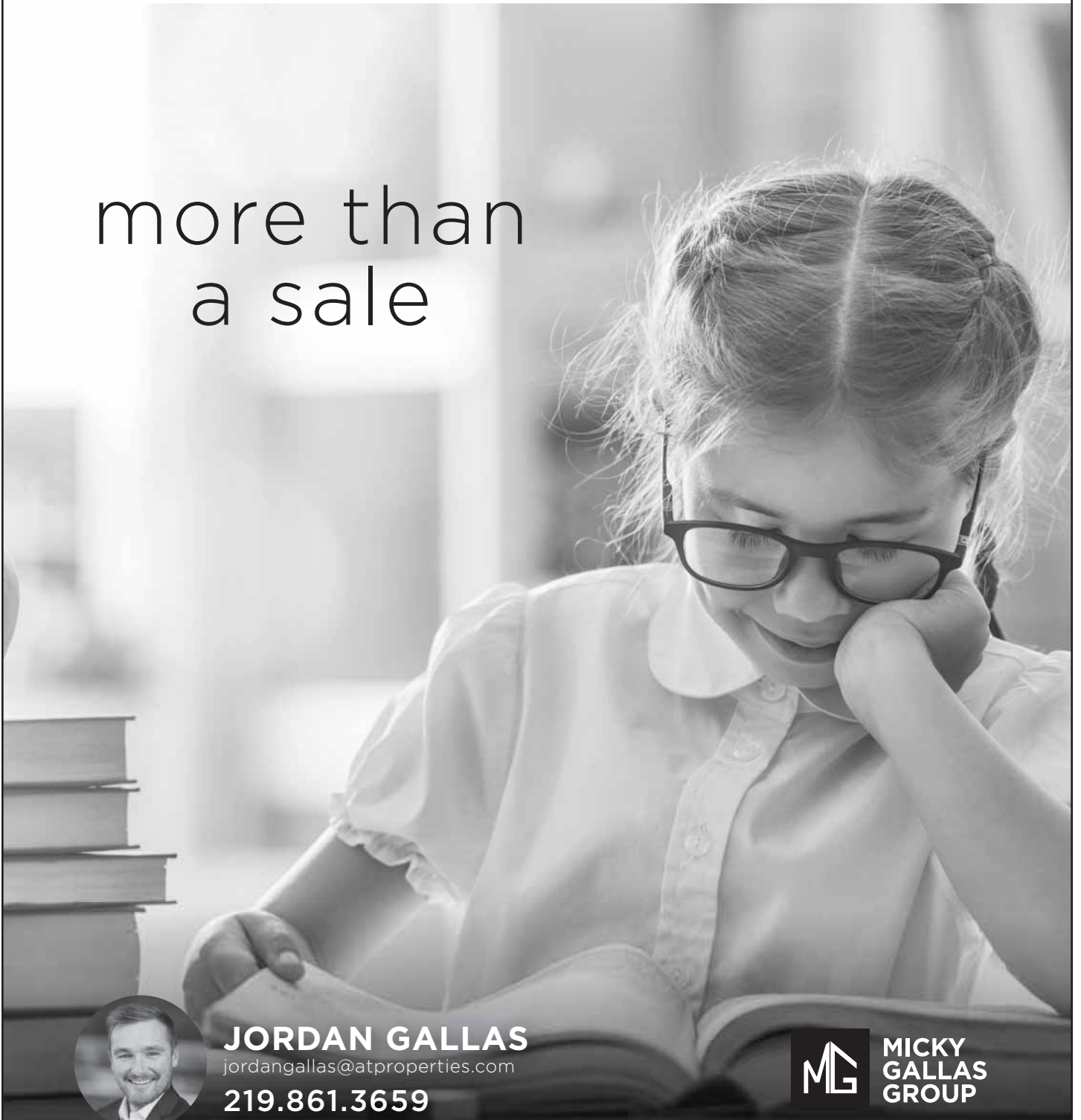
Till next time, happy reading!



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