



FOOTBALL

Whitenack finds home at Western Michigan

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LA PORTE COUNTY

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Township merger ‘dead in the water’

New Durham votes against joining with Center and Springfield

By ELIZABETH BUNTON
Staff Writer

La PORTE — The proposed three-way merger between Center, New Durham and Springfield townships has been rejected.

While both the Center and

Springfield township boards unanimously voted in favor of the merger — on Nov. 17 and 18, respectfully — New Durham Township’s board, with a 2-1 vote on Nov. 18, voted in opposition. New Durham board members Jim Ingram and Brian Burns had

cast the dissenting votes.

Previously proposed at a joint board meeting on Oct. 20, the suggested merger was in response to the state’s continuous push for less government, and the decreasing funds township governments will be receiving in the upcoming years due to the passage of Senate Bill 1 — which reduces the amount of property taxes owed by property owners — as well as an assortment



PIERZAKOWSKI

of other house bills, such as House Bill 1461, which instructs townships to send 30 percent of any unrestricted funds over to their county governments for road maintenance.

And while a feeler was put out to all La Porte County townships to find out who would be interested in

merging — with only Center, New Durham and Springfield showing interest — the state has been pushing, according to Center Township Trustee Lisa Pierzakowski, for townships around the state to start merging — or the state will start merging

See **MERGER**, page A2



Photos by Matt Fritz

Pictured from left, artists Woodie Lawson, Deb Henderson, Jeffrey Baumgartner, Staci Ritter, Taylor Henderson, Amber Galloway and Leah Romano McMeen (pictured with her daughter Delaney) are ready to greet visitors at the December Makers Market at Artspace Gallery, 717 Franklin St., starting Friday.



LEFT: En plein air painter Jeffrey Baumgartner creates a small mark with a palette knife representing the size of a human being during his setup for the December Makers Market at Artspace Gallery. His canvas depicts the mountains of Acadia National Park in Maine. **ABOVE:** Amber Galloway, who describes her quilting style as “painting with fabric,” shows two queen-sized quilts depicting imagery from the Bible, including biblical symbols, left, and important women from the Bible, right.

Making their own market

Artspace Gallery to showcase arts, crafts and more at December Makers Market event

By MATT FRITZ
Staff Writer

MICHIGAN CITY — Carrying in a wooden crutch — its

shaft decorated with fin-like accouterments, its underarm pad removed, and legs embedded with metal keys like the gaping maw of a fish — artist

Deb Henderson got to the point when asked about her work at the Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts on Nov. 21. “I call it trash,” she said with

a laugh. “Upcycled trash.” The Michigan City-based painter and “junk art”

See **MARKET**, page A6

Fighting Diamond Foundation comes to county

By ANTHONY HUDSON
Staff Writer

La PORTE — The Fighting Diamond Foundation’s recent kickoff in La Porte County offered a full day of teaching,

worship and reflection designed to equip attendees with spiritual clarity and renewed purpose.

Pastor Sam Stitt founded the Fighting Diamond Foundation men’s ministry in 2017 to lead

men from brokenness to redemption and to restore a relationship with God.

Held at Journey Church, 6006 N. Fail Road, La Porte, on Nov. 22 the kickoff included men from all backgrounds

who participated in an eight-hour event showcasing their passion for Jesus Christ.

The morning opened with an introduction to the No Stones

See **FOUNDATION**, page A2

Uldricks seeks state Senate District 4 seat

STAFF REPORTS

PORTAGE — Nate Uldricks, Pine Township Board chairman, has announced that he will be seeking the Republican nomination in Indiana Senate District 4.

The fourth district encompasses northern Porter County and northwestern La Porte County.

“I’m running because this district deserves a strong voice in Indianapolis that understands our community, shares our values, and can get things done,” Uldricks said.

“For too long, our region has been overlooked and underserved. It’s time we build our manufacturing economy, lower everyday costs, strengthen public safety and protect the dunes, lake and farms,” he added.

Uldricks already has a strong base of support in the district, including Portage Mayor Austin Bonta and Porter County Councilman Red Stone.

“Nate Uldricks is an in-



ULDRICKS

credible organizer who can get people from various hometowns and perspectives connected

and working on a unifying mission. He’s a good leader and a good man, and the kind person who takes the bull by the horns to get the job done for his constituents,” Bonta said.

“Nate has the energy, ideas, and vision to lead Northwest Indiana into its next chapter. He will be a strong voice for us in Indianapolis,” Stone added.

Uldricks said he represents a new generation of Republican leadership “grounded in faith, family and service.”

“I’m proud to have the support of Austin and Red and I look forward to earning the support of the good people of Portage, Burns Harbor, Chesterton, South Haven, Michigan City, and

See **ULDRICKS**, page A6

Christmas Candlelight Tour is this weekend

STAFF REPORTS

La PORTE — Preserve Historic La Porte has announced that its Christmas Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes will be held this weekend.

The tour is Saturday from 4 to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Attendees take themselves on a self-guided tour of the insides of seven different historic structures.

Live musical entertainment is provided at most locations and refreshments are provided at the “headquarters” church.

A 50-page “keepsake” tour book is provided to all attendees, with detailed histories of all seven structures.

Advance tickets are available, through Friday’s close of business, for \$25 each.

The ticket outlets for this year’s tour include the following:

■ La Porte — Coachman Antique Mall, CO-OP Shoppes, Freckle Farm Primitives, Hot Spot Cafe, La Porte County Historical Society Museum, Meridian Title, Thode Floral, Town & Country Florist.

■ Michigan City — The Antique Market, Hoity Toity.

■ New Buffalo — Meridian Title.

■ New Carlisle — Historic New Carlisle

■ Valparaiso — Meridian Title

The seven historic buildings open for self-guided touring include Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St.; the Alfred J. Link

See **CANDLELIGHT**, page A6

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