

Dean Hall/Lakeland Times

Native American flute musician Darren Thompson performs at Dillman's Bay Resort.

Native American flute player to be artist-in-residence at Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation

BY NANCY CIPOLLONE | OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

Born and raised in the Northwoods of Wisconsin, Darren Thompson is a recognized name in the Lac du Flambeau community. Known as a Native American flute player, Thompson wears many hats: educator, film producer, consultant, and Native American flute performer and maker.

Currently a resident of Rapid City, South Dakota, Thompson's tribal roots run deep in Lac du Flambeau where his journey started. A self-taught artist, Thompson started actively playing the flute at the age of 19.

"It helped me focus and relax, it was calming for me," he explained.

Representing his community on an

"It's important for me to share my art with those who raised and supported me. That includes the culture and environment of Northern Wisconsin."

Darren Thompson



international level, Thompson was recently selected as Crazy Horse Memorial's artist-in-residence for the month of October. Crazy Horse Memorial Foundation, located in South Dakota, serves a mission to protect and preserve the culture, tradition and living heritage of the North American Indians.

"I am representing myself with an internationally prestigious organization that is a supporter of the American Indian history, culture and people. Having my name involved with that is beyond a dream," Thompson said.

Thompson is the first musician/artist to be given the award from the state of Wisconsin and the Ojibwe people.

"The residency program began at Crazy Horse in 2014 and is funded by the private Margaret A. Cargill Foundation," Thompson explained. "Selections are made by professionals who administer the residency program at the Indian Museum of North America based on eligibility requirements and merit."

The program provides opportunities for artists to market their work to

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Holocaust survivor shares harrowing chapter in history

By Nancy Cipollone
of The Lakeland Times

Growing up in 1930s Germany, George Mueller had the carefree childhood most 8-year-old boys enjoy — focused on soccer, school and friends — until 1938 when the swirling hate of Adolf Hitler's Nazi onslaught touched his door and changed his life forever.

Last week, Mueller, now 84, spoke to guests at Marywood Franciscan Spirituality Center about his harrowing journey through three different concentration camps to a new life in the U.S.

Born in Germany with the birth name of George Levy, Mueller took his uncle's name when he relocated to the United States so he could start over.

He was quite young when he realized that being a Jew made him different, he explained.

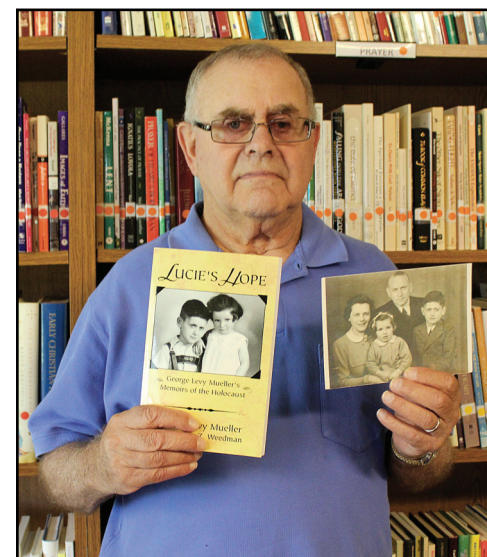
As a young boy, he noticed posters and signs targeting Jewish people and a teacher harassed him because of his ethnicity. Eventually he was kicked off of the soccer and track teams, he said.

"People called me bad names and I would always get into fights," Mueller shared. "I could hear people sing outside my bedroom window and I still remember the words: 'We'll be happy when Jewish blood flows from our knives.'"

When he reached third grade, Mueller was forced to wear a yellow star on his shirt that identified him as a Jew. He compared the feeling of being forced to wear the star to wearing a dunce cap in class and sitting in the corner.

While explaining the intense effects of the Holocaust, Mueller spoke about the Night of the Broken Glass. Also

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Nancy Cipollone/Lakeland Times

George Mueller shows his book titled "Lucie's Hope" and shares a photo of his family during the Holocaust.