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Back to Titanic

by Andrew Tallackson

William Hazelgrove has made a career out of re-examining history. Drawing new conclusions that, in some cases, elicit heated reactions.

His latest is One Hundred and Sixty Minutes: The Race to Save The RMS Titanic. Few 20th century tragedies have been as extensively documented as the 1912 sinking of the “unsinkable” luxury liner. Many facts are undisputed, thanks in large part to A Night to Remember (1955), Walter Lord’s minute-by-minute account culled from interviews with survivors of the fateful night. Other recollections, like which song the band played moments before the ship slipped beneath the waves for good, are wrapped in mythology so revered, they may as well be fact.

And Hazelgrove knows that. He also knows how fervent Titanic historians and enthusiasts are. Protective of a maiden voyage in which its captain, Edward Smith, remarked, “*God Himself could not sink this ship.*” But, as we all know, it did sink after hitting



William Hazelgrove, photographed at a book signing for One Hundred and Sixty Minutes: The Race to Save The RMS Titanic.

an iceberg in the North Atlantic Ocean, about 400 miles south of Newfoundland, Canada.

In One Hundred and Sixty Minutes, Hazelgrove — the son of Long Beach’s William Hazelgrove II — argues the unsung heroes amid the tragedy were Jack Phillips, 25, and Harold Bride, 22. Two Marconi wireless operators who, shortly after 11:40 a.m. April 14, 1912, when Titanic first struck the iceberg, stayed put in the telegraph room, furiously sending distress calls until water from the icy Atlantic rose to their ankles.

Now, I know what you’re thinking. Just what the world needs: *another* Titanic book. Hasn’t this subject been covered enough? In some respects, yes. But Hazelgrove offers fresh insight by exploring the dawn of life-saving wireless technology, how the persistence of

Phillips and Bride led to the rescue ship Carpathia arriving some four hours later. The book also takes to task the captain and wireless operator of the Californian, which was only 10 miles from Titanic and might have saved more lives had they acted on the calls for help.

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(A little more than 700 of the 2,207 passengers aboard Titanic were saved.)

Like his previous works, which offered revisionist takes on President Woodrow Wilson's presidency and the achievements of the Wright brothers, not everyone is thrilled with One Hundred and Sixty Minutes. A review of the book on Amazon.com calls it "an enormous clod of mud thrown into the Titanic research world." When a newspaper headline zeroed in on Hazelgrove's main point — "Everyone could have been rescued if human will had not failed" — Titanic enthusiasts and historians came out of the woodwork.

"I've certainly gotten a lot of blowback. You wouldn't believe the Titanic people who came after me," Hazelgrove told *The Beacher*. "I got all these people screaming, 'This book is a bunch of crap.' 'This is historical horse----.' 'You don't know what you're talking about.'"

"You have these Titanic people who are armed with these facts. No one is sure about a lot of things, but we've grabbed onto them, so these people say to you, 'You have it wrong. You're wrong, you're wrong,

you're wrong.' They don't like you attacking the gospel of the Titanic."

By gospel, he means A Night to Remember. For legions of Titanic enthusiasts, it is the holy grail of Titanic coverage. Hazelgrove, himself, does not dispute much of its findings in his book. Heck, he quotes it. But the writer, as he does in all his books, places existing information under a microscope.

Half of One Hundred and Sixty Minutes — the actual sinking of the ship — will be familiar to anyone with a passing knowledge of what happened late that night on April 14, 1912, and into the early morning hours of April 15, 1912. It is necessary context for Hazelgrove to explore how wireless communication technology, the pioneer being Guglielmo Marconi, was so new, so unstructured and unregulated, that had certain individuals possessed a more profound grasp, and respect for, its life-saving gifts, the sinking of Titanic would not be remembered for its catastrophic loss of life.

"Those 1,517 people who lost their lives in the darkness of April 15, 1912, constitute the millstone of human failing that hangs around the neck of Edwardian chivalry that has been the ruling trope of Titanic mythology," Hazelgrove writes.

The author admits he's somewhat surprised by the bile directed at his book. It's not as if, he says, he uncovered the "smoking gun," that he is the only one privy to this information. His research for One Hundred and Sixty Minutes not only included other works written about the subject, but also newspaper articles and testimonies during the subsequent investigation. It's all there, he argues, in black and white.

"I came at Titanic with the approach that, everybody's covered it, and I love the topic, but I started with the wireless op-



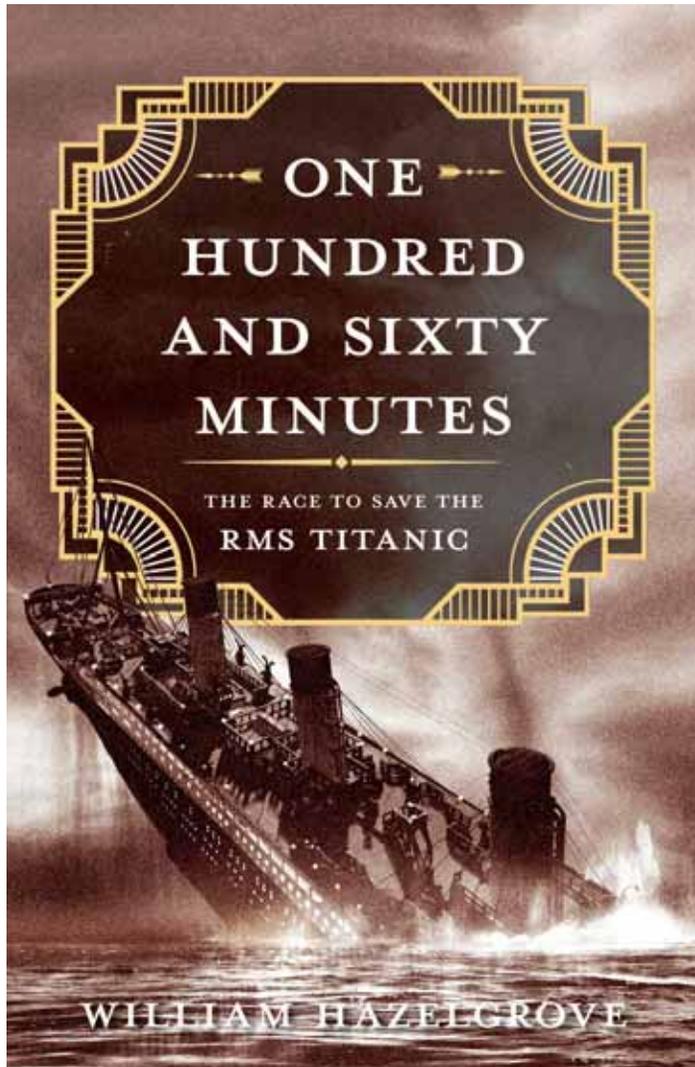
Edward Smith, captain of RMS Titanic.



Jack Phillips, who sent out distress calls until Titanic sank.

erators. This is something interesting that a lot of people don't know about, so I started getting into the technology of it," he said.

"The Greek tragedy, the mythology of Titanic is that we have these heroic people in utterly dire circumstances, that there was no chance to do anything for them. What I found is, that wasn't true, and so then, I start to pull in known facts, and again, it's not like uncovering these things. I look at them logically and say, oh, yes, they all could have been saved."



The cover of *One Hundred and Sixty Minutes: The Race to Save The RMS Titanic.*

What's fascinating about *One Hundred and Sixty Minutes* is how, because of this new wireless technology, the world could experience breaking news as it happened. And this wasn't a casual hobby solely for the rich. In the United States, wireless sets were in homes across the country. In one case, news of Titanic was picked up by a lone antenna atop Wanamaker department store in New York City. In another, it was a bunch of guys sitting around their wireless set in New Jersey.

"Before 1912, life had a symmetry," Hazelgrove

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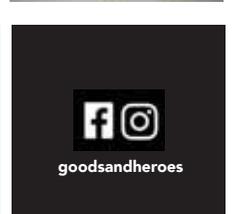


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said. “This was a fascinating moment where the old world crashes up against the new world amid this monstrous disaster. We were right on the cusp of modern communication. We weren’t there yet. The Edwardian world was this dreamy world, but now, it’s going to smash up against the 20th century.”

Hazelgrove writes in his book, *“The race to rescue the Titanic involved nine ships that came to her aid. They were all brought by the miracle of wireless technology that for the first time would give the world a real-time window into an unspeakable tragedy as it was unfolding. Imperfect as it was for the first time, ordinary citizens sitting at kitchen tables could grasp what has happening in the middle of the frozen Atlantic.”*



Harold Bride, photographed transmitting in the actual wireless room on Titanic.

Hazelgrove delves into the prickly failure of human nature, from the preferential treatment to first-class passengers as Titanic sank, to lifeboats not being filled to capacity, to those in lifeboats refusing to rescue those freezing to death — not drowning — in the Atlantic.

The most devastating example of human failing in One Hundred and Sixty Minutes is that of the SS Californian, a British Leyland Line steamship. Only 10 miles from Titanic, many of its crew saw the ship in distress, including the rockets fired. However, the Californian’s wireless operator had turned the device off for the night, its captain, Stanley Lord, fast asleep in bed. Later, when Lord was apprised of the matter’s urgency, he refused to inch too close to the area, saying the ice was precarious, that he would not risk the lives of those aboard his ship. He also refused to believe Titanic could sink in the first place.

The U.S. Senate called Lord’s inaction “reprehensible”; however, he and his crew sustained no formal charges. Nonetheless, Lord spent the remainder of his years trying to restore his good name.

You can feel, in Hazelgrove’s persuasive prose, his disgust with Lord and his actions: *“Captain Lord was presented with a dilemma, because his wireless operator told him when asked what ship was in the*



One of the rare photos of survivors of Titanic’s sinking arriving at the rescue ship Carpathia.

vicinity, and only the Titanic was the answer. And to wake up that same operator would puncture Lord’s grip on events that night. He would lose the ability to dance away from the facts. With the wireless operator asleep, the old days of the ship isolated and dependent on her captain for all information was intact, and Captain Lord could shape the narrative. What undid him in the end was that he was so close that many on his ship saw the Titanic and then told the press. His iron grip on the facts was ultimately destroyed by his officers and crew.”

Those who embrace Lord, or “Lordites,” as they are called, suggest a “mystery ship” in the vicinity that may have been the one seen by those on Titanic. However, Hazelgrove, in his interview with *The Beacher*, clarifies his point in the book, “Captain Smith is telling people (in lifeboats), ‘See that light, row toward that light. That’s a ship. They’ll pick you up.’ That blows out (Lord’s insistence) that we’re out here alone. So the wireless operator on the Californian shuts (the device) off, the captain goes to bed, does nothing, and literally the crew all watches as Titanic sinks.”

What happened to Bride and Phillips? Bride survived and was among those rescued by the Carpathia. He was championed as a hero. Phillips perished in the sinking. Conflicting reports exist as to when and where. Some insisted he made it to a collapsible boat, but died later. Other reports suggest the circumstances surrounding his death are unknown.

That Phillips kept sending out calls for help, even after Captain Smith told him to leave his post, that his life was his own, stands out for Hazelgrove. It is something he will not forget.

He hopes readers will feel the same as well.

“Of course, you don’t have to take my word for it,” he said. “Just go to the sources. It’s all there. Then, use your noggin to decide from there.”

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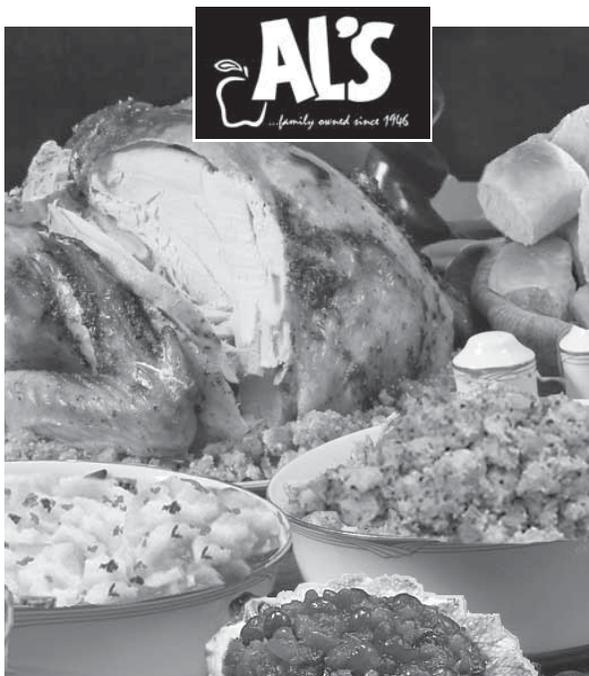
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“Eternals” is a Bit Messy, But Enjoyable

by Andrew Tallackson

By now, you’ve digested at least some of the dreadful buzz surrounding “Eternals.” The poison darts aimed at Chloé Zhao, that Marvel transformed the freshly minted Oscar winner (2020’s “Nomadland”) into a hack. That she’s been stripped of her personal stamp as a director, the result being a ponderous mess certified “Rotten” on the critic-based Rotten Tomatoes site.

What did these critics expect? That Zhao would dip into Marvel’s hefty coffers to create “Nomadland 2”? That amid celestial beings duking it out, we’d be treated to Frances McDormand floating butt naked down a river? I mean, *seriously*. Marvel paid her to create a super hero movie, and that is what she delivered. An imperfect one, but an entertaining one.

Like Zack Snyder’s butchered “Justice League” cut (2016), “Eternals” is a mess of an origins tale. Even at nearly 2 hours 40 minutes, it crams in so many characters and backstory, things don’t rev up until the midpoint.

The general idea behind “Eternals” is that 10 human-like beings from another planet, each with special powers, have been on Earth since 5000 BC. Their instructions are to protect people from wiry creatures known as Deviants. Nothing else. Interfering with human conflict, they’re told, will dampen their evolution over time. Now, the Deviants are back, and the 10 members must reassemble and thwart a looming apocalypse.

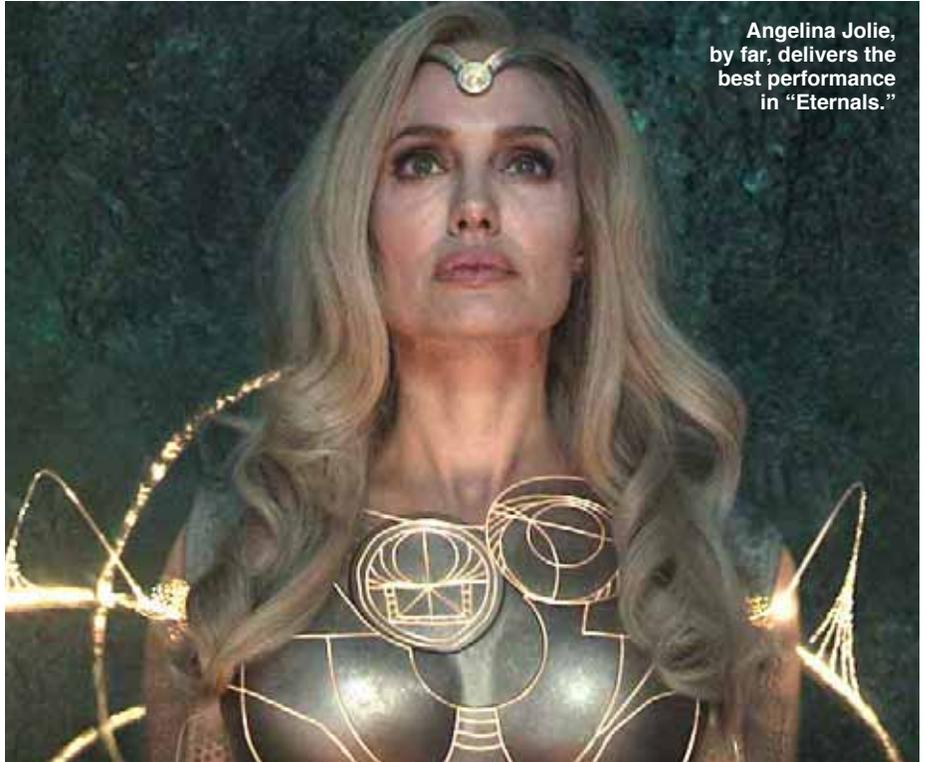
Zhao, who crafted the script with Patrick Burleigh, Ryan Firpo and Kaz Firpo, has to introduce all 10 character and chart their course through history. As such, the first half of the movie is one-step forward, two steps back exposition. By flipping back and forth through time, there isn’t much momentum, where we feel the action is headed somewhere. And by emphasizing historical context, Zhao short-changes character development. The result is not exactly dull, but a restless sensation, where you wish the film would quit farting around.

Zhao, though, has been given the freedom to push a Marvel movie past boundaries set by her predecessors. We get a modestly staged sex scene. A kiss between male spouses. A hearing impaired character who is not a helpless victim, but a key player among the Eternals.

And, Zhao cast the film with actors who invest characters with humanity even when the script

withholds the tools to do so. The standout is Angelina Jolie as the warrior Thena. The Oscar winner usually plays the aggressor — good or bad — and Thena certainly kicks her fair share of ass in the movie. But Jolie plays Thena as wounded, at odds with a condition that threatens her sanity.

She’s terrific in the film. So are Salma Hayek, who gives Eternals leader Ajak a maternal air, Kumail Nanjiani, having a good Bollywood laugh as



Angelina Jolie, by far, delivers the best performance in “Eternals.”



“Eternals”

Running time: 157 minutes. Rated PG-13 for fantasy violence and action, some language and brief sexuality.

Kingo, and especially Gemma Chan as Sersi, who gradually uncovers the leader within.

The action sequences do not necessarily rewrite the Marvel playbook, but they are expertly choreographed and edited. The effects involving the Deviants hold their own with anything in the Marvel Cinematic Universe. And the last 30 minutes contain stunning imagery, combining real landscapes and cutting-edge visuals.

I was entertained by “Eternals.” Is it the worst Marvel movie to date, as Rotten Tomatoes would suggest? Gosh, no. Nor, though, is it a masterpiece of comic-book storytelling. But as a good time at the movies, it gets the job done.

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Watson Opens LCSO's 49th Season with "A Jazzy American Salute"

New Music Director/Conductor Carolyn Watson will open LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra's 49th season with a "Jazzy American Salute" at 7 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Featuring all American composers and a special veterans salute, the concert includes works by Leonard Bernstein, Artie Shaw, William Grant Still and "Lightspeed" by Kevin Day. At 25, his works have been performed by the Boston, Detroit and Houston symphonies. He will attend the concert.

Clarinetist Petar Smilev will be the featured soloist on Artie Shaw's "Clarinet Concerto." Widely regarded as one of jazz's finest clarinetists, Shaw composed the piece for virtuoso clarinet and jazz orchestra in 1940.

Watson also will lead LCSO in Bernstein's 1945 "Three Dance Episodes" from "On the Town," about three sailors on a 24-hour leave in New York City. Gene Kelly and Frank Sinatra starred in a movie of the same name.

Still's 1930 "Symphony No. 1" is the first symphony written by a black composer and performed for a U.S. audience by a leading orchestra. Still uses blues progressions and rhythms characteristic of popular black music at that time.

The concert will feature a special tribute to veterans with a performance of Carmen Dragon's arrangement of "America, the Beautiful," and "The Armed Forces Salute."

Tickets cost \$35 for table seating, \$22 for adults and \$20 for seniors. Students with ID are free. Tickets are available at Roxy Music, the Civic, at www.lcso.net and at the door the day of the event. Thanks to a generous donor, admission is free for veterans and their guest. Call (219) 362-9020 or email executive@lcso.net to be included.



Above: Carolyn Watson. Below: Kevin Day.



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“All Together Now!” Makes Global Effort to Support Live Theater

by Andrew Tallackson

For Amanda Marasch-Brinkman, theater is like second nature. Like breathing.

Last year, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced everyone into self-isolation, the Canterbury Summer Theatre veteran felt trapped in wait-and-see limbo. And that affected her physically.

“Performing, it’s what keeps me going, what keeps my heart pumping,” she said in a phone interview with *The Beacher*. “In 2020, when the world shut down, I physically forgot how to breathe. I ended up having to go to a local therapist to learn how to focus my breathing and keep my breathing controlled.”

This year, life took a turn for the better. Granted, COVID-19 is far from being in the past, but Marasch-Brinkman was able to get involved in a production of “The Last Five Years,” Jason Robert Brown’s 2001 musical.

“I feel so fortunate to have been able to do that,” she said. “It was the first time I could fully take a breath. To be in the show, to be there and perform it, knowing we pushed through and persevered.”

The creative talent behind Music Theatre International, the New York City-based theatrical licensing agency, feels the same way. That’s why it created “MTI’s All Together Now!: A Global Event Celebrating Local Theatre.” Schools and theater groups have access to select MTI songs for free, performed either in cabaret formats or fully staged. All proceeds go to those performing groups.

Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St., home to Canterbury Summer Theatre, will host “All Together Now” shows at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12-13, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14. Song selections hail from musicals such as “Les Misérables,” “Company,” “Little Shop of Horrors,” “Into the Woods” and “Little Women.”

Amy O’Brien, a familiar face in the Northwest Indiana theater scene, is the director and one of the seven vocalists. She is joined by: Jeff Otto, music director and vocalist; Brittney Urban, vocalist; Amanda Saqui, vocalist; Mary Kay Steele, vocalist; Mike Ruff, vocalist; and Derek DeRoo, vocalist. Art Thomas is coming from Florida to serve as technical director.

Marasch-Brinkman is among the show’s three

producers. She is joined by Ruth Radke and Amy Wilkinson.

Today, Marasch-Brinkman works at SAG-AFTRA, United Artist Kauffman Astoria Studios 14 and The Hart Agency. She made her Canterbury debut in 2004, returned for two ensuing seasons, skipped a year, then returned as a guest artist in



Amanda Marasch-Brinkman is photographed in a production of “The Last Five Years.”

2008. She’s thrilled by what “All Together Now” represents to the theater community. The latest figures indicate it will feature more than 2,500 theaters in all 50 states and more than 40 countries for a total of 5,500 performances.

MTI, on its website, acknowledges how difficult the past year and a half has been for theaters, so it hopes “All Together Now!” is a welcome boost.

“We’ve streamlined our licensing process for this special event, and there are no restrictions or limits on how many theaters in a particular geographical area can license the revue,” John Prignano, MTI’s chief operating officer and director of education & development, said on the website.

“Instead, we hope that as many theaters as possible produce the revue on their own, or come together with other organizations in their communities to mount a joint production. We also wanted to give theaters as much creative input as possible.”

O'Brien told *The Beacher* everyone knows, because of articles and social media posts, how COVID affected the economy. But theater groups, in terms of coverage, tended to get lost in the shuffle.

"These organizations are not known to bring jobs into the community as they are mostly run by volunteers, so you didn't hear much about theaters not being able to keep employees, or about employees losing their jobs and so on," she said.

"But, we cannot forget how important these theaters are to our communities. Theater provides a place for all people to come out and be accepted for who they are. Theater provides a place in our community for entertainment, a place to forget about the world for just a couple of hours and connect with the energy in the room. Live theater is like nothing else, and we are so fortunate to have such a rich theater community right here in Northwest Indiana."

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Amy O'Brien is the director and one of the vocalists in the Canterbury Theatre production of "All Together Now!"

If You Go

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets cost \$20 for evening shows, \$10 for military and students, and \$18 for seniors 62 and older. Special group rates are available. Visit <https://canterburytheatre.org> for reservations.

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Dunes Landscapes at LCA

Dunes landscapes by the late Eugene Moldenhauer are on display through Nov. 30 in the large NIPSCO Education Studio at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Moldenhauer, Michigan City, was a self-taught artist inspired by Northwest Indiana's dunes landscape. Despite having dyslexia, he thrived in expressing himself by creating with his hands. He was a union electrician by trade who retired from Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.



The Eugene Moldenhauer exhibit is organized by Nancy Moldenhauer and Lora Fosberg, Lubeznik Center for the Arts exhibition director.

He became serious about painting the dunes in the 1960s. He would study photo slides of the area, then compose a new scene from different combinations of elements from the slides that appealed to him. His early paintings feature the more saturated autumnal colors that bring to mind late summer afternoons, with a deep greenish blue lake. Later, his paintings featured more pinks and pastels with the clouds, reminiscent of airy morning stillness.

Nancy Moldenhauer, his daughter, organized the exhibit with LCA Exhibition Director Lora Fosberg. Funds generated by sales of his paintings are being donated to LCA and Save the Dunes.

Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for more details.

Annual Fiber Celebration

Interwoven Expressions 2021 will present its 36th annual fiber celebration from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, at Sand Creek Country Club, 1001 Sand Creek Drive, Chesterton.

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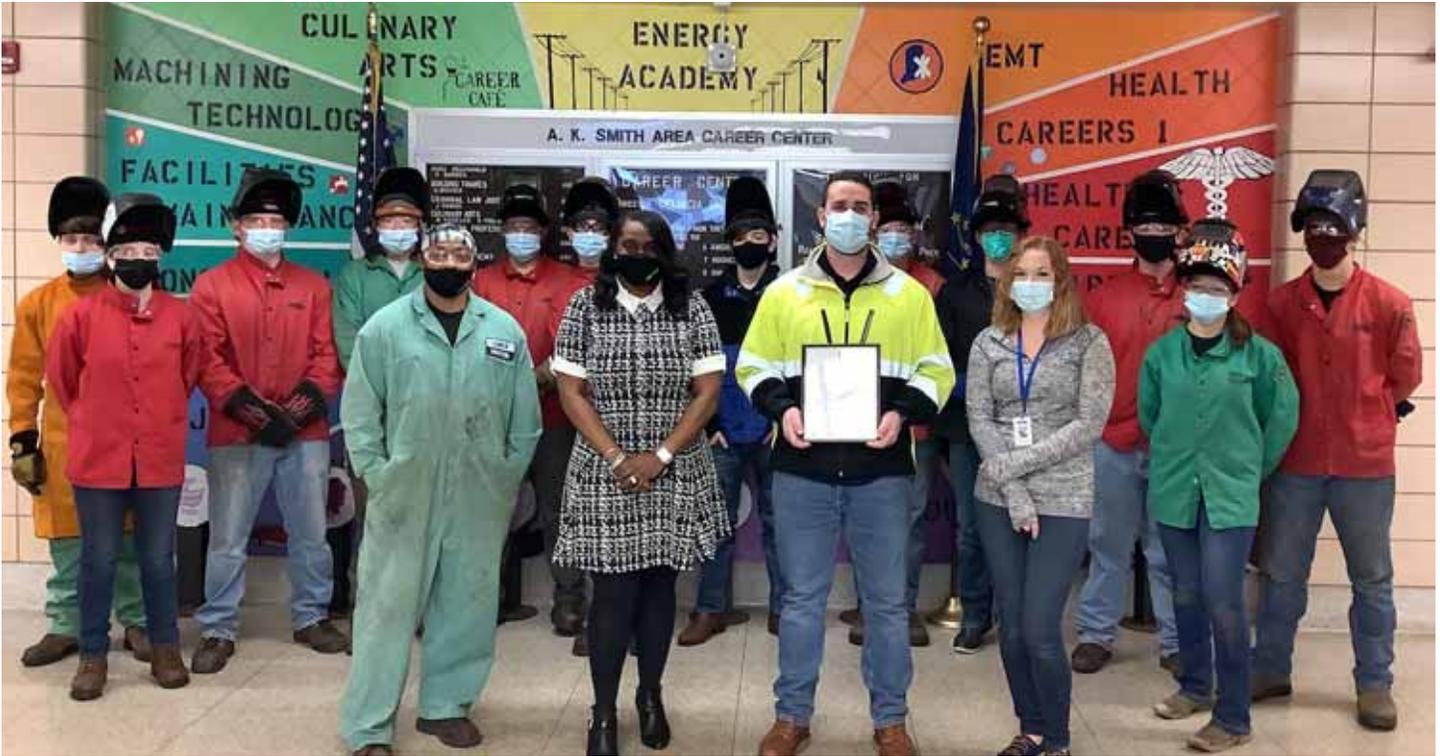
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LCSO in the Spotlight



Don Parker

Editor's note — This weekly spotlight, provided by Tim King, LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra executive director, highlights its talented musicians.

Don Parker is in his 28th season with LCSO, playing in the double bass section.

A native of Danville, Ill., he has played the double bass since age 11. He has performed with 10 orchestras and 15 theater companies throughout Northwest Indiana and is comfortable playing everything from country to classical.

When not performing with LCSO and other groups, Parker is the Wanatah Public Library librarian and serves on several community boards. He is a self-described "foodie," an avid bicyclist and an advocate for local and regional recreational trail development.

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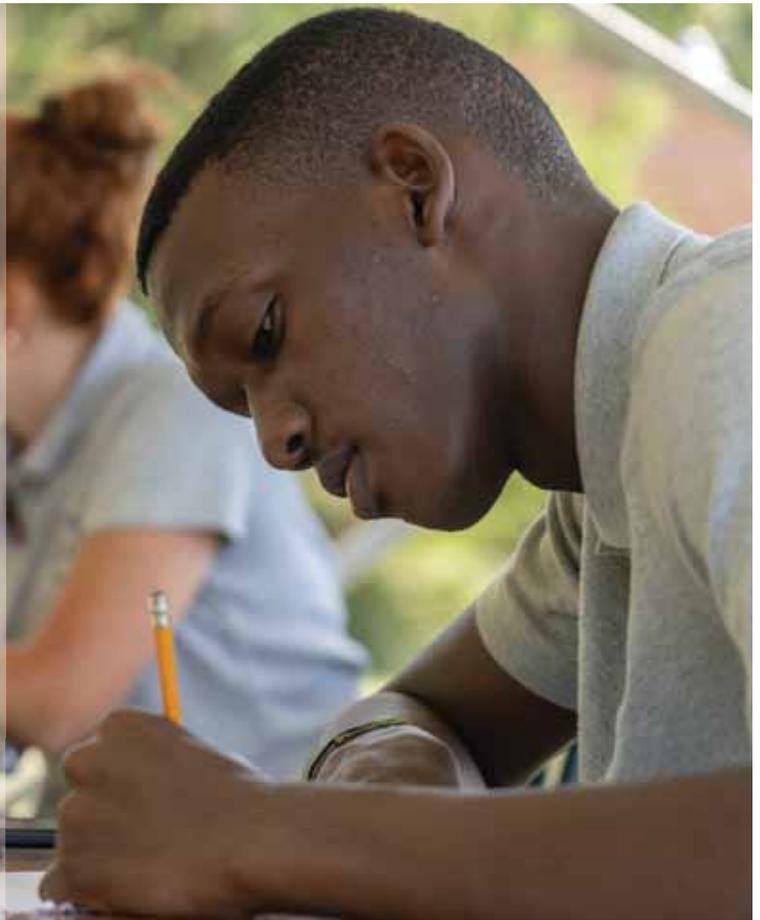
MCHS Theatre Department

Michigan City High School's Theatre Department will present "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" on Friday-Sunday, Nov. 12-14, in the school auditorium, 8466 Pahs Road.

Times are 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and children.

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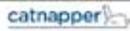
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“The Harder They Fall” Rewrites History to Stunning Effect

by Andrew Tallackson



Three great actors as the “villains” — Regina King (from left), Idris Elba and Lakeith Stanfield — in “The Harder They Fall.”

“The Harder They Fall” opens with a shocking act of violence, followed by a time jump that depicts swift retribution. With every bullet fired, the images freeze to reveal each word in the movie’s title.

Thus, the tone is set for a movie that’s like Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino gave birth to a western, with the ghost of Sergio Leone presiding as godparent. British singer-songwriter Jeymes Samuel, in his directing debut, has created a massively entertaining film that is the antidote to Hollywood westerns ignoring people of color. By populating his film with an all-star black cast, by tinkering with history Tarantino-style, “The Harder They Fall” makes the old feel new again.

The western template is firmly locked in place. “The Harder They Fall” is about revenge in the lawless west. But the screenplay by Samuel and Boaz Yakin (“Remember the Titans”) deposits the characters in moral gray areas so we cannot easily write them off.

The hero is Nat Love, who as a child witnessed Rufus Buck (Idris Elba) murder his parents and now wants payback. He’s played as an adult by Jonathan Majors, who continues his hot streak established by HBO’s “Lovecraft Country” and Marvel’s “Loki.” His



“The Harder They Fall”

Running time: 139 minutes. Netflix.

Rated R for strong language and violence

performance here is a cool mix of western swagger and tortured loner. A hero defined by pain, and that conflict is written all over Majors’ face.

Nat’s band of outlaws includes plenty of fresh faces, like Zazie Beetz’s tough-talking Stagecoach Mary, RJ Cyler’s sharp-shooting Jim Beckwourth and the great Delroy Lindo (“Da 5 Bloods”) as marshal Bass Reeves. Each brings their own particular brand of energy to the roles.

The same can be said for Buck and his crew, populated by the best in the business. Elba, of course, glowers with the best of them, but Oscar-winner Regina King (“If Beale Street Could Talk”) makes for an icy villain as Buck’s right-hand gal, Trudy Smith. Better yet, Oscar-nominee Lakeith Stanfield (“Judas and the Black Messiah”) reinvents Cherokee Bill and as the movie’s secret weapon: the smooth-talking criminal.

“I don’t particularly enjoy violence,” Bill tells

passengers amid a train heist. “That being said, you are currently in the company of an extremely violent individual.”)

Samuel apes Tarantino’s style closely, where the punchy editing, offbeat song selections — ’70s blaxploitation hits — and twisty dialogue give you a kinetic thrill. The movie is constantly moving, whether it be the camera plowing through the action, or the characters and their snappy dialogue.

“A rock and a hard place?,” Trudy shouts back at a character. “A rock and a hard place is what we call Monday.”)

But Samuel knows, with this tale, that he is making up for lost time. “The Harder They Fall” may be a popcorn movie, but it’s also about representation, about black actors and actresses embodying real-life people who never got their due: on film or in history. The movie makes no attempt to be accurate — it’s toying with history — but it digs deeper than Tarantino’s exploitation fare.

There are villains, for instance, but there is a tragedy to them. King has a chilling moment in which Trudy, while intently slicing an apple, recounts a moment from her childhood that defines precisely who she is an adult. And when the movie’s heart-breaking twist arrives — one I didn’t see coming — it is designed to make us uncomfortable, specifically in how we define what makes a person good or evil.

“The Harder They Fall” is brave enough to set



Jonathan Majors as Nat Love.

that matter adrift in a sea of moral ambiguity. As such, the explosive finish isn’t rah-rah simple. Characters are put to the test, and in the end, they *still* aren’t sure if they passed or fail.

The movie leaves the door open for more through a twist that, again, catches you by surprise.

I loved this movie.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



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Bolt for the Heart

The third annual Bolt for the Heart drew a strong response from the community Oct. 30 in Washington Park. All proceeds from the event will help buy Automatic External Defibrillators for local law enforcement. The event is the brainchild of Long Beach native Pierre Twer. All photos by James Colin.



“Army of Thieves” is an Unexpected Delight

by Andrew Tallackson



“Army of Thieves” ultimately becomes a love story between Matthias Schweighöfer’s Ludwig Dieter and Nathalie Emmanuel’s Gwendoline.

Go figure: The prequel nobody asked for is more entertaining than the movie that inspired it.

When Zack Snyder released his Netflix zombie-heist flick “Army of the Dead” in May, it was the start of a franchise to include sequels, animation... and a prequel with Matthias Schweighöfer’s safe-cracking Ludwig Dieter. My first reaction to that last bit of news was, *really?* The German kook with the crazy hair?

Turns out, Schweighöfer gets the last laugh. He’s not only the star of “Army of Thieves,” but also its director and co-producer. The result is a comic love story with wit and energy to spare, a sly cast and a laugh-out-loud screenplay by “Army of the Dead” and “John Wick” contributor Shay Hatten.

The movie, it should be noted, is NOT a zombie flick, but the action runs parallel to the birth, and spread, of the pandemic from “Army of the Dead.”

The real name for Schweighöfer’s Ludwig Dieter is Sebastian, and he works as a bank teller in Potsdam. Since childhood, he’s had an innate talent for opening any safe in record time. He’s also terribly lonely, socially awkward. His YouTube channel, where he chats about his skills, has an audience of zero...until he gets invited to a contest with an ulterior motive: The organizers need a safe cracker.

The mastermind is Nathalie Emmanuel’s Gwendoline, and this is proof she’s a movie star. The

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“Army of Thieves”

Running time: 127 minutes. Netflix. Rated TV-MA.

“Fast and the Furious” movies treat her like they do all their female characters, as window dressing. Eye candy. But here, she has dynamite comic timing. Gwendoline needs Sebastian, even as she’s perplexed and annoyed by him. Sebastian says something random or inappropriate, she contradicts or silences him. Like the scene where she spells out their heist plans, then asks if there are questions. Sebastian’s reply: “*Yes. Many. Hundreds.*” She brushes him off. The back-and-forth between the two energizes the movie.

More dialogue between these two:

Dieter: *So, it is like in a movie film, where each one of us has a different skillset, and it’s only working together that we can pull off that which needs the pulling off?*

Gwendoline (rolling her eyes): *Yes. It’s exactly like that.*

The team is small, from Ruby O. Fee, deadpan perfection as the hacker Korina, to Stuart Martin’s Brad Cage, who’s styled to resemble Hugh Jackman’s Wolverine. At one point, he’s described as

what the child of Brad Pitt and Nicolas Cage might look if the two actors mated.

With the zombie pandemic spreading in America, yet having not reached European shores, banks are scrambling to protect their assets, which makes them ideal targets for Gwendoline and her crew. Their focus are three safes, each part of a legend involving the man who designed them. And it is here that "Army of Thieves" pokes fun at not only itself, but also at heist movie clichés. The most ingenious moment goes after the tired trope where plans for the heist are acted out beforehand for the audience to see. Later, when one of the bank's security guards tells police how the thieves got away, that it's "kinda cool, like a spy movie," the film clearly is having a laugh at its own expense.

Visually, Schweighöfer's camera is about as hyper as Sebastian is. It is always moving. When Sebastian is at work, his ear placed against a safe while trying to open it, the camera zooms inside and we see all the mechanics in harmony with Sebastian's thinking. It's a clever twist to tired visuals.

As the movie arrives at the final heist, set amid a breathtaking valley in the Czech Republic, the bond between Sebastian and Gwendoline has grown to where his character is no longer a joke. We like the guy. We like his potential for a relationship with Gwendoline. We also know his fate in "Army of the Dead" — or do we? — and that lends a melancholy



Ludwig Dieter's cohorts include Stuart Martin's Brad Cage, who's styled to resemble Hugh Jackman's Wolverine.

air to the final scenes.

Who'd a thunk it? A movie I wasn't looking forward to ends up being a delight.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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Unity Foundation Announces Michigan City Area Teacher Grant Recipients

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County has announced the recipients for the 2021-2022 grant cycle for Michigan City educators.

The grants support teachers as they find ways to make learning possible for students, particularly during the pandemic. Since the mid-1990s, three grant programs have supported more than 1,000 teachers. This year's group is receiving more than \$10,000. Funding assistance this year also came from the Christian J. Nickels Family Fund.

The Michigan City Education Foundation provides grants for Michigan City public and parochial elementary and middle schools. Teachers may use their grants for hands-on or virtual activities in any academic area or life skills. This year's recipients, schools and project titles are:

- Erica Ackerson, Krueger Middle School, "In a Pickle."
- Kate Bobillo, Notre Dame Catholic School, "Gather the Mud and Collect the Mulch, It's Time to Create!"
- Barbara Brandon, Notre Dame Catholic School, "Bucket Blast."
- Ashlyn Combs, Edgewood Elementary, "Bookflix: Yes We're Still Reading."
- Angela Dydo, Coolspring Elementary, "Solving Problems to Help Others."
- Jill Grabowski, Krueger Middle School, "World Citizens Unite."
- Kathleen Gushrowski, Barker Middle School, "No Time to Waste."
- Katie Haughtington, Marsh Elementary, "Poetry Café."
- Meg Kearton, Notre Dame Catholic School, "Art Supplies."
- Kelli Kelly, Marsh Elementary, "Let's Get Ready to Kinder!"
- Ryan Panos, St. Paul Lutheran School, "Hydroponic Tower Garden Growing."
- Laurie Rockensuess, Edgewood Elementary, "Drums Alive" project.
- Susan Shell, Marsh Elementary, "We Like to Move It, Move It!"
- Michelle Sickles, Sheri Tuesburg, Ashlynn Combs, Edgewood Elementary, "Reading is LIT (Learning Ignites Thinking)."
- Leanna Smith, Edgewood Elementary, "Reading/

ELA Independent Centers."

- Kelly Tokoly-Rothermel, Barker Middle School, "The Art of Chromebook Photography: From Selfies to Self-Portraits."
- Mary Wellinski, Laura Lohse, Kathy Moskovich, Queen of All Saints Catholic School, "Providing Xtra Math."
- Mary Wellinski, Queen of All Saints Catholic School, "Putting Books in Students' Hands."

□

The Barbara A. Carmen Memorial Endowment Fund issues grants for items that enrich curriculum or enhance a teacher's ability to meet student needs. This year's recipients, schools and project titles are:

- Kelly Benson, Edgewood Elementary, "Calming Corner."
- Kristal Chenault, Marsh Elementary, "Poetry Café."
- Sara Conn, Notre Dame Catholic School, "Technology Plus Writing = YES!"
- Jill Grabowski, Krueger Middle School, "Taming the Trees."
- Stephanie Jones, Pine Elementary, "Emotion Regulation with Sensory Supports."
- Kelly Tokoly-Rothermel, Krueger Middle School, "Putting the 'A' in SEL = SEAL: Social Emotional Art Learning."

□

The Teacher Innovation Fund for Michigan City Area Schools is for Michigan City High School and LaPorte County Career and Technical Education A.K. Smith Career Center teachers and professionals. It supports them as they strive to reach their students, especially during COVID. This year's recipients, schools and project titles are:

- Beau Bruemmer, MCHS, "History of Rock and Roll — A Flashback in Time."
- Susan Cleveland, MCHS, "Fiber Art: Weaving on the Loom."
- Crystal Freeman, LaPorte County Career & Technical Education A.K. Smith Career Center, "Garden of Herbs."
- Kristen Freitag, MCHS, "Keeping Students 'Charged UP' for School." This award is supported by the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce in memory of A.K. Smith graduate and longtime Horizon Bank employee Joe Mellen.
- Adam Goebel, MCHS, "Environment in a Jar."
- Rachel Pauer, MCHS, "Classroom Greenhouse."
- Danielle Reed, MCHS, "Counselor Corner."
- Cheri Whitler, MCHS, "DIY Tshirts."
- Amy Wojasinski-Labis, MCHS, "Comfy Learning."

The next round of grants will open in summer 2022. All LaPorte County teachers are eligible to apply for Unity's Community "Power for Good" grants. That application period will open in late spring 2022. Visit www.ufic.net for details.

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LaPorte County Parks



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

Parent & Child Discovery Days

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

- Nov. 10 — Turkey Talk.
- Dec. 1 — Catch the Sun.
- Dec. 15 — Behind the Mask.

Nature's Tiny Tots

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

The free program is from 10-11 a.m. Nov. 22 and Dec. 6 and 20 at Luhr County Park. Masks are required for 3 and older. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Nature Center Craft Day

The free family program is from 1-4 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Guests will do a craft while supplies last. No pre-registration is required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public.

The front doors are open. Remodeling of the front lobby is almost complete. 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.

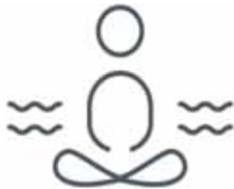
The following programs are scheduled:

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 11.** The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- **Michigan City History Presentation & Book Talk, "MC Businesses and the People Who Made Them Prosper," at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13.** Gloria Arndt and Dorothy Palmer will present an explanation and an expansion of how Michigan City went from sand dunes to a bustling metropolis. Their book, Michigan City Businesses and the People Who Made Them Prosper (1832-1890), was three years in the making. It includes not just major businesses, but also small, family-owned businesses that helped the city thrive, as well as an index of several thousand names.
- **Book in a Jar Contest for Kids through Nov. 17.** Those who stop by Youth Services can view the jar to guess which book is inside. All guesses receive a bookmark. Correct answers are entered

into a drawing.

- **NaNoWriMo: National Novel Writing Month in November.** The library is an official "Come Write In!" location. Youth ages 9-18 can stop by Youth Services for a free writer's kit. A Zoom meeting is at 1 p.m. Nov. 30 to check in and find out final word counts. Contact Dana in Youth Services at (219) 873-3045 or dwolf@mclib.org for more details.
 - **Take-Home Craft for Kids & Teens.** Free take-home craft kits are available at the Youth Services desk while supplies last.
 - **Virtual Story Time with Take-Home Craft.** A new storytime video is posted at 10 a.m. Wednesdays on the library website and YouTube channel at www.mclib.org/parents/story-time/ Visit Youth Services to get the craft! The program is aimed at children through age 5. Contact the Youth Services department at (219) 873-3045 for more details.
- Two new databases are available:*
- Newspapers.com World Collection contains historical newspapers from the 1700s-2000s, including thousands of well-known regional, state and small local newspapers in the United States and other countries. Visit tinyurl.com/4f8kfo3v and log in with a library card number.
 - Fold3, a military-records database powered by Ancestry.com. It provides access to military records, including stories, photos and personal documents. Visitors can combine records found there with personal effects to create an online memorial for someone who served. Visit tinyurl.com/58cnu2vn and log in with a library card number.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.



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Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **“Little Mammals on the Dunes” at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 13.**

Gain a new appreciation for the Indiana Dunes’ smallest mammals, including winter adaptations, in the Nature Center Auditorium. Live and taxidermy specimens will be available through the Purdue University Forestry and Natural Resource Laboratory.

- **Fall Turtle Talk at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13.**

Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium to learn about turtles as they prepare for winter.

- **South Shore Line: The Way to the Dunes on Saturday, Nov. 13.**

The Midwest Rail Rangers, a partner with Indiana Dunes State Park, will present an on-board educational program that includes Indiana Dunes State Park.

The eastbound program is on South Shore Train 503. It departs Chicago-Millennium Station at 8:40 a.m., with a stop at Dune Park at 10:04 a.m. and arriving at South Bend-Airport Station at 12:10 p.m. EDT. The westbound South Shore program is on Train 506. It departs South Bend-Airport Station at 1:05 p.m. EDT, with a stop at Dune Park at 1:15 p.m. and arriving at Chicago-Millennium Station at 2:39 p.m.

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Look for the car with yellow signs on the inside (normally towards the middle of the train). No reservations are needed. A regular train ticket is required. Visit tinyurl.com/j6vvvvek for more details.

- **“Snakes Alive” at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 14.**

Meet at the Nature Center to view snakes and learn more about them.



The entire park will close Nov. 15-16 for IDNR-controlled deer hunts. It reopens Nov. 17.



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 or for more information.



American Red Cross

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

- Northwest Health LaPorte, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 12.
- Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 14.
- St. John Kanty, 7012 N. County Road 600 East, Rolling Prairie, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16.

Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit www.redcrossblood.org for more details.

Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series continues, focusing on the 43rd Elkhart Juried Regional, at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, Nov. 11, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

Mark Shubert, Osceola, will discuss his two assemblage sculptures made of found objects.

Admission is \$5. Members are free. Call (574) 293-6660 for details.

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| 1. Dottie Brinckman | 194 |
| 2. Barb Macudzinski | 168 |
| 3. June Salmon | 158 |
| 4. Pat Collado | 155 |
| 5. Mary Lou McFadden | 151 |
| 6. Kim Stokes (total) | 423 |
| 7. Deb Frederick (total) | 413 |

SPLITS

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|-------------------|------|
| Mary Lou McFadden | 3-10 |
| Nancy Klausner | 5-6 |

FOUR STRIKES

Dottie Brinckman



More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.

Chesterton Art Center

The following class will be offered:

- **Ceramic Figurative Bust Workshop with Emily Casella from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Nov. 13, 14 and 20.**

Adults and teens can learn how to make character head busts, choosing from existing people or characters, or inventing his/her own. The limit is six students. Tuition is \$95 for non-members and \$75 for members. All materials are provided.



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.

PNW Alumni Hall of Fame

Purdue University Northwest seeks nominations of alumni for its first induction into a new PNW Alumni Hall of Fame.

The callout, a component of PNW's ongoing "5-75 Roaring Ahead" anniversary celebration, will honor distinguished graduates from PNW and its legacy institutions: Purdue Calumet and Purdue North Central. The year-long celebration honors the fifth year of Purdue Northwest, and the 75th year of both legacy campuses.

The inaugural class will be honored at a gala in June 2022, proceeds from which will support scholarships.

PNW seeks high-achieving leaders in their fields, involved community members and those who have engaged with PNW beyond their time as students.

Nominations must be completed by Jan. 9, 2022. The form, and more information about PNW's anniversary celebrations, can be found at www.pnw.edu/roaring-ahead.

A selection committee will review all nominations. The following criteria applies:

- Alumni who graduated at least 10 years ago.
- Nominations must be submitted by someone other than the recommended recipient.
- Posthumous nominations will be accepted.

Parent Network Craft-Vendor Show

The Michigan City High School Parent Network will host its annual Craft and Vendor Show from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, in the school cafeteria, 8466 Paks Road.

All adult attendees receive one free raffle ticket. Additional raffle tickets can be purchased. Visit the Facebook page at [tinyurl.com/34j93v8a](https://www.facebook.com/tinyurl.com/34j93v8a) to check out the more than 65 vendors planned.

Both fees, raffle and concession-stand proceeds support teacher appreciation events and the After Prom event.

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LaPorte County Public Library

LaPorte County Public Library has updated its curbside pickup service using meeScan.

New users can download the meeScan app through options such as Apple and Google Play. Then, place holds on items using a customer account. Once at the library, check in using the app and clicking Pick-up from the bottom of the screen (or calling the library location). An appointment no longer is needed. Add the parking space on the app if picking up from the main location. Enter information in the instructions box if picking up holds placed on more than one account, or if needing additional assistance. A staff member brings held items to the vehicle. Customers using the app receive updates as their requests are processed. Returns can be placed in book drops and be checked in within 24 to 72 hours. At this time, there is no limit to the number of items customers can reserve and pick up during curbside.

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).
The following programs are planned:
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 12.** The socially distanced storytime includes rhymes, music and activities.
- **Teen D&D from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 15, at the main library Meeting Room A.** The program involves a cooperative tabletop role-playing game for teens 13-18. Registration is required.
- **Ebooks for Phones and Tablets from 6-7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 15, in the main library, Meeting Room B.** Take a personal device and library card. Kindles are not covered.
- **Teen Advisory Board from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16.** The board allows teens in seventh grade and older to share ideas and get involved.
- **Ebooks for Kindles and Computers from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16, main library, Meeting Room A.** Take a personal device and library card.
- **Age Well — Introduction to Medicaid from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16, at the Coolspring Branch.** Heidi Elliott of Golden Living Centers will discuss how Medicaid can help seniors.
- **Noguchi Mural Ribbon Cutting from 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, at the main library.** The mural is by David Blodgett. Light refreshments will be served.

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.

Have a story idea?
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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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Behind-the-Scenes Tour

Learn about the inner workings of the historic 38-room Oliver Mansion in the “Gaslights & Granite Boulders” tour at 4 p.m. EST Saturday, Nov. 13, at South Bend’s The History Museum.

Conducted by Deputy Executive Director Kristie Erickson, the tour demonstrates the evolution of the house’s technology by showcasing the current electrical project. It includes areas of the 12,000-square-foot home not seen on regular tours, such as the pump house, attic and lower levels of the mansion and Carriage House.

The museum is located at 808 W. Washington St. Admission is \$25, or \$20 for members. Tickets are limited. Reservations are required and can be made at www.historymuseumSB.org or by calling (574) 235-9664.

10-Digit Dialing Now Mandatory

Ten-digit dialing became official Oct. 24 for Indiana, Illinois and Michigan residents.

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

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

Why is this required? According to the Federal Communications Commission, “as more area codes begin to run out of new seven-digit numbers to assign, a second local area code may be added, requiring that area to transition to ten-digit dialing.”

South Shore Line Special

All active-duty military personnel and veterans can ride the South Shore Line for free through Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

No identification is required. Those riding the train that day should let personnel know he/she is active military personnel or a veteran. On the holiday, trains will follow the regular weekday schedule. Up to three children 13 and younger may ride free with each military personnel/veteran on all weekday and weekend trains.

Visit www.mysouthshoreline.com or download the SSL app (available for iPhone and Android) for more details.

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Free Veterans Day Admission

In honor of Veterans Day, The Studebaker National Museum and The History Museum are offering free admission Thursday, Nov. 11, to all veterans, active military and their families.

On display is “Manufacturing Victory” — a joint exhibit by both museums — which celebrates the response by the region’s manufacturers to America’s call during military conflicts. Artifacts include vehicles, munitions, textiles, jet engines, horse-drawn wagons and AM General’s Humvee.

The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., and The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St., are located eight blocks west of downtown South Bend. Hours are (all times Eastern) 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Call The Studebaker National Museum at (574) 235-9714 or The History Museum at (574) 235-9664 for more information.

NB Library Community Forum

The Friends of the New Buffalo Library will host a program on the Century of Progress Houses at 6:30 p.m. EST Tuesday, Nov. 16, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The program is part of the library’s free Community Forum series.

A real-estate developer in the 1930s shipped the five once-futuristic homes by barge and truck from Chicago to Indiana. Todd Zeiger, Northern Indiana Office of Indiana Landmarks director, will cover the Century of Progress exposition, the roles the houses played at the world’s fair, their journey to Indiana and restoration work over the past 15 years.

Face masks are requested for the program.

Sunday Funday Trivia

PFLAG Michigan City will present “Sunday Funday Trivia” at noon Nov. 21 at Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St.

The cost for the 18-and-older event is \$100 per table, or \$15 for individuals. A cash bar is planned, and groups can take snacks.

Doors open at 11 a.m. Email info@uptownsocialmc.com for more details.

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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.

Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Nov. 11 — VETERANS DAY.

Nov. 11 — 34th annual Veterans Day ceremony, LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Coffee, doughnuts/9 a.m., ceremony/10 a.m.

Nov. 11 — Duneland Stamp Club, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 11-14 — “Miracle on South Division Street,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/adults, \$10/children 12 & younger, Nov. 11 show. Reservations: www.FootlightPlayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

Nov. 12-14 — “MTI’s All Together Now!: A Global Event Celebrating Local Theatre,” Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Nov. 12-13, 3 p.m. Nov. 14. Tickets: \$20/evening shows, \$10/military & students, \$18/seniors 62 & older. Reservations: <https://canterburytheatre.org>

Nov. 12-14 — Michigan City High School’s Theatre Department, “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” MCHS auditorium, 8466 Pahs Road. Times: 7 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$5/students & children.

Nov. 13 — Michigan City High School Parent Network Craft and Vendor Show, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., school cafeteria, 8466 Pahs Road. Info: tinyurl.com/34j93v8a

Nov. 13 — Midwest Rail Rangers (“The Way to the Dunes,” South Shore Line. No reservations. Details: tinyurl.com/j6vvvvek

Nov. 13 — “Little Mammals on the Dunes,” 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Nov. 13 — Fall Turtle Talk, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Nov. 13 — Michigan City History Presentation & Book Talk, “MC Businesses and the People Who Made Them Prosper,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Nov. 13 — LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, “Jazzy American Salute,” 7 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Tickets: \$35/table seating, \$22/adults, \$20/seniors, free/students. Advance tickets: Roxy Music, the Civic, www.lcso.net, @ door. Free for veterans/guest by calling (219) 362-9020 or email/executive@lcso.net

Nov. 14 — “Snakes Alive,” 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Nov. 15 — Teen D&D, 5:30-7:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, Meeting Room A, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Nov. 17 — Noguchi Mural Ribbon Cutting, 4-6 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Through Nov. 30 — Dunes landscapes by the late Eugene Moldenhauer, large NIPSCO Education Studio @ Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Through Dec. 31 — Oil paintings by Don Grott, The Legacy Center Gallery @ Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Info: kd3627@hotmail.com

Through Feb. 25 — “Nature Now,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Center hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon., Wed., Thur., Fri.; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Closed Tuesday. Admission: free. Info: (219) 874-4900, www.lubeznikcenter.org

Tuesdays — Tai Chi for health & relaxation, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Sliding fee paid at class.

First and Third Mondays — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Zoom. Info: <https://7269291.toastmastersclubs.org>.

In the Region

Nov. 11 — Noon Time Talk Series, 12:20 p.m. EDT, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Admission: \$5. Info: (574) 293-6660.

Nov. 11 — Open mic night with host Bryan Lubeck, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive. Free; donations encouraged. Info: www.acornlive.org

Nov. 12-Jan. 16 — “Birds of a Feather” (annual member show), The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Opening reception: 5:30-7 p.m. EST Nov. 13. Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Nov. 13 — Interwoven Expressions 2021 36th annual fiber celebration, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sand Creek Country Club, 1001 Sand Creek Drive, Chesterton. Info: www.InterwovenExpressions.com

Nov. 13 — The Friends of Beverly Shores Bazaar grand opening, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 100 Brown Ave., Suite 1, Chesterton. Info: (219) 299-6998, wagnercasa44@gmail.com

Nov. 13 — “Gaslights & Granite Boulders” tour, 4 p.m. EST, South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Admission: \$25, \$20/members. Tickets are limited. Reservations: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Nov. 16 — The Friends of the New Buffalo Library Community Forum (Century of Progress Houses), 6:30 p.m. EST New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free.

Through Nov. 30 — Duneland Plein Air Painters exhibit “Together Again,” Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

Through Dec. 9 — Valparaiso University exhibit,

The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Gallery hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Info: (219) 465-1591, www.pinesvillage.org

Through Dec. 19 — The Midwest Museum of American Art's 43rd Elkhart Juried Regional, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours (all times Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Admission: \$10/adult, \$6 (8-12), \$8 (13-18 & college students with ID). Info: www.midwestmuseum.org

Vickers Theatre — *Now showing:* "Last Night in Soho." Rated R. Times: 3 p.m. Nov. 12-14, 6 p.m. Nov. 15. *Also showing:* "Finding Cousteau." Not Rated. Times: 6 p.m. Nov. 12-14, 3 p.m. Nov. 15. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

Westchester Public Library

Westchester Public Library has curbside pickup at its Thomas and Hageman branches.

Use a library card or go online to place holds on up to 10 items, including DVDs and CDs. Once notified the items are available, park in specially-numbered spaces at each branch during pickup hours.

While parked, call the library phone number posted on the numbered space sign, tell staff your library card number and he/she will check out the items and take them to a table at the parking space and walk away. Patrons then can step out of their vehicle to retrieve them. Curbside hours are Monday-Friday (1 to 6 p.m. at Thomas and Hageman) and Saturday (11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Thomas and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Hageman).

Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Westchester Township History Museum (219-983-9715) is located at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. The Baugher Center is located at 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Polish-American Cultural Society

Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana, Michigan City Chapter, meets at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, at St. Stanislaus Kostka School, 1506 Washington St.

The facilitator, the Rev. Wally Rakoczy, explores Polish language, customs and culture. There is no membership fee. Use the entrance between the church and school; signs direct guests to the ground-level meeting room.

Call Theresa Child at (219) 464-1369, email polamnwi@yahoo.com or visit "Polish-American Cultural Society of Northwest Indiana" on Facebook (click "Join Group") for more details.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On November 11, 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, fighting in World War I ended with the signing of an armistice between the Allies and Germany. The signing took place in a railroad car in the French forest of Compiegne.

On November 11, 1933, the first of the great dust storms of the 1930s swept across North Dakota.

On November 11, 1938, Kate Smith first sang Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" on network radio.

On November 11, 1954, the United States celebrated the first official "Veterans Day."

On November 11, 1966, Gemini 12 blasted off from Cape Kennedy, Fla., with astronauts James Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. aboard.

On November 12, 1929, movie star Grace Kelly, who would become Princess Grace of Monaco, was born in Philadelphia.

On November 12, 1946, the first bank drive-in window, called an "autobank," was installed by the Exchange National Bank of Chicago.

On November 12, 1954, Ellis Island, the world-famous immigration station in New York Harbor, was ordered closed. During its 62-year history, more than 20 million immigrants passed through its doors.

On November 12, 1984, in history's first space salvage, space shuttle astronauts Dale Gardner and Joe Allen retrieved a wandering satellite.

On November 13, 1789, Benjamin Franklin sent a letter to a friend in which he wrote, "*In this world, nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes.*"

On November 13, 1794, President George Washington ordered federal troops into Pennsylvania to quell the "Whiskey Rebellion."

On November 13, 1927, the Holland Tunnel under the Hudson River, linking New York and New Jersey, opened for traffic.

On November 13, 1933, the first recorded sit-down strike in the United States occurred at Hormel Packing Co. at Austin, Minn.

On November 14, 1832, the world's first streetcar — the "John Mason" — made its debut in New York. Thirty people could be accommodated in the three compartments of each car, which was drawn by two horses, and traveled on tracks laid on Fourth Avenue.

On November 14, 1851, Herman Melville's Moby Dick was first published in the United States.

On November 14, 1889, *New York World* reporter Nellie Bly began her attempt to top the fictitious voyage of Jules Verne's Philas Fogg by traveling around the world in less than 80 days. She completed the journey in 72 days.

On November 14, 1900, American composer Aaron Copland was born in Brooklyn.

On November 15, 1887, artist Georgia O'Keefe was born near Sun Prairie, Wis.

On November 15, 1926, the National Broadcasting Co. went on the air with 24 radio stations. The first broadcast, from the Grand Ballroom of New York's Waldorf Astoria, featured opera stars Mary Garden and Tito Ruffa, the New York Symphony Orchestra, Will Rogers, Weber and Fields, and many others.

On November 15, 1940, the first 75,000 men were called to military duty under peacetime conscription.

On November 15, 1966, Gemini 12 astronauts James Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. splashed down safely in the Atlantic.

On November 16, 1901, in a race on Brooklyn's Ocean Parkway, a car driven by A.C. Bostwick became the first automobile to exceed the speed of a mile a minute.

On November 16, 1908, conductor Arturo Toscanini made his U.S. debut at New York's Metropolitan Opera House.

On November 16, 1959, "The Sound of Music" opened on Broadway.

On November 16, 1973, Skylab 3, carrying a crew of three, was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on an 84 day mission.

On November 16, 1982, a 57-day strike by National Football League players ended when negotiators reached agreement on a new five-year contract.

On November 17, 1800, Congress convened for its first session in Washington, meeting in the partially completed Capitol building.

On November 17, 1926, the Chicago Blackhawks played their first hockey game, beating Toronto 4-0.

On November 17, 1968, NBC outraged football fans by cutting away from the end of a New York Jets-Oakland Raiders game to begin a TV special "Heidi" on schedule. The Raiders beat the Jets, 43-32.

On November 17, 1973, speaking to a meeting of newspaper editors in Orlando, Fla., President Richard Nixon denied wrongdoing in the Watergate affair, asserting, "I am not a crook."

On November 17, 1993, in a major political victory for President Clinton, the house voted 234-200 to approve legislation implementing the North American Free Trade Agreement.

ENVELOPES



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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Better Off Dead by Lee Child and Andrew Child (hardcover, \$28.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and audiobook. 325 pages.)

Lights! Camera! Action! You'll get plenty of the action in the latest adventures of Jack Reacher, hero of Lee Child's books for 25 past editions, and now the second novel co-written with his son, Andrew Child.

Jack Reacher is the larger-than-life — 6'5", 250 pounds of pure muscle — ex-military cop and now a drifter across the continental U.S.

"Chest like a gun safe and hands like backhoe buckets. And scruffy... His clothes looked cheap and ill-fitting...Somewhere between a hobo and a Neanderthal."

He has only a toothbrush in his pocket, ID and some cash. Says when his clothes get dirty, he throws them away and buys new ones. Now that's traveling light!

This latest Reacher adventure will have you asking — What author kills off his main character in the very first chapter?! That's the eye-popping beginning to this story which, obviously, needs a lot of explaining. And that requires going back in time to see how Reacher got himself killed...sort of.

Reacher is hiking, as usual, somewhere in Arizona near the Mexican border, headed for California, when he comes across a Jeep off the road, crashed into a tree. There is a woman inside, slumped over the steering wheel. She ran into the only tree around for miles? Strange.

As Reacher approaches, she springs up with a pistol pointed at his gut. Not a friendly greeting...It takes awhile to persuade the woman that he means her no harm and is not part of whomever she expected to meet. Finally gaining her trust, sort of, a jeep appears on the horizon. The woman tells Reacher to hide in the ditch — this doesn't involve him. Good thing he doesn't take her advice, because the men are obviously there to kidnap her. Reacher steps in and saves her from certain rape and/or death.

Michaela Fenton is her name. She tells Reacher she is trying to find her twin brother, Michael — an ex-Army guy who brought home demons from the Middle East that somehow got him involved with Waad Dendoncker, a free enterprise sell-to-the-highest-bidder kind of guy. So Michael is a man

with PTSD making bombs for some crook. Great. Now, Michaela is afraid for Michael because he wants out. How does she know? She receives a note from him that doesn't make sense. She's sure it is a call for help.

She also is ex-Army. She served in the 66th Military Intelligence Group in Afghanistan. She lost her right foot to an IED — Improvised Explosive Device. Not during her tour, though. She tells Reacher it is a story for another time. Eventually, she joined the FBI as a special agent in TEDAC — Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center — *"Think of it as bringing forensics to the battlefield."*

Now she's on her own, apparently unwilling or afraid to ask anyone for help because of what her brother has gotten into — possibly making bombs.

She tells Reacher she got a job working for Dendoncker's cover as a flight attendant on an airplane delivery business for private and rich individuals, called Pie In The Sky Inc. She thought it would bring her closer to finding out about her brother.

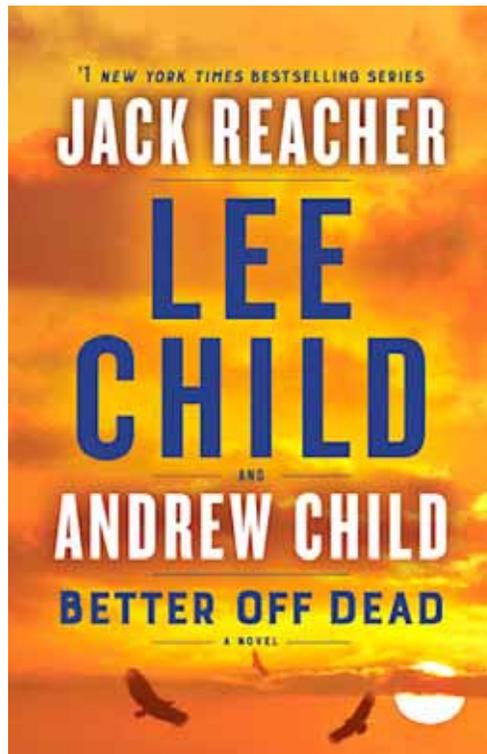
Now, she's afraid her snooping around might cause him more trouble. Can Reacher walk away from a damsel in distress? Of course not. She's ex-Army, he's ex-Army, this should be interesting. The pair set off to come up with a plan...

Reacher is the kind of guy who knows how to ferret out information and find people who don't want to be found. But he just might have met his match in Dendoncker, who has the local town under his thumb, police included. And what's his endgame? Because Reacher is sure there is one. And what he finds out will have him and Michaela racing against the clock to stop an epic disaster...one even scheduled for Veterans Day.

Whether you've read Lee Child before or not, each Reacher novel is a standalone story that is sure to keep you on the edge of your seat. Be careful you don't fall off!

Caution: This is an action/adventure read with realistic fight scenes that leave little to the imagination. Realism at its best, yes, but with a storyline that believes there is still good in the world — real heroes. And I like that.

Till next time, happy reading!



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