



Volume 37, Number 40 Thursday, October 14, 2021

# STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

by Connie Kuzdym

Growing up, Catherine Lanigan wanted to be a journalist, like the glamorous comic-strip character Brenda Starr who traveled abroad, met interesting people and told their stories. Family and teachers over the years encouraged her to pursue that dream.

Catherine, a LaPorte native, has become a successful writer, even after her ambitions were crushed her freshman year of college.

Sister Dorothy Smith, head of the English department at Nazareth College in Kalamazoo, Mich., recommended Catherine for a creative-writing seminar intended for second-semester seniors. Led by a visiting Harvard professor, Smith told the professor Catherine would be in his class, as she had a “special talent.”

What transpired between Lanigan and the visiting professor, she has recounted in the article “The Professor and Me” that appeared in *The Internet Writing Journal*. A month into the class, after lectures and small assignments, students wrote their first story to be read aloud and critiqued by the class. What followed, though, altered the trajectory of Catherine’s life.

The night before the reading, the professor called Catherine into his office. He commanded her to enter and sit. He slammed her work on his desk. In



Catherine Lanigan is photographed by The Beacher’s Bob Wellinski in her backyard with roses, which symbolize angels.

a bullish voice, he did not mince words.

“Frankly, Miss Lanigan, your writing stinks,” he said. “You have absolutely no idea about plot structure or characterization. How you were recommended for this class is beyond me. You have no business being here. One thing’s for sure, you’ll never earn a dime as a writer.”

Shocked, Catherine fought back the tears as the insults continued. The professor told her to change her major. The final blow: He used her declaration for *sum cum laude* against her.

“Miss Lanigan, I’m mindful of the fact that you have declared your bid... To do that you can’t take anything less than a B in this class...You can’t even do that without a great deal of assistance...from me,” he said. “So, I’ll make a bargain with you. I’ll be your crutches. I will get you through my class and give you a B if you promise never to write anything ever again.”

To understand what happened next, one must understand Catherine.

“I was bright-eyed, swallowing my education without chewing and naïve as any 17-year-old could be,” Catherine said. “I should have seen it coming, but I didn’t...”

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Catherine also grew up during the 1950s-1960s, when times were different. Raised a devout Catholic, she was taught to respect elders and never question authority. To challenge the professor, especially in a small school, easily could have led to dismissal. Thankful to be in college, Catherine said nothing. She left the professor's office downtrodden that her writing career was over. Arriving at the dorm, she grabbed a metal trash can, went outside and burned her story. As the smoke swirled upwards, she promised God, "I would never believe in childish dreams again. I would be smart. I would use logic. If I couldn't see it, taste it, chew it and spit it out, I wouldn't believe in anything again."

Catherine subsequently majored in education, English and history. She received a teachable minor in French, along with minors in psychology, theology and philosophy. She also continued taking Sister Dorothy's literature classes.

"I took Greek lit, Greek history, Greek plays and...other classes from her," Catherine said. "I took so many classes, it was amazing. When they had a really long reading list, I'd say, 'I'll be there.'"

Sister Dorothy, by the way, did not know what had transpired with the professor until after he had left. By then, the damage was done. Nonetheless, she continued to encourage Catherine over the years, saying, "You have something that I have not seen in maybe 20-30 years. You're going to do a lot of things with your life, your writing."

Catherine stopped writing for 14 years. During that time, she read more voraciously than ever.

"If I couldn't write it myself, I'd read what others had the talent and courage to do," Catherine said.

She taught for a year, then became a stay-at-home mom. In 1978, a family vacation in Texas changed

her life. U.S. District Judge John H. Wood Jr. was murdered by a contracted killer outside his home in San Antonio. It was the first time in U.S. history a sitting federal judge was assassinated. The town was buzzing with journalists, TV producers, film crews. At one point, Catherine approached a group and said, "I just want you to know that I think what you do is the most important work in the world. Searching for truth. I always wanted to be a writer."

One took her to task, replying, "If you wanted to be a writer, you would be writing." Catherine explained what happened with the professor. His simple reply, "Why, I'm ashamed of you," resonated deep within Catherine. He gave her his card just in case she decided to write something.

Purchasing pens and paper, her first novel, Bound

by Love, a historical-fiction spy drama set during World War I, was written by hand. Borrowing a friend's typewriter, she typed the 400 pages and sent the manuscript to the writer she'd met.

A month later, he called her. Thirty minutes later, his New York agent called, saying, "Catherine, you are startlingly talented."

By the end of the call, once again, her trajectory changed.

The agent not only liked what she read, but also wanted to send out a contract for her to sign with the agency that day.

She regrets not standing up to the boorish professor. Once the writing door opened, she never looked back.

□

Today, Catherine lives in LaPorte and is an international bestselling author who has published more than 45 titles in fiction and non-fiction.

Her works include the novelizations of "Romancing the Stone" and "The Jewel of the Nile" and more than a half-dozen anthologies, such as "Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living Your Dream." Her writing has been translated into numerous languages. Sev-



Catherine Lanigan is photographed with copies of her books, "Wings of Destiny" and "The Sweetest Heart."  
Photo by Bob Wellinski

eral titles have been chosen for The Literary Guild and Doubleday Book Clubs. Her novel “The Christmas Star” received *The Romantic Times*’ Gold Medal Prize for Top Pick, as well as Novel of the Year from the *ForeWord* and *Reader’s Preference* magazines.

Her career spans four decades and is still going strong with the successful “Shores of Indian Lake” series for Harlequin Heartwarming. Her novel “Heart’s Desire” was adapted into the 2018 Hallmark Channel movie “The Sweetest Heart.”



Catherine Lanigan holds a screen shot from the Hallmark movie adaptation of her novel. Photo by Bob Wellinski

Catherine’s life is like the many twists and turns of a good plot with a strong character. She has a spiritual side, a tremendously caring side and an accomplished professional side, combined with who she is and how she was raised. All melded together over the years, making her incredibly impressive. She has a contagious laugh, a calm presence that draws you to her, a great outlook on life and deep convictions.

Her successes and experiences have not changed the essence of someone who grew up in a Catholic home in LaPorte. Her parents purchased a lot in a former apple orchard and in 1950 cleared enough trees to build a home.

Catherine grew up with younger siblings Ed, Bob and Nancy. The canvas of their backyard became Catherine’s storybook. By weaving imaginative tales, she kept her siblings entertained and out of trouble.

“I used to tell them stories about the fairies fairies and elfies elfies,” Catherine said. “I made up these fantasy stories of the fairies and elves that all lived in our backyard. What the fairies did. How they helped. I always had the fairies and elves to help pollinate the trees and to pick up the fruit stuff that was on the ground.”

Catherine’s mother, Dorothy, was a hospital dietician during World War II, but with four rambunctious children and being frequently ill, she became a stay-at-home mom.

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## STRENGTH OF CHARACTER Continued from Page 3

Her father, Frank, an attorney, had a photographic memory and was extremely literate. He could quote an exact Shakespearean act and scene. The family did not have a TV until 1962, as her father viewed them as an “idiot box.” Instead, they were expected to read the encyclopedias he purchased.

“If you were into mischief, he’d ask, ‘Why aren’t you reading the encyclopedia?’” Catherine recalled with a laugh. “I read the ‘A to Z Book of Knowledge Encyclopedia.’ I have this mind full of factoids.”

There was something special within Catherine that surfaced after they moved into their new home. She vividly recalls the first time an angel visited her.

“I can remember getting up out of my bed, last bedroom in the house,” Catherine said. “I’m only 3. Hadn’t been to school...my family didn’t sit around reading the Bible all the time. We were Catholic. We went to Mass, that was it. Here stands this angel, all in white light and gold and said, ‘You have a lot you have to do. You have a lot of people you have to take care of.’ I remember thinking, I’m a child. Aren’t they supposed to take care of me?”

Throughout her life, angels just show up. Catherine quickly learned this blessing was difficult for others to understand, including her parents. She told the angels she could not tell anyone about them, as it was met with ridicule or punishment.

Even though she stopped mentioning the angels to her family, returning home from her maternal grandmother Ethel Manning’s funeral in Florida, she saw her grandmother.

“(It was) starting in Florida. She walked across a map of the United States and wound up at the end of my bed,” she said. Her grandmother then told her she will go on to become a writer.

“I said, ‘I’m not a writer. I don’t write anything.’”

“She says, ‘You don’t right now, but you will. Pretty soon... in high school you’re going to learn...’”

“I was amazed...first class...as freshman...I took typing. I remember listening to (the) teacher...and thinking, oh my gosh, my grandmother told me this a few months ago that I was going to learn how to type.

Catherine credits grandmother Ethel as being instrumental in her becoming a writer.

When her father had a near-death experience in

1987 in Phoenix, he understood what Catherine had been experiencing. At the hospital, he shared with her what occurred: “They told me that you have to write a book,” he said. “I said, ‘Dad, since I’m on my 10th book, that would make sense.’ He goes, ‘No, not like the books you’ve always been writing. This is another book. You have to write an angel book. You’re going to write about angels, you’re going to write about my experience and your experiences and all those times you saw angels, and I said that you didn’t. I take it all back. I ask your forgiveness; I have to have your forgiveness because they told me I have to have your forgiveness.’

“I go, ‘OK.’”

There no was longer a reason to keep her angel encounters quiet. The first book she wrote in the “Angel Watch” series, “Angel Watch,” was about her family’s experiences with angels. “Divine Nudges and Angel Tales” chronicled how angels touched the lives of others. Catherine has two completed manuscripts, “Angel Guides” and “Angel Gifts,” that are not contracted. She is currently working on “Angel Watch 2020-2021: Memos from the Home Office.”

□

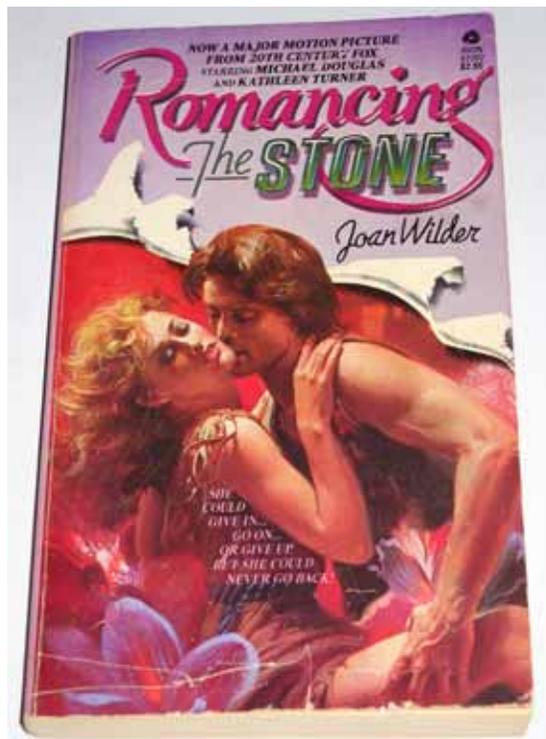
As a writer, one of Catherine’s strengths is being able to write quickly. When Avon Books needed someone for the novelization of the screenplay for “Romancing the Stone” (1984), they turned to Catherine. She had 21 days to write 350 pages on a typewriter.

On the cover of the novelization Catherine is credited as ghost writer; in actuality, she has never been a ghost writer. Her contract for the novelization stated she was the writer. Why Joan Wilder’s name — the Kathleen Turner character in the movie — appears on the cover is an interesting story.

“Michael Douglas wanted to use it as an advertising stunt,” Catherine said. “He wanted two Joan Wilders. It was his idea to do the novelization. He wanted Joan Wilder in the book, and he wanted the Joan Wilder of the film so that the two girls would go on tour as publicity for him

and he wouldn’t have to do quite so much. He would still do some, but he was a master...an absolute master at taking a movie and going around from film festival to film festival worldwide and making that film into a classic. And he did it.”

Catherine had met Douglas while she was in Los Angeles. She went on tour for the film in Italy in Sicily, Rome and Taormina.



The book cover for Catherine Lanigan’s novelization of “Romancing the Stone,” which played up the character of Joan Wilder as a romance novelist.

“I had a party given for me on a 92’ yacht (in Sicily) owned by the Italian publisher at the time,” Catherine said. “There were approximately 48 foreign journalists. From 48 different newspapers from around the world, and the next morning, I was on the cover of every single newspaper around the world. It was unbelievable.”

Besides the fiction/nonfiction novels, Catherine has written screenplays, teleplays, Young Adult and now is taking classes on play writing. She has never written a short story, but feels the 50-page story ideas sent to the publisher qualify as one.

Story ideas come naturally when she least expects them, with many being ahead of the times. She prints everything she writes out, partially because her husband once cleared out her computer, thinking he was helping her. She lost 20 manuscripts. Also, if there is a power outage, she then is stymied.

Starting the writing process, Catherine looks to develop

strong characters using an interesting technique. She begins by giving the character his/her name. Next to her desk is a comfortable fabric-covered chair, where her characters sit to be verbally interviewed.

“They say, ‘I’m very pleased to meet you. I’m so glad you’re going to put me in your story. So what else do you want to know about me?’”

Each question Catherine asks is subsequently answered. As they converse, she sees them in her mind’s eye and evolves them into a unique character with substance. Writing what they said, she has her “character breakdown.” Usually during the interview, the plot begins to unfold.

“Once you have the characters, then you can put them in a really neat setting,” Catherine said. “If you’re writing for a publisher, they will tell you, ‘You can’t go international, it needs to be a small town.’ Like the “Heartwarming Stories”



Catherine Lanigan, photographed at work in her LaPorte home. Photo by Bob Wellinski

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## STRENGTH OF CHARACTER Continued from Page 5

(“Shores of Indian Lakes” series) all had to be a small town.”

Publishers have their own format, whether it is mystery, horror or romance. Writers receive writing guidelines to follow. This formulaic style can take some of the creativity away, but is all part of branding their lines.

“So, when anybody picks up a Bantam horror book,” she said, “they know they’re going to get a certain kind of book when they buy it.

Catherine and her husband, Jed Nolan, an accomplished film and theater producer, put forth a lot of time and effort — more than four years with Hallmark — to have her book turned into the movie “The Sweetest Heart.”

Their own meeting and subsequent relationship is great content for a romance novel.

Jed needed a screenplay writer. Catherine would be hired if Jed approved and felt the two could work together to make the book into a screenplay.

On the other hand, Catherine needed to read the book to see if she liked it, which she did

Jed then made the call to her.

“I want to introduce myself. I know you’ve met the other people from the company,” Jed said. “I wanted to say I really admire your work and what you’ve done, and by the way, will you marry me?”



Catherine Lanigan is photographed with the Milo family the night “The Sweetest Heart” debuted through Hallmark.

Catherine called back and got his voicemail. She replied.

“I would like to converse with you whenever you are free, and we can talk about the screenplay and what you see for the way it’s going,” she said. “And

by the way, the answer to your question is yes. I will marry you.”

All kidding aside, the two conversed over the phone for two months. Catherine finally flew to Arizona to meet with Jed, the investors and the film company. The rest of her love story, Catherine wants to write herself for us to read.

Catherine and Jed returned to LaPorte in April 2008 to help care for her aging mother. Sadly, Nancy



On the set of “The Sweetest Heart” with actor Chris McNally.

Dorothy and Jed all passed away within a few years of each other.

Since childhood, Catherine has been given the strength and ability to care for others. After her sister’s passing, Catherine chose to stay, taking over the office responsibilities in her brother-in-law’s dental practice.

With so many other things vying for her time, she still continues to pursue her writing and being published. These days, she writes a few hours on Friday afternoons, and puts in 10 hours on Saturdays and Sundays.

When not writing, Catherine enjoys entertaining, cooking, gardening and reading. She remains in LaPorte, not only for family, but also because of her

family’s home.

“I’m a tree person. Every single window my mom put in has a tree outside of it,” Catherine said. “All of my life, I’ve had houses across the street and all around me. I’ve got trees all around me. I would not move from this lot.”

The years have flown by since Catherine sat down and wrote her first novel. Does she look back and say, wow, what a great life I’ve had?

“No, I look forward and say, ‘Jeez, I have so much to do,’” she said. “I look forward and say, ‘Oh my God, am I going to get it all done?’ I’ve got to get it all done.”

And what has she learned over the years?

“I learned that writers make something out of nothing. We make dreams into reality. That’s our nature, our mission,” Catherine said. “We were born to it. I will never give up my dream again. Never.”



Catherine Lanigan on The Hallmark Channel “Home and Family Show.”



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Due by Nov. 15, essays will be judged by a panel from MACU management and the board of directors, and an MCEC member. The two scholarships will be awarded at an MCEC luncheon in early 2022.

Students can access applications at [www.macuonline.org](http://www.macuonline.org) or at MACU, 3064 S. Ohio St. Completed submissions may be dropped off at the MACU Ohio Street office. Call (219) 874-6943 or visit [www.macuonline.org](http://www.macuonline.org) for more details.

### Flick-or-Treat

Krasl Art Center and the Coastline Children's Film Festival have united to present "Flick-or-Treat," two evenings of live music and movies.

The first event, "The Old Dark House" (1932), a horror-comedy by James Whale ("Frankenstein"), is at 7 p.m. EDT Friday, Oct. 15, at CCFE's storefront offices in the Flynn Theatre Building, 5861 Sawyer Road, Sawyer, Mich. Initially deemed a lost film, it was restored by the George Eastman Museum and has garnered widespread critical acclaim.

The focus at 8 p.m. EDT Oct. 29 are 10 silent short films projected onto KAC's south-facing wall accompanied by an improvisational piano performance by Larry Shanker, executive director and music specialist for Brookview Montessori School. Take blankets and chairs. Krasl Art Center is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

The films include: "Dr. Pyckle and Mr. Pride" (1925); "The Enchanted Well" (1903); "Felix the Cat Sure-Locked Homes" (1928); "The Fresh Lobster" (1928); "The Haunted Ship" (1930); "Just Spooks" (1925); "Ko-Ko Sees Spooks" (1925); "The Pumpkin Race" (1908); "The Witch's Cat" (1929) and "The Wizard's Apprentice" (1930).

A \$2 suggested donation supports CCFE and KAC collaborations. Guests must adhere to current COVID safety protocols. Visit [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org) for details.

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## “No Time to Die” Gives Craig a Fitting Close as James Bond

by Andrew Tallackson

Over the years, I’ve come to peace with the fact that the plot of a James Bond movie is irrelevant. All we need to know is that the bad guy is a lunatic. The only one capable of stopping him is Bond. Toss in gadgets, babes and nifty action sequences, and you have the perfect popcorn movie.

“No Time to Die,” the 25th in the spy series and Daniel Craig’s last as Bond, embraces a bit of the old *and* the new. It gives us what we expect – killer stunts, gorgeous women, exotic locales – but we now approach the story uneasily. Will Craig, as Bond, ride off into the sunset...or perish in a heroic death? Director Cary Joji Fukunaga (“Beasts of No Nation,” HBO’s “True Detective”) exploits our attachment to Craig so Bond never seems in control. In fact, his world has spun wildly out of control.

The result is a fitting close to Craig’s 15-year journey with this character. It understands that with this actor, it’s never been about campy villains or cheesy one-liners. Craig creates a richly human spy who fights the harsh reality of age, and who risks opening himself up to women, rather than treating them as disposable sex toys.

Before the pre-title sequence – Billie Eilish sings the effective title track – we get possibly the longest setup for a Bond film, but one that brilliantly subverts expectations. The story picks up soon after “Spectre,” with Bond and Madeleine Swann (Léa Seydoux) living off the grid in southern Italy when Spectre assassins turn up. Somehow, Fukunaga sneaks in Madeleine’s backstory, breathtaking scenery, potential deception and a rousing, pumped-up chase sequence without missing a beat. The effect is like a supercharged adrenaline rush.

All the key players enter the fold – M (Ralph Fiennes), Money Penny (Naomie Harris), Q (Ben Whishaw) and Felix (Jeffrey Wright) – along with Lyutsifer Safin (Oscar-winner Rami Malek) who, like any good sociopath, intends to wipe out half the planet. Billy Magnussen’s CIA agent is a confusing dud, but Ana de Armas reinvents herself from plain-Jane “Knives Out” star to va-va-voom Bond beauty, stealing the movie from Craig as a giddy CIA agent... and kicking ass in the process. Ditto “Captain Marvel” actress Lashana Lynch as the new 007, who can handle a gun with the best of them.

(It is a sign of the times that female characters not only supersede Bond in physical prowess, but also span women of all backgrounds.)

From a production standpoint, “No Time to Die” has everything money can buy. With a budget rumored at \$300 million, we get globetrotting through Norway, Jamaica, Italy, Cuba and London. Elaborate action sequences that range from a sinking boat to a sleek, two-seater plane.

But as the story inches toward its explosive finish, what matters most boils down to Craig and Sey-



Daniel Craig and Ana de Armas star in “No Time to Die.”

★ ★ ★ 1/2

### “No Time to Die”

*Running time: 163 minutes. Rated PG-13 for sequences of violence and action, some disturbing images, brief strong language and some suggestive material.*

doux. Since the exit of Eva Green’s Vesper Lynd in “Casino Royale” (2006), no “Bond Girl” has matched her raw vulnerability. Seydoux, however, surpasses it. This is a fierce performance that magnifies what Craig has brought to this franchise. His Bond is about finding a woman who adds meaning to his life. Scenes of Bond and Seydoux fleeing pursuers take on a nervous energy, with Fukunaga cutting back and forth between approaching vehicles and skittish glances in rear-view mirrors. The last 15 minutes border on excruciating. Will these two survive together amid impossible odds? Craig and Seydoux give the climax everything they’ve got.

Whether they rise or fall, “No Time to Die” is bold enough to play fair with the characters: who they are and what they stand for.

We leave the theater drained, but satisfied.  
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## Preserving the Region's History Takes Center Stage at Meeting

by William Halliar

An eclectic group that featured everyone from steam-power curators and shipwreck explorers to museum curators and historical society members met Sept. 29 in Michigan City for what they called the first "Gathering of Historical Proportions."

The event, held at the Old Lighthouse Museum and attended by more than 30 people, was designed to share ideas and create a bond that will inspire a ripple of enthusiasm for all things history-related far into the future. Attendees hailed not only from the Michigan City Historical Society, but also from Chicago's Field Museum, The Studebaker Museum in South Bend, The Region of Three Oaks Museum and Starke County's Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum. A key emphasis was promoting the work of preserving the region's history.

Jim Retseck, Michigan City Historical Society president, greeted guests at the door. As the group toured the Old Lighthouse Museum and enjoyed refreshments prepared by Historical Society members Pat Conrad and Karen Rueter, a friendly camaraderie and bond were created.

As the group wandered the museum, the sounds of passionate and excited conversation could be heard as ideas were passed back and forth between people of like minds and goals. It was refreshing to hear all the ideas shared between old friends and new colleagues. Everyone agreed to meet again to continue the momentum of the day.

The Calumet Region's many museums are the touchstones of our past that capture our memories and, more importantly, hold the promise of inspiration for the future. Historians understand that by questioning and learning from events of the past, we can propel ourselves into a better future.

Anyone interested in getting involved in Michigan City Historical Society can call the museum office at (219) 872-6133 or email [mchistorical@att.net](mailto:mchistorical@att.net)

**Top:** Jim Retseck (center), Michigan City Historical Society president, greets attendees. **Bottom:** Networking was a key aspect of the meeting.



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### SAM Free Family Concert

“Rising Again,” a program of contemporary classical music, opens the 2021-2022 Free Family Concert Series presented by The School of American Music.

The concert is at 3 p.m. EDT Sunday, Oct. 17, at Converge Church, 601 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich. Tickets are free, but must be reserved through [www.schoolofamericanmusic.com/tickets](http://www.schoolofamericanmusic.com/tickets).

Oboist Jennet Ingle, accompanied by pianist Mariah Boucher, will explore themes of transformation through compositions by new composers Mary Chandler, Katherine Needleman, Dirk-Michael Kirsch and Alyssa Morris.



Ingle

“Rising Again” is Ingle’s third concert with the SAM family series. She is principal oboist for South Bend Symphony Orchestra and Northwest Indiana Symphony. An Eastman School of Music graduate, she founded Mennet Ingle Reeds, and her first book, The Happiest Musician, is forthcoming.



Boucher

Boucher is an opera and art song coach who has coached and performed at major music festivals across the country. A University of Michigan graduate, she has been the music director of South Bend Lyric Opera for the past five productions, and serves as staff accompanist at Indiana University-South

Bend, as well as vocal coach at The University of Notre Dame.

The concert series, supported by the Pokagon Fund, continues into 2022, with shows scheduled for February, March and April. Details are available on the website.

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### Community Concert Association



Members of The Spaniels Forever.

LaPorte Community Concert Association will present the male quintet The Spaniels Forever at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 17, at the Kesling Intermediate School Auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte.

The Spaniels' roots date back to 1948 at Gary's Roosevelt High School when classmates Billy Shelton and Pookie Hudson began singing together. In the spring of 1954, the Hudson-written single "Goodnight Sweetheart, Goodnight" rose to the Top 5 on the rhythm & blues chart, becoming an international hit. The group was the first artist signed to Vee-Jay Records, an independent black-owned record label in Gary that paved the way for Motown Records. Its repertoire today includes a broad range of R&B, pop, rock and gospel.

The concert is included in the LaPorte Community Concert season ticket. Tickets also are available at the door for \$20 for adults and \$5 for students through high school. Call (219) 362-5292 for details.



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### Michigan City Lions Awards

Michigan City Lions Club recently awarded its ninth-grade Scholastic Achievement Awards and the Lions Club memorial scholarship for 12th-grade students.

Each year, the club recognizes outstanding ninth-graders in the subjects of English, social studies, math and science through the Ed Paine Award. It honors the man who served as International Lions president in 1942-1943.

He also was known worldwide for his oratory and scholarship.

Michigan City High School ninth-graders receiving the award for 2021 were: Madison Gresham – English; Ashley Sparks – social studies; Lynda Pratt – math; and Tatiana Miller – science. Due to COVID cancelling the 2020 awards, those students were: Destiny Meneweather – English; Joseph Zook – social studies; Kortney Pratt – math; and Nathaniel Painter – science.

Marquette High School ninth-graders receiving the award for 2021 were: Alexander Bell – English; Saniya Singh – math; Alyse Thomas – science; and Lyrick Stark – social studies. The 2020 students were: Mario Paolo Castillo – English; Xaria Biggerstaff – math; Mary Cate Neary – science; and Paloma Valdes – social studies.

The memorial scholarship honors deceased members, going to a graduating senior who demonstrates outstanding achievement in leadership, scholarship and service to school and community.

The Marquette winner is Paige Pizarek, who will attend Purdue Honors College to major in pre-professional health sciences, with a post graduate hope of attending medical school.

The MCHS winner is Aviana Garner, who will attend Indiana University-Bloomington with hopes to become a physician assistant.



Cindy Hall of Michigan City Lions Club is photographed with Aviana Garner (above) and Paige Pizarek (below).





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## Gyllenhaal Delivers a Career Best in “The Guilty”

by Andrew Tallackson



Jake Gyllenhaal delivers the performance of his career in “The Guilty” — the best thriller so far this year.

The Netflix film is a textbook example — actually, make that film-school exercise — in how to generate suspense: Confine a character to one setting, then introduce danger just beyond his reach, where what we hear, rather than see, allows the imagination to run rabid. It worked for Hitchcock with 1954’s “Rear Window,” and in the hands of director Antoine Fuqua (“Training Day,” 2016’s superior “Magnificent Seven” remake), it is exhausting, specifically in watching Gyllenhaal carry the picture with ferocious intensity.

This could have been stacy Oscar bait for Gyllenhaal (“Prisoners,” “Nocturnal Animals”), and when I first learned it was Nic Pizzolatto who wrote the script, my heart sank. This guy kickstarted HBO’s pulpy “True Detective” through memorable performances by Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson. Then, collapse. Season 2 tumbled into a baffling maze of conspiracies and mesmerizingly awful dialogue. Season 3 recovered through Oscar-winner Mahershala Ali, but felt empty in the end.

Was Pizzolatto a one-hit wonder? Had he delivered the goods, then lost his mojo?

Whether “The Guilty,” which remakes a 2018 Danish film, succeeds because it replicates its source, I cannot say, having not seen the original. But what exists here hums with nervous tension. It



### “The Guilty”

Running time: 90 minutes. Netflix.

Rated R for language throughout.

crackles with life. The movie leaves you fried.

The setting is the night shift at a Los Angeles 911 call center. The setup is economical in its storytelling. Through a handful of scenes, we get a feel for the ebbs and flows of the work. The routine, the protocol required of employees. And how resources are thin as wildfires devastate the area, families fleeing for safety.

LAPD officer Joe Baylor (Gyllenhaal) is in the final hours of his last day on the job. He’s been demoted. Something happened that has led to a court hearing the next day, and like any good mystery, Pizzolatto parcels out Joe’s past, like bread crumbs scattered amid chaos. And in Gyllenhaal’s stressed take on Joe, years working the streets, and the impending trial, have numbed him to his work. You can see in Gyllenhaal’s defeated body language, the clipped way he replies to callers, all that remains is cynicism. That what he’s doing is beneath him.

Then, he gets an emergency call from a woman. Breathless. Sobbing. Terrified. Joe snaps to attention. Carefully wording each question, every inquiry that might yield answers to aid police. Without revealing too much, he becomes embroiled in a deadly

domestic situation, one turning more harrowing by the minute. Hitchcock knew the unseen presence can invigorate a story because our mind calculates the odds. In “The Guilty,” we never see the people Joe speaks with, and what’s fascinating are the various parties Joe turns to, especially the California highway dispatcher (Da’Vine Joy Randolph) trying to juggle all the agencies fighting wildfires. And Gyllenhaal, as an actor, now moves Joe about the dispatch center with purpose. Invigorated. He allows us to see the astute officer he *can* be.

As a director, Fuqua knows limiting a character to one setting can alienate an audience, so his camera is always moving. Finding intriguing angles to place his camera. And by keeping his tale at a mere 90 minutes, he’s trimmed all the fat. There is no downtime for Joe, nor we as the audience. We are trapped with him.

There is a twist, and when it arrives, it’s devastating. Wrenching, and a pivotal turning point for Joe in examining his past actions. Gyllenhaal gives his final scene everything he’s got. It is like watching a life-changing catharsis amid total collapse.

It is Oscar-caliber work. Will he be nominated?



Jake Gyllenhaal’s final scene warrants, at the very least, an Oscar nomination.

Netflix is pushing for a Best Actor nomination. Fuqua directed Denzel Washington to a Best Actor Oscar, and Ethan Hawke a Best Supporting Actor nod, for “Training Day,” but Oscar sensibilities have shifted since then. Voters tend to thumb their noses at genre pieces.

That would be unfortunate. In “The Guilty,” Gyllenhaal, Fuqua and Pizzolatto are in top form.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

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# Singing Sands Celebration



The community celebrated the Singing Sands Trail with a ribbon cutting Oct. 2 at City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd. The trail is Michigan City's segment of the Marquette Greenway Trail, connecting Chicago-area trails to those in Southwest Michigan. Open year-round, the non-motorized trail follows Americans With Disabilities Act and Recreational Trails guidelines.  
All photos by Bob Wellinski



## “The Starling” — Either You’ll Love it or Hate it

by Andrew Tallackson



Melissa McCarthy and Chris O'Dowd star as a couple devastated by loss in “The Starling.”

I get why “The Starling” is dividing audiences. Either you buy into its premise...or dismiss it as Lifetime channel hooley.

Which it is. No denying that. The Netflix film is a 1 hour 42 minute therapy session, but in the hands of director Theodore Melfi and a phenomenal cast that includes Melissa McCarthy, Chris O'Dowd, Timothy Olyphant, Loretta Devine, Daveed Diggs, Skyler Gisondo, Rosalind Chao and the great Kevin Kline, it is a gentle, heartfelt journey.

I like Melfi's films. Not just the perfection of “Hidden Figures” (2016), but also his little-seen Bill Murray comedy “St. Vincent” (2014), which also featured McCarthy. The thing with his films is, there are no big special effects, no explosions. He tells stories that are deeply human. They are about people. People you care about. You realize you're in the hands of a guy who knows how to tell a good story.

In “The Starling,” he introduces a couple devastated by loss. McCarthy is Lily and O'Dowd her husband, Jack. A year earlier, they lost their daughter to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or SIDS. Jack blames himself, having overslept the morning of her death. After attempting suicide, he's admitted to a residential mental-health facility about an hour north of their home.

Sounds like a downer, but Melfi, working from a script by relative newcomer Matt Harris, invests genuine humor into these characters. Right when we fear the drama has become melodrama, McCar-



### “The Starling”

Running time: 102 minutes. Netflix. Rated PG-13 for thematic material, some strong language and suggestive material.

thy and O'Dowd drop a line, a hilarious quip, that proves the movie knows it's schmaltz, but aims to skirt around it.

True, the film takes a cutesy approach to the mental health patients. They exist as disposable comic relief. And the use of the title bird as a metaphor for surviving grief and loneliness is pure cheese...until McCarthy reacts to it with self-aware snark.

We appreciate that, the delicate balance between the fresh and the familiar. And we savor Kline (the Oscar winner for “A Fish Called Wanda”) as a former psychiatrist-turned veterinarian who becomes Lily's unexpected confidante. Seeing Kline do what he does best – invest dialogue with layers of meaning, twist a phrase or reaction into something deeper – we realize we've missed him. Kline is one of the few actors whose presence revolves around wisdom. A perceptive nature bathed in loopy observations. The scenes between him and McCarthy are the most affecting in “The Starling,” and they usher it into the moving final act as Lily and Jack climb the symbolic mountains holding them back. The movie finds its soul in quiet moments where O'Dowd and



The scenes between Melissa McCarthy and Kevin Kline are the heart of the movie.

McCarthy summon the courage to start over.

Despite the success of "Hidden Figures," Melfi, as a director, flies under the radar. He does not get any credit. He definitely knows how to compose an image. His camera has a way of slowly closing in on the actors, allowing their faces to tell the story. And he again turns to composer Benjamin Wallfisch – his score for 2017's "It" is classic – to beautifully accentuate a scene without exploiting it.

Cynics are having a field day with "The Starling." They dismiss it as junk.

Skip those reviews.

The movie is a sweet surprise.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

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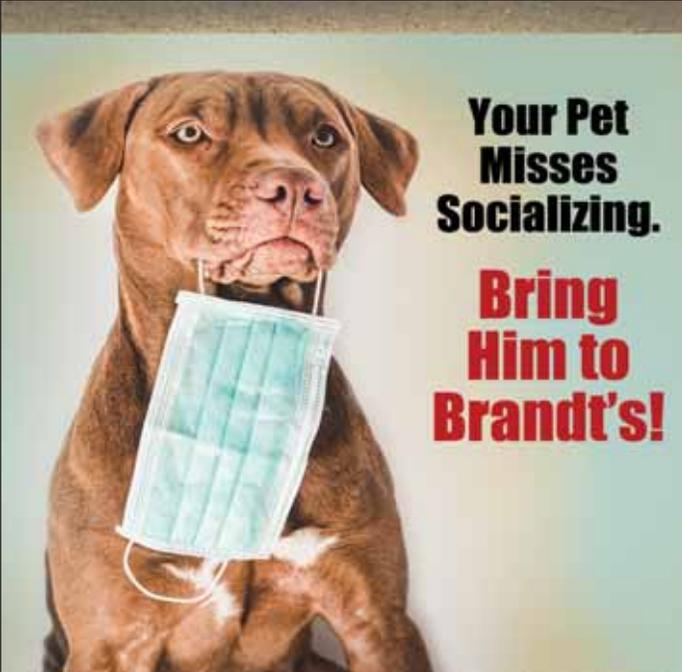
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## Michigan City Public Library

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 Friends of the Michigan City Public Library book sale is Oct. 21-23 at the library. Donations can be dropped off from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday at Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau, 4073 Franklin St. Donations can include magazines, children's books and puzzles.

*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](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/58cnu2vn) and log in with a library card number.

*The following programs are scheduled:*

- **Duneland Stamp Club at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14.** The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.
- **Henri Matisse-Inspired Vase and Flower Drawing at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14 through Zoom.** Learn how to draw a vase and flowers based on Matisse's artwork. Participants will use lines, shapes and angles to complete drawings using colored pencils or watercolor pen-

cils. Call (219) 873-3049 to register or for more information.

- **Bookmarks: American Dirt at noon Friday, Oct. 15.** Therese Oniskin will review the book by Jeanine Cummins, which tells the story of an immigrant mother and son, and their struggle to flee cartel violence and settle in America.
- **Writing Out Loud at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16.** Professor Edward Curtis IV is a scholar of Muslim-American, African-American and Arab-American history and life. His 13 books have been called "essential," "exemplary," "approachable," "groundbreaking," "must-read," "wonderful" and "a model of clarity." *Publishers Weekly* named Muslims in America: A Short History (Oxford, 2009) one of the best 100 books of 2009. *Library Journal* called his two-volume *Encyclopedia of Muslim-American History* one of



Curtis IV

the "best reference works of 2010." Recent works include Muslims of the Heartland: How Syrian Immigrants Made a Home in the American Midwest (New York University Press) and Arab Indianapolis (Belt Publishing). He is William M. and Gail M. Plater chair of the liberal arts and professor of religious studies at the Indiana University School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI.

- **Tinkercad Virtual Workshop: Design a 3-D Halloween Print on Monday-Saturday, Oct. 18-23.** Participants ages 8-17 have six days to design, tinker and submit 3-D creations. Dave Fink can meet through Zoom for those who need help with projects. No prior experience is necessary. Email Dave at [dfink@mclib.org](mailto:dfink@mclib.org) or call (219) 873-3045 for more details. All registered participants receive a free 3-D print of their creations. Printing time is limited to five hours per participant. MCPL 3-D printing rules apply. Registration is required at [tinyurl.com/19vgzvxe](http://tinyurl.com/19vgzvxe)
- **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/](http://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.



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





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## A Hot Rod Road Trip

Editor's note — The following article was submitted by Steve Barnes, A.K. Smith Career Center Automotive Technology instructor.



A.K. Smith Automotive Technology students who went on the field trip to Lucas Oil Raceway included (from left) Colt Weatherwax, Triston Mealer, Ben Moe, Devon Wehrly, Ty Stacy, Ashten Bulger and Jonathan Vickery.

Recently, I took seven of my second-year Automotive Technology students to a National Hot Rod Association Nationals Drag Racing event hosted by the NHRA's Youth Education Services at Lucas Oil Raceway in Indianapolis.

Triston Mealer, a Michigan City High School senior and A.K. Smith automotive student, said this was "the best field trip ever, hands down."

I'm not actually the best person to review a drag racing event, not being a huge fan myself. However, no matter what you're into, you *have* to appreciate the sheer power, technology and teamwork needed to make a 1,200-pound car — put together in someone's garage — reach more than 200 mph in 1,000 feet and stop safely.

We started off the day by meeting trades vendors, technical schools and potential employers in the automotive and motorsports industries. Of course, these activities wouldn't come without free stuff — a treasure trove of "swag" being handed out.

We then moved into the stands, where we were seated and listened to a presentation by representatives from NHRA, Western Tech (a premier technical college), an owner/driver of a top-tier NHRA race team and an executive from Ford Motor Co. The message was clear: *"Find what you love and find a way to make money doing it."* All of the students were inspired. After a Q&A session, we were

released into the main raceway.

That's when the real fun began ....

We walked under the first set of grandstands, and it was clear: This was going to be a *loud* day. Cars were racing down the drag strip and action was getting under way.

We decided to divide into groups and explore the entire Lucas Oil Raceway. It takes about half an hour to walk one lap around the track — that is, if you don't stop for the constant photo-ops or wait in line for food that makes your mouth water as soon you enter the track. There are cars on display ranging from modern muscle to classic custom, and hot rods from the 1930s all the way to the 1990s.

It's important to note that every NHRA race ticket also is a "pit pass." That means we could get up close and personal (I'm talking shoulder-to-shoulder) with racers, cars, mechanics and celebrities.

Eventually, we had to sit down and enjoy some racing. You could feel the rumble in the aluminum bleachers beneath you. When 1,000+ horsepower decides to motivate a muscle car down a drag strip, there is something primal that everyone in the stands can feel, but scarcely explain. It truly is something you have to experience.

Admittedly, the noise is almost unbearable. Many people bring noise-cancelling headphones or ear plugs. Fortunately for me, a stranger gave me a pair

of ear plugs, saying, "I'm half deaf already, you need 'em more than me." I was grateful. Even with ear plugs, the cars are deafening at launch.

Racing went on for several hours. Being a national championship event, there were so many cars and different classes, we didn't get to see it all. Once you start watching the racing, even though it's only two cars at a time, you start to cheer for a favorite and get drawn into the drama and excitement of it all.

There were some close calls and one crash.

Colt Weatherwax, an MCHS senior, recalled seeing the crash that broke the car's axle, saying he was amazed at how quickly the cars were repaired.

Mealer was amazed, saying, "They would rebuild an entire engine in 45 minutes!"

Toward the middle of the afternoon, rain started to drizzle, and track workers kept stopping to clean and dry the track. Knowing we had a long trip ahead of us (since we left the A.K. Smith building at 5:30 a.m.), we voted to hit the road.

Fortunately, the adventure didn't end there — I love road trips! To prove this was an educational field trip, I began grilling the class about what they learned throughout the day.

As we traveled north, toward home, we discovered that teenagers like to eat multiple times a day. The following may come as a shameless plug for a business, but I have to emphasize it is not: Finding our way toward a detour on U.S. 421, a South Central student recommended a small place called The Patio in Francesville. While it's not a black-tie venue, the drive-in offers typical American fare at great prices, tremendous service and a much-needed smile at the end of a long day.

This is the fourth year I have taken a field trip like this, and I know these kids will remember this for the rest of their lives, telling their kids about the experience.

Weatherwax said this was his first time visiting the Lucas Oil Raceway for a drag race, and he seriously enjoyed the trip. Mealer said he visited once as a child, but was still shocked at how loud the cars were.

Jonathon Vickery, another MCHS senior, said his favorite part was meeting the Ford and Dodge vendors, as well as the technical schools.

All three of these students plan on attending Wy-



The green Mustang grabbed students' attention for a couple of reasons. First, the engine sticking out of the hood has a "blower" that can increase torque and horsepower exponentially. The other is how low the car is sitting. Race cars need a low center of gravity for better handling and aerodynamics. Michigan City High School Senior Colt Weatherwax took this photo.



Every ticket to an NHRA event is a "Pit Pass." By entering the track, spectators get up close and personal to racers, technicians and team owners. One of the most fun parts of the day is watching technicians disassemble, reassemble and start up a dragster in under 45 minutes. This photo was taken by Michigan City High School Senior Jonathon Vickery.

oTech (formerly known as Wyoming Technical Institute) next year, hoping to have careers one day as diesel mechanics or an automotive diesel technician mechanic.

I'm proud to have been able to offer that. They deserve it, and I want the rest of the world to know what cool opportunities we offer.



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## LCSO in the Spotlight



Jenn Mount.

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

Violist Jenn Mount grew up in Porter County and graduated from Portage High School, where she excelled in sports and made All-State honors orchestra (viola) in her sophomore, junior and senior years. While in high school, she also played with the Valparaiso University Community Orchestra.

Although Mount entered Ball State University as a music major, she graduated as an education major with an emphasis in mathematics. She is entering her 37th year of teaching math and her 36th with LaPorte High School. She stopped playing viola for many years, but took it back up in 2011 and became an LCSO member. In her free time, she loves hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing and kayaking.

## NB Library Community Forum

The Friends of the New Buffalo Library will present a program on baseball and the House of David at 6:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Oct. 14, in the Pokagon Room at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Benjamin and Mary Purnell founded a religious commune, the Israelite House of David, in Benton Harbor, Mich., in 1903. They also started a host of businesses meant to publicize the group and generate income. The House of David was heavily invested in Southwest Michigan's fruit-growing industry, and operated a cold storage facility in Benton Harbor. It owned hotels, an amusement park, even a gold mine. But the group's most famous venture was a bearded, long-haired baseball team that attracted big crowds in the 1920s and 1930s as they traveled the country, and more than a few times added celebrated major leaguers, including pitchers Grover Cleveland Alexander and Satchel Paige, to their lineups.

The speaker is Brian Carrol, Israelite House of David historian and archivist.

The Community Forum program is free. Face masks are requested.

## School Yearbooks Needed

Staff with The Fern Eddy Schultz Research Library at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., are seeking yearbooks to complete its LaPorte County schools archive.

Needed are:

- Elston: 1957, 1963, 1973, 1985, 1987 and 1989.
- LaPorte High School: 1996 and 1997.

Anyone who has these editions, and is willing to donate them, can contact Collections Manager Jacy Dare at [collections@laportecountyhistory.org](mailto:collections@laportecountyhistory.org)

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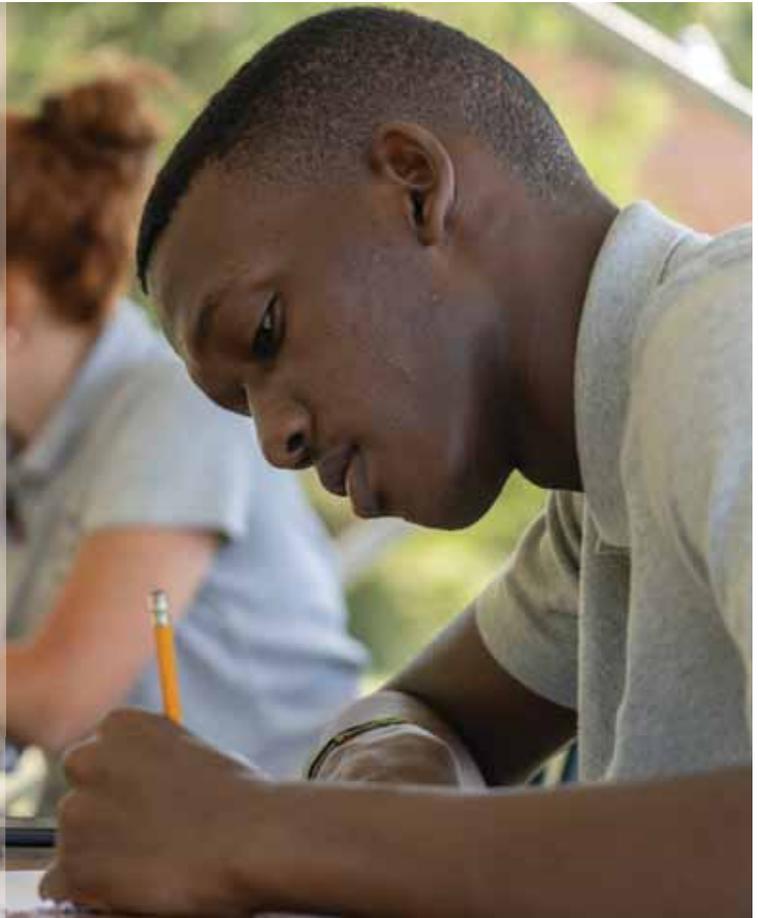
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## Indiana Dunes National Park

• **Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekends through Oct. 15 at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

Visitors can make crafts that celebrate Hispanic heritage in the United States, and read about the Hispanic heritage of national park employees.

• **The ranger-led “Hike with your Hound” through Miller Woods is from 10 a.m.-noon Fridays in October at the Paul Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

All dogs must be on a lead. Make sure the pet can do the two-mile hike over a moderately difficult trail, with some sandy and uneven surfaces. Much of the trail is in sun, adding to the difficulty on a hot day. Also, take water and waste bags.

Doing the hike qualifies a pet for a B.A.R.K Ranger dog tag. The program promotes responsible use of the park by pet owners by ensuring they bag their pet's waste, use a leash, respect wildlife and know where pets are permitted. The tags are free thanks to the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

*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.*

## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following programs will be offered:*

The 32nd Northwest Indiana Storytelling Festival is Friday-Saturday, Oct. 15-16. All programs are outdoors, but move into the Nature Center Auditorium or a nearby shelter if the weather is poor. Dress for the weather, and take a lawn chair for social distancing.

• **Stories and Sing Alongs from 7-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 15.**

Folk musician Luke Nover and Northwest Indiana Storytellers will perform at the campground shelter next to campsite 113. Friends of the Indiana Dunes will provide treats. Parking is available at the Nature Center or campground gate overflow parking lots.

• **Stories for Children from 10:30 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 16.**

Stories told with puppets and props are planned at the Nature Center Auditorium fire ring.

• **Storyteller's Favorites from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16.**

Listen to stories at the Nature Center fire ring.

• **Stories from Around the World and an Open Mic from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16.**

Stories will be shared before the open-mic portion of the program at the Nature Center fire ring.

• **Ghost Stories from 5:30-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16.**

The free open-air concert is at the Nature Center fire ring, so take a blanket and/or lawn chair. Two sessions are planned: children 7 and younger from 5:30-6:30 p.m., then youth 8 and older from 7-8 p.m. Friends of the Indiana Dunes will provide cider and cookies.

• **The JD Marshall Shipwreck Story Today & Long Ago at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 17.**

Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium as a naturalist describes one of Lake Michigan's shipwreck stories. The Indiana University Underwater Archaeology Department will provide new photographs and displays.

*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.*



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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](http://www.laportecountyparks.org) for more details.

### Healthy Lifestyles

The free social club meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Programs focus on health trends, gardening, medical information and balancing active lifestyles. Call at least one week in advance to sign up (the maximum allowed is 30).

The schedule is:

- Nov. 3 — Understanding Medicare Parts A, B, C and D, and the upcoming annual enrollment period, Megan Rogers, State Health Insurance Assistance Program specialist.

### 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. 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:

- Oct. 20 — Deer Crossing.
- Nov. 3 — What's For Dinner?
- 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. Oct. 18 and 25, Nov. 8 and 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.

### Plant Base Life

Marcy Daily leads the free program from 6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, at Luhr County Park.

Learn tricks and substitute ingredients for everyday recipes, from what it is to where to find green items locally. Call by one week before to register.

### Tails from the Trails

Park board member Rob Knickrehm will discuss his journey along the Appalachian Trail from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, in the Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Call one week before the program to register.

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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:*

- **Teen D&D from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 18, at the main library Meeting Room A.** The program involves a cooperative tabletop role-playing game for teens 13-18. Registration is required.
- **Teen Advisory Board from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19.** The board allows teens in seventh grade and older to share ideas and get involved. Volunteer opportunities include: teaching younger students in the Maker Lab during STEAM classes; recommending library services and materials by creating displays; creating social media content; helping serve after school snacks; proposing special projects.
- **Age Well — Aging and the Law from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19, in the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.** Tory Prasco, an attorney specializing in elder law, will discuss estate planning, living wills and guardianship

*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.*

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## SMSO Opening Concert

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will present its opening concert, which includes the viola concerto "Masks: A Heroine's Tale," at 4 p.m. EDT Sunday, Oct. 17, at Howard Performing Arts Center.

The program explores music that celebrates the strength and resilience of women. Music Director finalist Matthew Aubin will conduct a suite of excerpts from Bizet's "Carmen," while violist Mitsuru Kubo will perform Jeremy Crosmer's viola concerto "Masks: A Heroine's Tale." The composer wrote the five-movement concerto to "draw attention to the different ways women shine in society," according to a press release. The program concludes with Tchaikovsky's "Fourth Symphony."



Aubin

Single tickets cost:

- Zone A: adults, \$35, students, \$5.
- Zone B: adults, \$20, students, \$5.

The Grand Series includes four concerts:

- Zone A: \$166.
- Zone B: \$70.

Howard Performing Arts Center is located at 4160 E. Campus Circle Drive at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. Contact SMSO at (269) 982-4030 or visit [www.smso.org](http://www.smso.org) for reservations or more details.

## Grand Prix 2021 Update

Expanding Michigan City's 2021 Great Lakes Grand Prix by continuing with the two races this year paid off, setting all-time attendance and earnings records, according to Visit Michigan City LaPorte Visitors Bureau.

A total of 249,400 people visited the 12th annual event Aug. 4-8, generating \$17.7 million for LaPorte County's economy. Adding the AquaX events again was successful, a press release states.

The Economic Impact report is by Certec Inc., a marketing analysis group from Lexington, Ky. The report shows visitors from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Florida spent \$11.8 million on food, beverages, shopping and transportation, accounting for a large portion of the \$17.7 million in earnings. Local residents contributed an additional \$913,000 in direct spending. Jobs directly related to the Grand Prix provided more than \$3.9 million in wages to LaPorte County workers.

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## Inspiring Women Luncheon

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch is the keynote speaker at Michigan City Chamber of Commerce's annual "Inspiring Women" luncheon, which is from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, at Blue Chip Casino's Fremont Event Center.



Crouch

The event recognizes women for contributions to their community, the economy and their selected career field. Speakers and panelists from a variety of backgrounds have participated in the event since 2011.

As lieutenant governor, Crouch oversees a portfolio that includes the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, Office of Community and Rural Affairs and Office of Tourism Development. She also is president of the Senate and chairwoman of the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Task Force. Prior to her role as lieutenant governor, she served in public offices on local and state levels.

A PNC Bank representative will make welcoming remarks and introduce Crouch. Michigan City High School students will attend as guests.

The luncheon is open to the public. The cost is \$25 for chamber members and \$30 for non-members. Registration is required by calling (219) 874-6221 or visiting [www.MichiganCityChamber.com](http://www.MichiganCityChamber.com)

## Trivia Through the Decades

Meals on Wheels LaPorte County will host its Trivia through the Decades at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Doors open at 6 p.m. General admission is \$10 per person, with eight-person teams requested. Table sponsorships include gold (\$400) and silver (\$250). Cash prizes, a silent auction, cash bar and 50/50 raffle are planned. Preregistration is available at [www.laportecountymealsonwheels.org](http://www.laportecountymealsonwheels.org)

The goal is to raise \$15,000.

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## 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.



# American Red Cross

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

- American Legion, 107 N. Flynn Road, Westville, noon-5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14.

*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.*

## Cheers to 40 Years

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will host its 40th anniversary celebration, "Cheers to 40 Years," from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14, at the William E. Urschel Pavilion in Valparaiso's Central Park Plaza.

The event is free. Aftermath Cidery and Running Vines Winery will offer free cider and wine tastings, with small bites prepared by Ivy's Bohemia House and Val's Cakes. Also planned are four musical performances by The Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Visit [www.heinzetrust.org](http://www.heinzetrust.org), call (219) 242-8558 or access the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/heinzetrust](http://www.facebook.com/heinzetrust) for more details.

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### Box Factory for the Arts

A four-week series emphasizing composition and drawing techniques starts Thursday, Oct. 21, at The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.



Payovich

The classes, taught by local artist Matt Payovich, meet from 6-8 p.m. EDT in the Jean Gast Classroom on the Box Factory's main level. During the first class, Payovich will demonstrate basic drawing techniques and provide a materials list. A minimum of five students and a maximum of 10 are required. The non-refundable fee is \$100 for Berrien Artist Guild Inc. members and \$125 for non-members.

Registration is available by calling the box office at (269) 983-3688, at [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org) or by email to [judy@boxfactoryforthearts.org](mailto:judy@boxfactoryforthearts.org)

Also, the deadline to submit an online application for Makers Market 2021 is Friday, Oct. 22.

The event is from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. EDT on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 27. Details and an application are available at [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org)

All applications must include a minimum of three or maximum of five photos, and price ranges of all items submitted through the website or emailed to [michelle@boxfactoryforthearts.org](mailto:michelle@boxfactoryforthearts.org). Entries will be juried to ensure quality and pricing standards are met. Selected artisans will be announced on or about Oct. 29. There is no application fee; however, those selected must pay a booth fee.

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OCT. 5, 2021

TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
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1. Lady Strikers	10	6
2. Gutter Busters	9	7
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE	
1. Mary Lou McFadden		175
2. Shelley Dunleavy		172
3. June Salmon		156
3. Pat Collado		156
4. Lisa Albers		151
SPLITS		
Carolyn Wiggins		2-7-8
3 STRIKES IN A ROW		
Mary Lou McFadden		

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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**Oct. 14** — Henri Matisse-Inspired Vase and Flower Drawing, 6:30 p.m., through Zoom (Michigan City Public Library). Registration: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 15** — Bookmarks: American Dirt, noon, Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 15** — Stories and Sing Alongs, 7-8 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Oct. 16** — Stories for Children, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Oct. 16** — Storyteller's Favorites, 1-2:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Oct. 16** — Stories from Around the World and an Open Mic, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Oct. 16** — Ghost Stories, 5:30-8 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Oct. 16** — Writing Out Loud (Professor Edward Curtis IV), 7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Oct. 17** — LaPorte Community Concert Association, The Spaniels Forever, 2 p.m., Kesling Intermediate School Auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte. Tickets @ door: \$20/adults, \$5/students. Info: (219) 362-5292.

**Oct. 17** — The JD Marshall Shipwreck Story Today & Long Ago, 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Oct. 18** — Teen D&D, 5:30-7:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library Meeting Room A, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

**Oct. 18-23** — Tinkercad Virtual Workshop: Design a 3-D Halloween Print, Michigan City Public Library. Registration: [tinyurl.com/19vgzvx](http://tinyurl.com/19vgzvx). Info: [dfink@mclib.org](mailto:dfink@mclib.org), (219) 873-3045.

**Oct. 19** — Plant Base Life, 6-7:30 p.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center, 178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. Free. Info/registration: (219) 325-8315, [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org)

**Through Oct. 15** — Exhibit, "Bramson/Indiana/Lake," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org)

**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](mailto:kd3627@hotmail.com)

**Saturdays** — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth and Washington streets (Uptown Arts District).

**Saturdays** — LaPorte Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Lincolnway & Monroe (near Mucho Mas). Info: laportefarmermarket@gmail.com

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

**Second Saturdays** — Free sunset yoga w/ Lauralee Sikorski, Long Beach Realty Stop 31 location. Limited parking. Updates: Long Beach Realty Facebook page.

### **In the Region**

**Oct. 14** — Friends of the New Buffalo Library Community Forum (baseball/House of David), 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Face masks requested.

**Oct. 15** — “Flick-or-Treat,” 7 p.m. EDT, Coastline Children’s Film Festival’s storefront offices, Flynn Theatre Building, 5861 Sawyer Road, Sawyer, Mich. Cost: \$2 donation. Info: [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org)

**Oct. 17** — “Rising Again” (School of American Music Family Concert Series), 3 p.m. EDT, Converge Church, 601 W. Buffalo St., New Buffalo, Mich. Free, reservations: [www.schoolofamericanmusic.com/tickets](http://www.schoolofamericanmusic.com/tickets)

**Oct. 17** — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, “Masks: A Heroine’s Tale,” 4 p.m. EDT, Howard Performing Arts Center, 4160 E. Campus Circle Drive, Berrien Springs, Mich. Tickets: [www.smsso.org](http://www.smsso.org), (269) 982-4030.

**Oct. 17** — Singer-songwriter Sophie B. Hawkins, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generation Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: general admission/\$25, reserved seats (includes \$25 tax-deductible contribution)/\$50. Reservations: [www.acornlive.org/events](http://www.acornlive.org/events)

**Through Oct. 15** — Celebrate Hispanic Heritage, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekends, Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Through Oct. 30** — Series 5 art exhibits, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Featured: St. Joe Valley Watercolor Society, Bryce Culverhouse, Cameron Covert, Susan Sheldon, April Seybold. Artist reception: 5:30-7 p.m. EDT Oct. 16. Info: [www.boxfactoryforthearts.org](http://www.boxfactoryforthearts.org)

**Through Nov. 1** — Opportunity Enterprises student exhibit, Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Info: [www.artbarnschool.org](http://www.artbarnschool.org)

**The Region of Three Oaks Museum** — 5 Featherbone Ave., Three Oaks Mich. Free admission; donations accepted. Hours (Eastern): noon-5 p.m. Friday-Sunday through October.

**Vickers Theatre** — *Now showing*: “Blue Bayou.” Rated R. Times: 3 p.m. Oct. 15-17, 6 p.m. Oct. 18. *Also*: “Dear Evan Hansen.” Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Oct. 15-17, 2:45 p.m. Oct. 18. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: [www.vickerstheatre.com](http://www.vickerstheatre.com), (269) 756-3522.

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# World Series



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**On October 14, 1906**, the Chicago White Sox beat the Chicago Cubs 8-3, winning the only World Series ever played between the two crosstown rivals.

**On October 14, 1912**, former President Theodore Roosevelt, while campaigning in Milwaukee for a third term, was shot and wounded. He spoke at a scheduled rally, went to a hospital and had his wound treated, then traveled to Chicago.

**On October 14, 1916**, James Barnes of Philadelphia won the first Professional Golfers Association tournament played at Mount Vernon, N.Y.

**On October 14, 1930**, singer Ethel Merman gained fame of sorts when while singing "I Got Rhythm," held a high C for 16 bars.

**On October 14, 1947**, Air Force Capt. Charles "Chuck" Yeager, testing a rocket-powered plane over Muroc, Calif., became the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound.

**On October 15, 1860**, 11-year-old Grace Bedell of Westfield, N.Y., wrote a letter to presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln, suggesting he could improve his appearance by growing a beard.

**On October 15, 1928**, the German dirigible Graf Zeppelin made the first commercial flight across the Atlantic, landing in Lakehurst, N.J.

**On October 15, 1951**, the TV series "I Love Lucy" starring Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz premiered on CBS.

**On October 15, 1976**, in the first debate of its kind between vice-presidential nominees, Democrat Walter Mondale and Republican Bob Dole faced off in Houston.

**On October 16, 1790**, Congress established the District of Columbia as the permanent seat of the U.S. government.

**On October 16, 1846**, at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. John C. Warren performed the first public operation with the patient under the anesthetic effects of ether.

**On October 16, 1943**, Chicago Mayor Edward Kelly officially opened the city's new subway system.

**On October 16, 1962**, the Cuban missile crisis was under way as President John Kennedy was informed that photographs revealed the presence of Soviet missile bases in Cuba.

**On October 16, 1972**, a light plane, carrying Louisiana Congressman Hale Boggs and three other

men was reported missing in Alaska. The plane was never found.

**On October 17, 1824**, New York City's boarding-house keepers, because of the high cost of living, banded together and voted to serve their boarders only four prunes for breakfast.

**On October 17, 1869**, James Gordon Bennett, publisher of *The New York Herald*, directed Henry M. Stanley to find Scottish missionary David Livingstone who was reported to be missing in Africa.

**On October 17, 1919**, the Radio Corporation of America, or RCA, was created.

**On October 17, 1931**, a federal court in Chicago convicted mobster Al Capone of income-tax invasion. He was sentenced to 11 years in prison and fined \$50,000.

**On October 18, 1867**, following its purchase from Russia, the United States took formal possession of Alaska.

**On October 18, 1873**, representatives from Columbia, Princeton, Rutgers and Yale met to draw up the first rules governing intercollegiate football games.

**On October 18, 1892**, the first long-distance telephone line opened between New York and Chicago.

**On October 18, 1997**, a monument honoring American servicewomen was dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery.

**On October 19, 1765**, the "Stamp Act Congress," meeting in New York, drew up a declaration of rights and liberties.

**On October 19, 1879**, Thomas Edison conducted the first successful demonstration of his electric light.

**On October 19, 1944**, Marlon Brando made his stage debut in Broadway's "I Remember Mama."

**On October 19, 1960**, Martin Luther King, along with 52 other blacks, was arrested in a sit-down demonstration at an Atlanta department store.

**On October 19, 1977**, the supersonic Concorde made its first landing in New York.

**On October 20, 1873**, P.T. Barnum opened the New York Hippodrome as the home for his "Greatest Show on Earth."

**On October 20, 1910**, a baseball with a cork center was used for the first time in a World Series game.

**On October 20, 1944**, during World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur stepped ashore in the Philippines, 2 1/2 years after his famous statement, "I shall return."

**On October 20, 1954** "Peter Pan," starring Mary Martin as Peter Pan, opened on Broadway.

**On October 20, 1977**, three members of the rock group Lynyrd Skynyrd were killed in the crash of a chartered plane near McComb, Miss.

# ENVELOPES



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**Saturday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m.-noon**

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**Boys & Girls Clubs Fundraiser**

A local nonprofit hopes to make the community a little brighter this holiday season.

Boys & Girls Clubs of LaPorte County recently kicked off its "Light Up LaPorte County for Great Futures" fundraiser. Through Oct. 29, all individuals and businesses making a donation of \$100 or more receive a string of blue lights to display in December.

BGCLPC provides free youth-development programming. After 25 years in Michigan City, it recently launched a school-based club in Westville. On Oct. 25, the organization will add a fifth club at Kingsford Heights Elementary School, anticipating continued expansion in conjunction with its capital campaign.

"Our 'Light Up LaPorte County for Great Futures' initiative will allow us to replace some of the special event revenue we have lost during the pandemic, while helping us raise awareness about our clubs throughout LaPorte County," BGCLPC Chief Executive Officer Michelle Shirk said in a press release.

Individuals and businesses interested in participating can pick up a donation form at BGCLPC's Charles R. Westcott Club, 321 Detroit St., or at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/lulpc>. Lights will be delivered in November. Call (219) 873-2298 for more information.



## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**The Show Girl by Nicola Harrison** (hardcover, \$27.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 383 pages.)

This week's recommendation takes us to New York City in 1927. Flappers, bathtub gin and the Ziegfeld Follies...

Did she really think the great Mr. Ziegfeld of the famous Ziegfeld Follies would remember little 'ol Olive McCormick? It was a year ago, and she was singing with a traveling opera company in San Jose, Calif. Sure, he told her to look him up when she was in NYC, but was she that naive? Surely, she must have known dozens of young women, some of them more talented than her, were after an audition with the great Ziegfeld.

Yes, Olive is the perfect size and shape with great symmetrical features, and she can sing as well as dance — pretty good, too. So what? Ah, youth and ambition. Sometimes a winning combination, sometimes not.

There are many rags-to-riches stories out there, but I classify this one as more a cotton-to-riches story. Olive comes from a solid middle-class family in Minnesota — mom, dad and two brothers. This is no abandoned, abused child. Her mother encouraged her with dance and singing lessons, but she never thought her daughter would want a career on the stage. And her father? Don't ask.

Remember, this is 1927, and the most a girl could hope for is an ambitious husband who provides for her and their children while she happily cooks, cleans and sings her husband's praises.

Not what Olive is looking for. She wants a rich career on the stage — costumes! staging! orchestra! — and her the star in the middle.

While working with the opera company in California, Olive meets a man one night who says he is a producer and can get her on the stage. Red flag! But all Olive sees is green — money that is, and a star on her dressing room door.

What she gets is pregnant. Her mother sends her off to her Aunt Mary, where she stays until the birth. It is not an easy one, and the doctor tells her she will never have another baby. The baby is adopted out and Olive sent back to her parents' home. End of story? Of course not.

A job offer soon comes her father's way and the family moves to New York City. Olive is ecstatic! Here is that chance to go see Mr. Ziegfeld. Of course, Olive just walks right up to his office and tells the

secretary she is expected. And, of course, he doesn't remember her at first, but tells her this season's girls are already hired and she will have to wait for next spring to audition. Wow. Not the reception she was expecting.

She finds a job soon after with a smaller company as a singer and dancer and makes do — it is a paycheck after all. Before long, Ziegfeld is made aware of the name Olive makes for herself and calls her back, offering her a job at the astounding salary of \$75 per week to be in the Follies.

She becomes a hit on the stage, and when Ziegfeld decides to open his Midnight Frolic — “a 680-seat rooftop supper club” — she becomes a real star. Young men, and old, too, send all kinds of gifts to her dressing room — money, flowers, even a mink coat and jewelry. After the show, she and the other girls make the rounds of other nightclubs until the break of day.

Of course, she meets the man she thought she never would. Archie Carmichael not only is young and handsome, but also a successful businessman, traveling between New York and his hometown of Cincinnati. They fall hard for each other, what could possibly go wrong? Everything, of course.

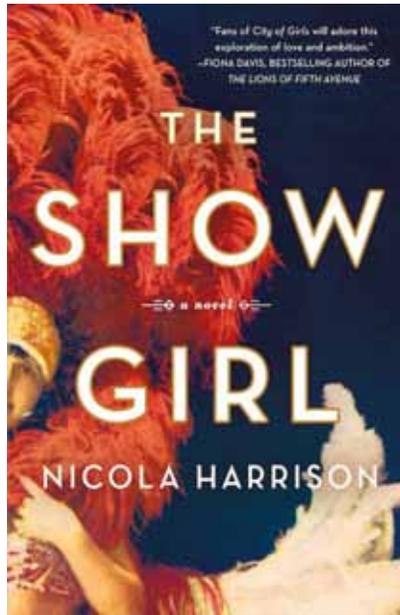
The story follows Olive from 1927 to the October 1929 Stock Market Crash. Harrison picks the perfect time for Olive's story to begin and end as the country is going good and the economy booming. Speakeasies are going strong and The Ziegfeld Follies is the toast of the town. But what will happen to Olive and Archie when his businesses go bust in the Crash and theaters go dark? The cotton-to-riches story now becomes the riches-to-crash story...

Girls like Olive were trying to break out of the mold of their mothers and grandmothers and live on their own terms. When women got the right to vote in 1920, and the rest of the “Roaring 20s” saw shifting morals and lifestyles, the impetus and the means to go out and follow their dreams were a whole new world to these young women. It's a backstage look at a way of life we cannot comprehend today.

It's interesting to note that Olive, with all her modern ways, still had a part of her that wanted, above all, her parent's acceptance and approval — “*Not having their approval felt as though I didn't have their love, and if I didn't have their love, then who was I?*” Indeed.

An absolutely delightful read.

Till next time, happy reading!



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