



A Landmark Route

by William Halliar

There are roads...and then there are *roads*.

Abbey Road. Route 66. The Appian Way. Bourbon Street. Sunset Boulevard. Dirt roads and modern superhighways. Some cross famous intersections, like California's Hollywood and Vine. Those of us who grew up in the '60s remember the Haight-Ashbury crossroads in San Francisco.

But no famous road nor intersection hits closer to home, nor is perhaps more influential in Hoosier history, than the intersection of Thomas Jefferson's great National Road and the Michigan Road, a thoroughfare after which Michigan City takes its name. Two early byways that helped build America and shape Indiana's history.

Perhaps no modern innovation is as influential and unappreciated as our modern highway system. The side streets, county roads and superhighways we use daily to commute to our jobs or escape on that much-needed vacation. We leave our driveways and guide our vehicles onto paved roads that connect to other paved roads, and then another, driving to most places in comfort and safety.

It wasn't always this way.

In 1919, a young Lt. Col. Dwight Eisenhower was assigned as an observation officer with the newly formed tank corps. To highlight the sad state of American roads at the time, the



Continued on Page 2

The Michigan Road Historic Byway sign at Washington Street and Michigan Boulevard. Photo by Andrew Tallackson

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A Landmark Route

Continued from Page 1

army organized a cross-country motorized trip from Washington, D.C., to San Francisco. The convoy of 58 trucks, tanks and armored vehicles crossed 11 states and more than 3,000 miles in two months time. The plan was to proceed across the country on the much-lauded Lincoln Highway: the nation's first transcontinental highway dedicated in 1913.

It was quickly discovered the Lincoln Highway, rather than being a finished highway in 1919, "*existed largely in the imagination and on paper*," according to Capt. William Greany, a member of the expeditions command.

In actuality, there was no cross-country highway in 1919.

In The Roads that Built America, Dab McNichol wrote, "*Because of the wretched conditions of the roads, the most important vehicles in the convoy were two artillery tractors. Instead of pulling cannons, these two machines practically towed the convoy to San Francisco. Stationed at the rear of the procession and playing the role of sweeper, the tractors rescued heavy and light vehicles from mud, ditches, creeks, quicksand and deep ravines that were constantly claiming them.*"

Now, back on April 30, 1803, a mere 20 years after the signing of the Treaty of Paris on Sept. 3, 1783, which officially ended the American Revolution, the United States purchased 530 million acres of land west of the Mississippi River for a grand total of \$15 million. President Thomas Jefferson, a forward thinker of great renown, realized to claim this acquisition of

land, it had to be surveyed. On May 14, 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, joined by a company of 45 hearty and brave souls, set out to explore the new territory, returning to civilization to report their findings in September of 1806.

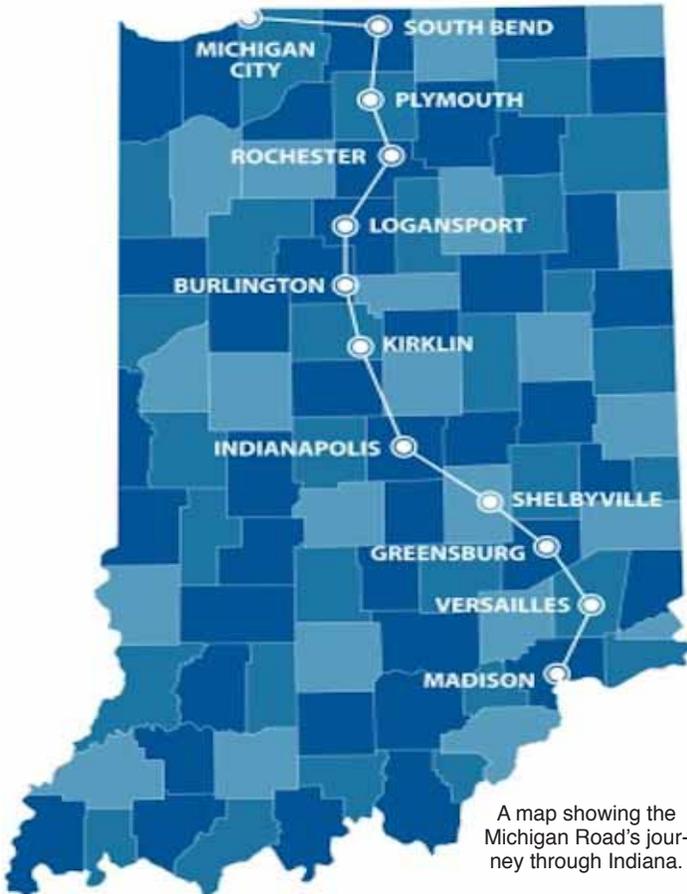
Jefferson recognized the importance of opening safe, well-marked routes across our fledgling nation so the land could be settled and trade established. He signed legislation in 1806 that established the goal of creating a National Highway that would run from Cumberland, Md., to the Mississippi River, eventually finding its terminus in Vandalia, Ill. The legislation required that the new road would run through each state capitol along its route. This "National Road" would serve as an avenue to open Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan and, he hoped, all of the newly acquired territory of the Louisiana Purchase.

Early explorers of the American west had to find their way past and over the Appalachian Mountains, following game trails and paths used by Native Americans. Some routes, such as the Cumberland Pass, were treacherous, but did not require travelers to scale mountains with horses and wagons. These trails made travel to the west possible, but not at all safe. According to one report, during the summer and fall of 1784, more than 100 travelers were killed by native tribes while trying to cross the mountains.

A route wide enough and of stable enough road bed, that could handle wagons capable of carrying families and trade goods, had to be constructed. Here, American ingenuity came into play as the road was literally cut by hand through the wil-



The boulder featuring the plaque about the Michigan Road, located at the Michigan City Courthouse. Photo by Andrew Tallackson



A map showing the Michigan Road's journey through Indiana.

derness of dense forests and rocky, mountainous terrain. Construction on the National Road began in 1811, the first part beginning at the head waters of the Potomac River in Cumberland and winding its way through the Allegheny Mountains.

In 1829, the National Road reached Indiana, running through its new capital in Indianapolis, which was founded in 1821, and on to Vandalia — 621.4 miles in total. The gateway to the west was opened and pioneers from the east began to pour into the Midwest states. No road can claim to have done more to open up Indiana to pioneers from the east than the great National Road. Still today, as paved superhighways follow the original route, it proudly bears the name, "The road that built a nation."

When Indiana became a state in 1816, it was quickly realized that to prosper and grow, it had to create transportation routes for the settlement of pioneers and movement of goods between its towns and cities. Canals were considered, but expensive to create. Railroads were still an idea of the future.

Think about what it must have been like to travel through the woods and forests of Indiana, over dunes and across marshes and bogs, before roads were cleared and the mudholes drained.

A road had to be built to connect the cities and towns of the fledgling state. And what a road it would be!

In 1826, the Indiana legislature commissioned its first road. It was intended to connect Madison, In-

Continued on Page 4

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A Landmark Route Continued from Page 3

diana's largest town at the time on the Ohio River, to a natural port area yet to be determined on the south shore of Lake Michigan. Along the route, it would pass through the state capitol and cross the National Road. This, of course, made the location of Michigan City "prime property" when the land was purchased and the town laid out by Isaac Elston in 1832, for who can think of a finer natural port along Lake Michigan's southern shore than our own Trail Creek?

This first Indiana road would be called the "Michigan Road."

According to a 2010 Michigan Road Historic Byway Committee report, *"The Michigan Road's history is no less than a microcosm of Indiana's history. Our state's early growth, its booms and busts, its proudest and most shameful moments – all have been played out along the Michigan Road."*

The report continues: *"The Michigan Road was arguably the most important transportation route in the fledgling state of Indiana. The road connected the highly navigable Ohio River to Lake Michigan when waterways were the safest and most efficient routes through the trackless wilderness."*

Add to this that the great National Road crossed the Michigan Road at Indianapolis in the center of the state, and Indiana was truly the "crossroads" of early American history. The road also helped establish Michigan City at the mouth of Trail Creek as an important harbor, creating Indiana's gateway to the world.

In 1826, much of the land here still belonged to Native Americans, specifically the Potawatomi. According to the Michigan Road Historic Byway Committee report, a 1826 treaty with the Potawatomi *"ceded a strip of lane*

100' wide from Lake Michigan to the Wabash River at Logansport" to build the road. Further stipulated in the treaty was that one "section" of good land contiguous to the roadbed from the lake to the Ohio River be included in the treaty. A "section" of land is defined as one square mile, or 640 acres. This land would be sold to private interests and towns that would spring up along the newly constructed road to pay for construction and future maintenance of the Michigan Road.

In 1828, a survey of a possible route was begun.



The Michigan Road monument at National Road in Indianapolis

According to the Michigan Road Historic Byway Committee report, the Michigan Road eventually would cross or touch Indiana's leading waterways, including *"the Ohio, Flat Rock, Muscatatuck, Blue, White, Eel, Wabash, Tippecanoe and Yellow Rivers. It crosses Clifty, Sand, Sugar, Rock, Wildcat and Deer creeks and ends on the sandy shore of Lake Michigan. The road crosses the flat fields of the state's midsection, rolling hills in the south, sand dunes at its northern terminus, and hardwood forests throughout."*

To traverse such a landscape with a road that would sustain the foot, horse and wagon traffic of early pioneers would take planning and construction skills to test the early settlers of our state.

Two routes for the Michigan Road were chosen after the original survey. The first and shortest through the state passed through LaPorte, which was officially established in 1832, but had been a settled area for many years. This route required the road to pass through the swamps along the Kankakee River. The second route was 28 miles longer and passed by the south bend of the St. Joseph River. South Bend was there as a city in 1865.

Building a road through the Kankakee swamp was too great an engineering challenge, so the longer route was chosen.

The machines employed in building roads in the early 1800s were not much different than those used throughout history up until that time. Picks, shovels and horse-drawn scrapers made the work backbreaking at best.



An example of an original road marker.

Work on the southern part of the Michigan Road, from Madison to Logansport, began between August 1830 and November 1831. Construction was supervised by Noah Noble, who became the fifth Indiana governor in 1831. A former colonel in the U.S. Army, he was experienced in leading projects and organizing men.

Road construction north of Logansport would be

much more difficult because there were no towns between there and Lake Michigan. Only a few cabins and an occasional tavern lay in between.

The road as constructed to the original Indiana state requirements was by today's standards more than crude. A 100' path had to be cleared through forests of tangled undergrowth, but stumps could be left in the ground up to 12" in height.

Imagine trying to negotiate such a road with a wagon loaded with wood or produce. Axle-deep mudholes were considered par for the course.

Two Scottish engineers, Thomas Telford and John McAdam, designed what are considered the first modern roads. They envisioned a roadbed with a raised foundation and crowned center for better water drainage. McAdam, born in 1756, devised a road with a harder surface by arranging stones in tight patterns with smaller stones packed over the larger stones in the roadbed. His design is called "McAdam" and was considered a huge improvement over earlier methods. The National Road and Michigan Road employed the McAdam method of construction



The terminus of Michigan Road in Madison, Ind.

over much of their lengths.

Indiana counties were responsible for maintaining their sections of the road as it was built. Eventually, sections were leased to road-building companies that made specific improvements and charged tolls to travelers who wanted a smoother, safer path through the woods and marshes. Since timber was readily available along the route, some

of these companies built wooden plank roads over their dirt roadbeds which, when maintained properly, greatly improved travel.

Bridges also were constructed by these same companies so the many rivers and creeks that intersected with the Michigan Road could be safely and dryly crossed instead of being forded.

The Michigan Road was substantially complete, at least up to state requirements, by 1834. More and more pioneers began to move north, and towns began to spring up along the route.

The importance of the Michigan Road and the route chosen for its construction quickly became ap-

Continued on Page 6

Salvation Army "Stuff A Bus" Food Drive This Saturday Sept. 25, 9 am - 3 pm at both Al's Michigan City Stores



The Salvation Army will have buses parked at both our Karwick and Franklin Street stores, and we're asking for your help to fill them with food for their food pantry. It's so easy! You can buy ready-made bags of food for \$6 each to save time, or buy a special \$5 voucher that will be used for meat credits by the Salvation Army. Of course, if you'd rather pick out your own donations, go for it! Let's all help their dedicated corps of volunteers fill those buses and keep the meals rolling for those in need.

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A Landmark Route Continued from Page 5

parent. The state legislature proposed a bill to create a railroad parallel to the Michigan Road. The Madison & Indianapolis Railroad was built between 1834-1837.

The first railroad chartered in America was to John Stevenson in 1815: The Baltimore and Ohio began in 1830 with 14 miles of track. Building and maintaining railroad roadbeds was much cheaper, and the loads that could be carried would be much heavier than on traditional roads.

According to Michigan Road Historic Byway Committee report, *“The Michigan Road’s importance in the state ebbed and flowed with the introduction of canals and railroads, however, the road continued to connect communities and act as a vital thoroughfare for the common traveler and migrant to the north.”*

Over its long history, the Michigan Road was a path north for our pioneering forebears, an escape path for runaway slaves through the Underground Railway and, sadly, a trail down which Native Americans were removed from their northern lands.

Over the years, the Michigan Road became the “Main Street” of many a farming town that emerged along its route.

The Michigan Road Historic Byway Committee report concludes by noting, *“Because almost the entire road and so much of its roadside architecture*

still exist from those early days, we believe that it is time to invite Hoosiers to explore and celebrate this important part of their heritage...This one road has the ability to showcase all that it means to be a Hoosier and how our state was built.”

More about the Michigan Road

The original road is marked throughout its length and can be followed at tinyurl.com/4ypmf778

Anyone interested can begin their tour of “The road that built our state” at the northern most terminus of the road. Here in Michigan City, it begins at Fourth Street and Willard Avenue at U.S. 12. This intersection has no markings, but there is a plaque in a boulder on the grounds of the Michigan City Courthouse at Washington Street and Michigan Boulevard. It reads, *“Michigan Road from the Ohio River to Lake Michigan passed this corner. Marked by Abijah Bigelow Chapter D.A.R. 1833-1933.”*

The southernmost terminus of the Michigan Road begins where West Street ends on Madison’s old north side; it is marked by a crossroads sign.

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Radio Play Set to Debut at Footlight Theatre

Footlight Players will present “We’re Not in Kansas Anymore,” a comic radio play spin-off of “The Wizard of Oz,” on Friday-Saturday, Sept. 24-26, at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

The fundraiser, written and directed by Robert Komendera, starts with Judy Garland (Lara West) finding a dead munchkin and calling private eye Tony Roberts (Thom Nelson). He soon meets Walter Moss (Bryan Redeagle), an MGM assistant who introduces him to the studio head, Louis B. Mayer (Rick Valle). He quickly puts Tony on the job to find the killer, but quietly avoid any hint of scandal. He meets up with Garland’s assistant, Connie Saint James (Laura Meyer), and questions Rhonda Fleming (Debbie Bartholomew), Ava Gardner (Savannah Holley) and Raymond Chandler (Ryan Otto). Other characters include: a dentist, Marvin Stein (Dan Moser); his



Rehearsing a scene for “We’re Not in Kansas Anymore” are Laura Meyer and Thom Nelson.

brother-in-law, Lt. Peter Kowalski (Ian Pappas); Sylvia Sidney (Diana Hirsch); two body builders, Johnny Bowers (Chris West) and Gary Bundy (Jay Swindell); and three munchkins (David Mikolkajczyk, Michael J. Thomas and Dorthea Holley).

The production is an adult workshop; however, the 15-year-old Otto, who appeared in two youth workshops, portrays Chandler, who was 51 at the time. The crew is Alayna Lauritsen, Declan Rice, Jim Milcarek, Chris West, Michael and Veronica Thomas, Bill Wild and Jaren Swindell.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$15, or \$10 for children 12 and younger. The theater only seats 80, so reservations are recommended in person, by phone at (219) 874-4035 or at www.footlightplayers.org. Face masks are required.



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SAM to Present “Some Enchanted Evening” Outdoor Concert

The School of American Music will present “Some Enchanted Evening,” an outdoor concert of musical vignettes, on Saturday, Sept. 25, on the Spring Creek Stage in Dewey Canon Park, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich.

Concertgoers are invited to take a blanket, lawn chairs and dinner basket for the pre-concert outdoor dinner at 5 p.m. EDT. Prizes will be awarded for the best dining set-up. The concert starts at 6 p.m. EDT.

The program features soprano Martha Cares and tenor Matthew Daniel singing classics from musicals such as “Guys & Dolls,” “Les Misérables” and “South Pacific!”

Cares is a respected opera singer and longtime cast member of “The Phantom of the Opera” in New York City. Her studio, Art Dog, is located in



Cares



Daniel

Sawyer, Mich, and supports her organization, My Rescue, which helps animal rescue nationwide through her work as a visual artist.

Daniel, a Lyric Opera of Chicago veteran, has appeared in operatic productions ranging from “Don Giovanni” to “La Boheme.” He has performed countless oratorios, including “Magnificat” by J.S. Bach, “Messiah” by Handel, Beethoven’s

Ninth Symphony and Mozart’s “Requiem.”

Last March, he joined the SAM faculty, offering voice lessons.

Tax deductible tickets cost \$50 and can be purchased at www.schoolofamericanmusic.com or by calling (269) 409-1191. The event will benefit SAM’s Future Fund endowment campaign, with proceeds matched by the Michiana Arts Foundation.

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Save the Dunes Partners with Long Beach on Dune Restoration

Few projects are more near and dear to Save the Dunes than ones where they actually get to save a dune. Through a partnership with Long Beach, and funding in part by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake Michigan Coastal Program, they did just that.

Beginning in 2019, Save the Dunes and Long Beach began efforts to restore the natural dune habitat and enhance public access at Stop 24. There, it was overrun with invasive plant species, and the path to Lake Michigan was steep and treacherous.

In 2020, the town hired a contractor that completed site grading, installation of an ADA/ABA-compliant path system, fencing installation, invasive species removal and native plant installation. The site now is more accessible to the public, and the dune habitat has been cleared of invasive plant species and stabilized with marram grass, which is already coming up.

This year, Save the Dunes provided Long Beach with a maintenance plan to ensure long-term care of the site. They met with town staff and community members to discuss the restoration process, and what must be done to protect the ecosystem.

Visit www.savedunes.org or www.facebook.com/savedunes for more details.



Three Oaks Virtual Stroll

The Region of Three Oaks Museum will present a virtual stroll down historic Elm Street at 4 p.m. EDT Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 25-26, starting at Three Oaks Heritage Hall, 8 E. Linden St.

Elm Street has been Three Oaks' main thoroughfare for about 170 years. TROTOM Board Member Nick Bogert, drawing on two years of research, has created two PowerPoint programs that include details on:

- The African-American who was one of the village's first residents.
- Robbers who blew open a safe in 1880, and the business that installed gun ports in its counters in the 1930s.
- The pioneering female merchant whose store burned down twice.
- The local tavern that was rebuilt, to scale, on a movie soundstage.
- Why 116 people clambered into a single hay wagon to come downtown in 1910.
- Who played music at silent movies shown in Three Oaks, and how they knew what and when to play.

Masks are required for those not vaccinated while indoors. A donation to the museum will be collected: \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members. Call Bogert at (773) 991-6239 for details.

An advertisement for Brandt's Pet Emporium. It features a brown dog sitting and holding a light blue surgical face mask in its mouth. The text on the right says "Your Pet Misses Socializing. Bring Him to Brandt's!". At the bottom, it says "BRANDT'S -OLD FASHION- FEED, PET & WILDLIFE EMPORIUM, INC. We Have Perfected Knowledgeable Service 309 West US 12 • Michigan City, IN • 219.874.4188". There is also a Facebook logo in the bottom left corner.



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History Museum Fundraising Gala

The History Museum's annual fundraising gala, which supports exhibits and programs, is from 5:30-7:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 30, in the Oliver Gardens, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend.

Tickets are \$300 per person, and reservations are required at (574) 235-9664. A cocktail party replaces a seated dinner as the community returns to larger celebrations. The theme is "Honoring the American Worker," from health care and first responders, to construction, education, the service industry and factory workers.

Visit www.historymuseumSB.org for additional information.

Rail Safety Week

In partnership with Indiana Operation Lifesaver, South Shore Line again will participate in National Rail Safety Week (Sept. 20-26), spreading awareness of rail safety to surrounding communities.

On Sept. 23, SSL representatives will be at Millennium Station throughout the morning commute, distributing educational materials about train and grade-crossing safety, answering questions and listening to commuters' safety concerns.

The blitzes are part of ongoing efforts to raise awareness of safe behavior around trains and tracks. Visit www.mysouthshoreline.com/riders/safety for more details.

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TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
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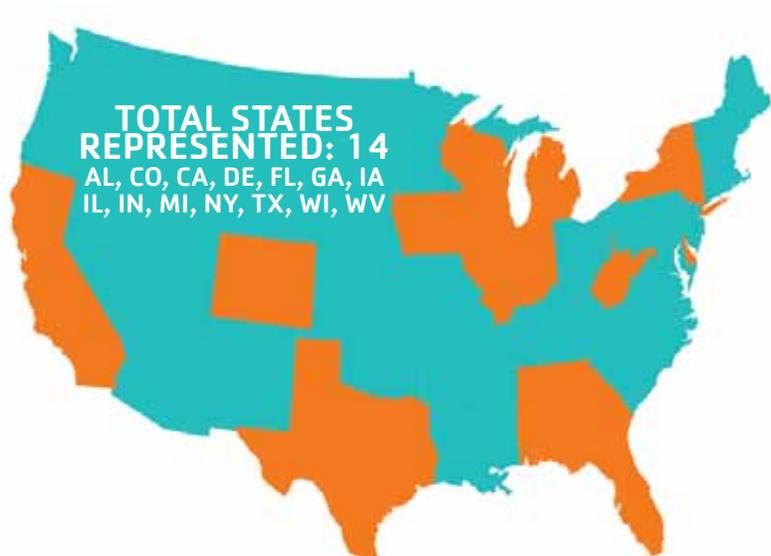
PARTICIPANTS RANGED IN AGE FROM
4-92



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Walkers & Runners



480
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Fall Arts & Crafts Show

LaPorte First United Methodist Church's seventh annual UMW Arts & Crafts Show is from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, at LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, LaPorte.



A few of the items on display at the Arts & Crafts Show.

Last year's show was canceled because of COVID-19. This year, shoppers can peruse wares in three buildings accessible for people with disabilities. Vendors hail from Indiana, Michigan and Illinois. Booths include seasonal items, home décor, yard ornamentation, original artwork, jewelry, sports-oriented items, floral arrangements, rustic wood signs, pet accessories, wreaths, photography, accessories for adults and children and hand-crafted small furniture.

Lunch and dessert items will be available. Admission and parking are free. In accordance with CDC guidelines, masks are recommended. Masks are available for distribution as well.

Dee DeVincent, a LaPorte FUMC member and watercolor artist, is the show coordinator.

Day of Mindfulness

Peacemakers' Sangha's 20th Day of Mindfulness is from 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, at Taleamor Park, which is located at The Petersons' LaPrairie Farm, 2215 E. County Road 350 North, LaPorte.

The 20th year for the event coincides with the 20th anniversary of 9/11. The late Kathy Zmuda was joined by friends to start the effort so people will never forget what happened that day.

Registration is at 9:45 a.m. The cost is a \$15 donation. Visitors can enjoy nature, sitting and walking meditation and Qigong. Take a cushion or chair, a lunch and water, and a book or writing journal that deals with spirituality, mindfulness or meditation. Those who wish to wear a COVID mask can do so.

Register with Ange Benz by calling (219) 874-3754 or email leemalizia@gmail.com

KAC Summer Art Markets

Summer Art Market on the Green is from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 25, at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

Purchases directly support the artists, and guests are encouraged to explore KAC's sculpture and gallery exhibits. Held on the recently redesigned outdoor grounds, individuals in five 10x10 artists' tents will sell handmade artworks ranging from \$15-\$250. Food vendors and art activities that support KAC will be available.

The Sept. 25 artists are: Dennis Tsang, ceramics; Chandra Williams, leather; Kyra Richter, felt; Jackie Baker, jewelry; and emerging artist Layla Garcia, painting.

Visit www.krasl.org/events/art-market/ or call (269) 983-0271 for more details.

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“Come From Away” Gloriously Lands on Apple TV+

by Andrew Tallackson



The original cast of “Come From Away” appears in the Apple TV+ production.

If and when the dust settles from the devastation caused by COVID-19, we will recall how it reinvigorated the bonds of family, renewed a sense of duty to community. Beyond that, the plus-sides are scant at best. The loss of life, business, economy.

The rare gifts, when they do arrive, take on greater meaning because we savor how they enrich our daily experiences. And Broadway, it turns out, has been most generous.

Few of us can say we had a front-row seat, in New York, no less, to two of the most acclaimed shows of the past 10 years...and with the original casts. First came “Hamilton” on Disney+, which had America glued to its TV sets amid July 4th self-isolation. Now we have “Come From Away” on Apple TV+, debuting, appropriately enough, one day before the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

These two productions reinvent the photographed stage play. This is not your stuffy, static PBS show. While televised theater will never match the experience of it in-person — the connection forged between performers and live audiences — “Hamilton” and now “Come From Away” hit awfully close. Cameras are on stage, weaving through the performers and perched from angles with dynamite perspective. The 4K picture quality yields rich, lifelike colors. And by not editing down the productions to shorter lengths, we get the full theatrical experience.



“Come From Away”

Running time: 106 minutes. Apple TV+. Rated TV-14

“Come From Away,” which debuted in 2017, tells the true story of how the 9/11 terror attacks diverted 7,000 passengers to the tiny Newfoundland community of Gander. They came from all walks of life. Director Christopher Ashley and his writers, Irene Sankoff and David Hein, announced in 2019 plans to shoot the big-screen adaptation in Gander, a project scrapped by COVID-19 in favor of this marvelous Apple TV+ production shot this past May at New York City’s Gerald Schoenfeld Theater.

The musical is presented without intermission, the songs, the dialogue, the economical set changes arriving fluidly, practically without pause. The experience is like a memory shared in a single gust of breath.

What’s astonishing about the production is that a cast of 12 brings to life so many distinctly different individuals. They slip in and out of characters effortlessly, one actress I’m pretty sure shifting accents mid-sentence. And with little to no sets — chairs and tables are about it — the actors and actresses allow our imaginations to fill in the gaps, to create this entire world of Gander that feels real.

Vital. Heartfelt.

The songs are not the typical Broadway type, the kind drenched in traditional musical theater where the lyrics ease from verse to chorus, verse to chorus, then the big finish. They are more of the storyteller variety, affording the cast a means to advance the drama and comedy. The songs provide the nuts and bolts of life in Gander, of what happened as everyone arrived in the wake, and shock, of 9/11. You don't leave the experience of "Come From Away" necessarily humming the melodies, but moved by the conviction, the heart with which they are performed. That's true of the opener, "Welcome to the Rock," which conveys the ensemble as a unified force, joined together as one powerful voice.

But the magic, the soul of "Come From Away" is the sense of community these 12 performers achieve. We get a feel for life in Gander, how its inhabitants took in these strangers with open arms, in the process forging bonds to last a lifetime. There is something comforting about how Gander may be small, but far from provincial. We laugh when a gay couple, fearing homophobia from the locals, learns just about everyone in Gander is related to someone gay, the payoff being, as the couple says, they've landed in "the gayest town on the planet." And later, we are moved when a devout Catholic woman, learning her firefighter son's fate in the terror attacks, calls her friend in Gander, seeking comfort in the wake of personal tragedy.

As the end credits roll for "Come From Away," we see pictures of the cast taken with the real people they play. It is an incredibly powerful means to drive home the idea that, while what we've just witnessed is designed as entertainment, it is based on



Jenn Colella is particularly moving as Captain Bass.

fact. People still alive and well today. Knowing their stories, we are all the better for it...and we have Broadway and Apple TV+ to thank for it.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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“Malignant” is a Bore...Until the Bonkers Third Act

by Andrew Tallackson

Madison (Annabelle Wallis) has visions of brutal murders in “Malignant.”

The third-act twist of “Malignant” is so bonkers, the gore so gag-reflex gnarly, the movie has a gotta-see-it-to-believe-it vibe.

The ultimate test, though, is whether what precedes it is worth all the fuss.

Not really.

In theaters and streaming on HBO Max, the movie marks the return of director James Wan to his horror roots. These days, he plays with the big boys, churning out expensive hits like “Aquaman” and “Furious 7.” Before then, he made a name for himself with relatively intelligent low-budget horror like “The Conjuring,” “Insidious” and the first “Saw.” For the most part, he appreciated what Steven Spielberg knew with “Jaws,” that what we *don’t* see is far more frightening than explicit scares shoved down your throat.

Wan, however, did not write “Malignant,” his tribute to Italian frightmeister Dario Argento. That distinction goes to Akela Cooper, whose background is in TV shows like “American Horror Story” and “Luke Cage.” Her script cobbles together elements of “The Dead Zone,” “The Exorcist,” “Dead Ringers,” “The Ring,” even that ‘70s Kolchak thriller “The Night Strangler” (old school, I know).

The result is a snooze for the better part of 90 minutes...until the third act and all hell breaks loose.

In the film, Madison (Annabelle Wallis) is pregnant again, after several miscarriages, when her abusive lout of a husband, Derek (Jake Abel),



“Malignant”

Running time: 111 minutes. HBO Max, in theaters. Rated R for strong horror violence and gruesome images, and for language.

roughs her up. She not only loses the baby, but also sustains a nasty head wound. To top it off, she now has visions of people being killed while the murders are being committed. Wan concocts a nifty way for that connection to reveal itself, Madison’s world rippling like water and dissolving into whatever setting is host to the latest bloodbath.

Beyond that, however, “Malignant” is slow-burn horror burdened by musty scare tactics that went out of fashion decades ago. Flickering lights. *Lots* of them. Spooky presences visible one second, gone the next. A soundtrack akin to a cat in heat, the whiny shrieking designed to remind us that yes, we are supposed to be scared.

Thing is, we’re not. “Malignant” is so routine, and Wallis’ dead-behind-the-eyes gaze so robotic – she’s like a Jacquelyn Smith Barbie doll – that at one point I nearly nodded off. Simply put, the movie had failed to scare me.

Then, that twist arrives. Now, we don’t necessarily insist on logic from horror movies. How else, then, did we justify the return of old-school boogeymen like Michael Myers and Jason Voorhees with each sequel, despite all signs indicating they’d bit



The dead-behind-the-eyes performance by Annabelle Wallis doesn't help the first two acts of "Malignant."

the dust? But whatever shred of a brain exists in "Malignant's" thick skull is succinctly lobotomized with one wacko of a twist. It's like the movie says, *eh, screw it, let's go crazy*. You have to admire that audacity. And, wow, Wan cooks up enough stomach-churning gore to make even Quentin Tarantino blush. Just when you think the movie can't amp up the violence any more, off comes another limb, another face gets smooched or bloody entrails spill out. Splatter fans, believe me, "Malignant" does not disappoint.

Even as it descends into a gross-out freak show, though, there is something empty about it. Wan's film takes a little bit of this, and a little bit of that, throws it all together and hopes for the best. He's better than that. *Way better.*

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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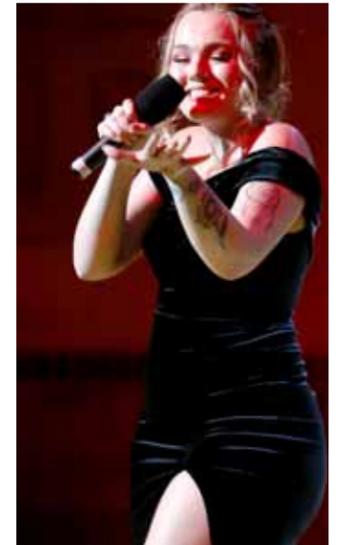
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Starry Night



Hoosier Star, LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra's popular fundraiser, was back Sept. 11 as an in-person event, drawing a good crowd to LaPorte Civic Auditorium. Joseph Giuliani was declared the youth winner and Jarynn Sampson the adult winner. All photos by Bob Wellinski



A Chapter from My Childhood

With your kind, literary indulgence, I would like to present a bit of reading from my childhood.

Specifically, Chapter 18 from my 2015 book, Life with a Laryngectomee. I wrote of my late father's recovery from cancer of the larynx and, as the title suggests, how having a laryngectomee, or his larynx removed, affected us. In the case of my father, James McKelvy, that would have been in 1957 when I was all of 6 going on 7. Dad had to find a new way of talkin', thus mastering a device known as an electrolarynx, or throat-back. Dad talked by holding the electrolarynx against his throat and forming the words with his mouth.

It worked, especially when he was mad at us. And he used it successfully and effectively until just before his death, at 67, in 1985. But for suitable reading, I wanted to offer a particularly uplifting chapter from the out-of-print book, "Bikes and Books."

Bikes & books kept me in the game of living with cancer and active alcoholism.

When the going got too tough for this little shaver, he would hop on his Schwinn bicycle — was there any other brand? — and ride over to the Walker Branch of the Chicago Public Library at 111th and Hoyne, where I would take that magic-carpet ride that only books can provide.

Books were my balm of Gilead.

My comfort.

My joy.

My solace.

My sanity.

Were it not for my trusty Schwinn, and that repository of literature at the top of the hill on 111th Street at Hoyne we fondly called the Walker Branch, I would have gone mad.

Absolutely mad.

Of that I am quite certain.

I had no support group.

No sympathetic thera-

pist.

No intervening child-protection agency.

None of that.

Just suck up the cancer and ignore the elephant in the living room, and keep those drinks fresh and those ashtrays empty.

Deal with it, Sonny Boy!

So I did.

In my own way.

And, as I said, the way to mental health was simple: bikes & books.

So how did it work for me?

Case in point:

One night, when I could take no more and was so full of adrenalin I feared for my father's safety, I went out to the garage, hopped on my black Schwinn with coaster brakes and rode off into the night, pretending to be that RAF fighter pilot I had just read about in a book borrowed from the Walker Branch.

I rode to the end of 106th Street, turned north on Wood Street and kept on riding until I found myself riding the trails of the Dan Ryan Woods Forest Preserve at 87th and Western, a good two miles north-west of my house.

Sealed in the cockpit of my make-believe Spitfire, I shot down one German bomber after another, defending my homeland in the dark.

I was a stealth fighter before there were stealth fighters, and I flew through the dark with the wind in my face and hope in my heart.

If I could be like the characters in the novels and stories of my literary pushers — Mark Twain, James Fennimore Cooper, Robert Louis Stevenson, Jack London, H.G. Welles and even Edgar Allen Poe, why then I could be every bit as brave as Natty Bumppo and Huck Finn.

I could stand up to the Martians and the wild beasts of the Alaskan wilderness and keep my head about me.

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So, yeah, books and bicycles.

Or just: bikes & books.

And to illustrate just how far along I got on this escape route, let me tell you a true story from the summer of, oh, say 1962 when an actual Catholic was in the White House, and my two best friends in the whole-wide world were actual Catholics.

I'm talking about Casey and Bowline here, and that's all you need to know of their names. We three were inseparable in the summer when we were free of that horrible Catholic/public school separation from September to June. We pal'd around every day, and when it rained we holed up at Casey's house where we would read his father's books about World War II or play such militaristic board games as Risk, Broadside, Civil War or Stratego.

We knew everything there was to know — without having been there — about the Bataan Death March and President Kennedy's exploits in the Pacific as the skipper of PT-109. We each built the model, and we knew how to torpedo Jap destroyers in the dark.

Casey and Bowline knew what I was up against at my house, so we did most of our playing there in the backyard. Best to keep it outside when Mac's Bar & Grill was in session inside.

So one golden summer day, we decided to pretend we were joining Lewis and Clark on their 1804-06 expedition to establish an American presence from sea to shining sea.

President Thomas Jefferson wanted us to go west with Lewis and Clark, and we answered the call that late June day. We mounted our Schwinns and rode to Wood, then to Prospect, then to 111th Street, then all the way west past Worth to Palos Hills and the Calumet Sag Channel and Saganashkee Slough, and finally to our ultimate objective, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's toboggan slides at Swallow Cliff.

We ran silent and we rode deep. We had no maps or spare tires or any money to speak of. We were just three boys off on an adventure with absolutely no parental knowledge or approval.

We had pretty much decided by that point that the adult was an animal not to be trusted.

So we took flight on our Schwinns, making it to the foot of those daunting toboggan slides that we had shushed down so many times in winter. We dared one another to push our clunky bikes to the top and ride down.

Crazy, right?

Oh yeah.

Nuts as they come.

That we were: the Apache Runner, Casey and Bowline.

Yes, I was the Apache Runner.

Casey and Bowline tagged me the Apache Runner because although I could never catch them on foot, I never stopped trying. They were faster by far, but I was more persistent by far.

Just like an Apache runner.

There I was at the summit of the Palos toboggan slides with my best buddies, Casey and Bowline.

We looked down that mountain of wintry pleasure that was woodenly reflecting the summer sun and chorused, "Last one to the bottom's a rotten egg."

I don't know who the rotten egg was that day, but oh boy, did we boys have fun.

We didn't fall or fail or get hurt or have a flat on

the long, long ride home.

And we didn't tell a soul what we had done that day.

When our moms asked what we had done that day, we just said we had done what we always did in summer. "Went bike ridin'."

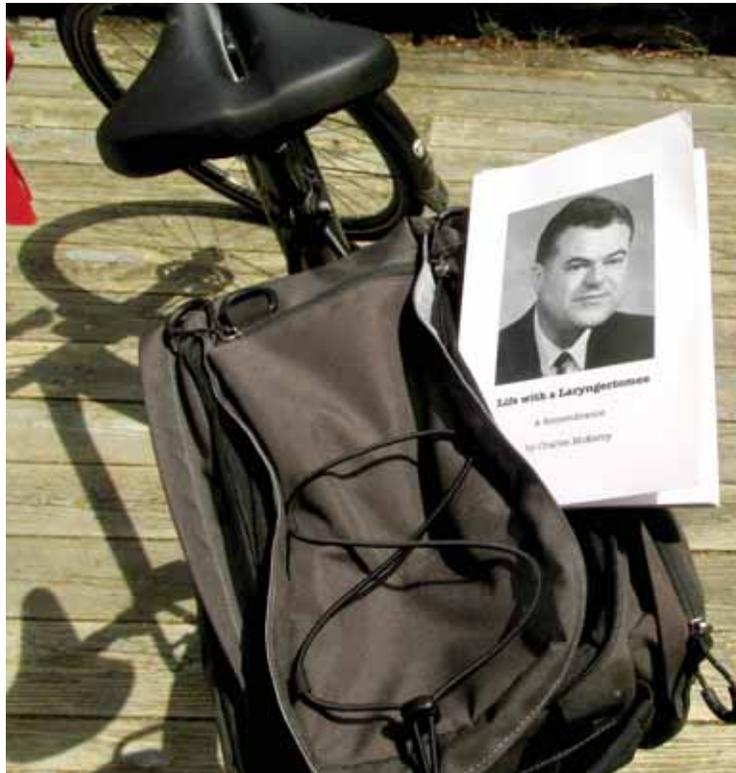
That's what we did.

Bike ridin'.

And books.

And that's what kept me afloat: bikes & books.

Thank you, very much, both bikes & books.





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Historical Society Museum Interns Praised; Historian of Year Announced

The staff at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum praised two interns, who have now returned to school, for their work at the local attraction, 2405 Indiana Ave.

Emily Graves interned for three months, spending much time with the hospital and veteran’s exhibits downstairs. She chose photos seen in the hospital exhibit and arranged the objects within. Her work now is on permanent display. She also curated objects in the temporary veteran’s exhibit. Her favorite task was going through artifacts in the storage rooms.

She now is back at Valparaiso University majoring in history and art.

Abraham Gray interned for three months as well, focusing on the new gallery wall downstairs and updating the museum’s brochures. He designed the new “Highlights of the Kesling Automobile Collection,” and organized, catalogued and set up the new art storage. This will ensure the museum’s art is preserved for viewers 100 years from now.

He returned to Indiana Wesleyan University, majoring in business management and marketing.



Phyllis Marks, Maud Loetz and Kayla Vasilko were named “Historians of the Year” at the recent LaPorte County Historical Society Museum meeting.

Marks and the late Julia Alt were responsible for restoring the 1847 Pinhook Church. Marks also was involved in saving and restoring the large LaPorte County Home barn. Loetz served as LaPorte County Historical Society Museum curator from 1946-1960. Vasilko spent more than two years researching and promoting the story of LaPorte County native Anita King (Anna Keppen), a silent movie star and the first woman to drive solo in an automobile from San Francisco to New York.



Pictured are County Historian Bruce Johnson (from left), intern Emily Graves, Museum Director Keri Teller and intern Abraham Gray.



The temporary veteran’s exhibit curated by Emily Graves.



The new gallery wall overseen by Abraham Gray.

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ArtBash: Repaint the Town

Lubeznik Center for the Arts will host its biggest annual fundraiser, “ArtBash: Repaint the Town,” as a virtual event from 6-7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25.

Proceeds from the gala enable LCA to further provide access to exhibits and programs.



Washington

The evening will feature a reading of an original poem by Ming Washington. Written specifically for the occasion, it celebrates Michigan City and the arts. Washington is a member of the AUC Collective for the Study of Art History and Curatorial Studies at Spelman College. She also is a published poet and arts contributor to *Scalawag* magazine.

The event also will feature a painting demonstration by artist Patricia Larkin Green, an international Sumi-e and oil painter who was inducted into the International Chinese Calligraphic Art and Ink Painters Society. She also is its North America exhibition coordinator.

A silent auction will be available. View the items, and register for the event, at www.lubeznikcenter.home.qtego.net Lubeznik Center is located at 101 W. Second St. Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or call (219) 874-4900 for more details.

LCA Receives \$3,000 in Support

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., is one of 278 Indiana nonprofits that received American Rescue Plan Act funds through the Indiana Arts Commission.

Each organization received \$3,000. Grants were distributed through IAC’s Arts Recovery Program, with American Rescue Plan Act funds directly from the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional NEA funds through Arts Midwest, Indiana’s regional partner.

The money will allow LCA, particularly after the past year and COVID-19, to continue providing access to exhibits and programs.

Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org for more details.

Potawatomi Audubon Society

The Potawatomi Audubon Society — the National Audubon Society’s LaPorte County branch — meets at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, in the LaPorte County Public Library Exchange, 807 Indiana Ave.

The focus is Pat Wisniewski’s film, “Then, Now, and Always...the St. Joseph River Story.” A brief meeting is afterward. Those attending are asked to wear a mask. Call Laura Henderson at (219) 871-9896 for more details.



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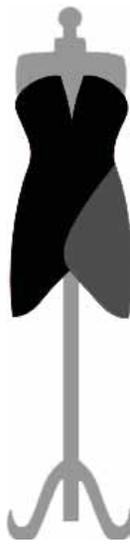
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Scarecrow Festival

The 27th Annual Wanatah Scarecrow Festival returns Friday-Sunday, Sept. 24-26, in and around Wanatah at U.S. 30 and 421.

Event locations include:

- American Legion Post 403, West Second Street and South Washington Street — Bingo, duck raffle, karaoke.
- Wanatah School, 309 School Drive — Races, pork chop dinner, fish fry.
- Scarecrow Square, North Main Street between Cross and High streets — entertainment, crafts, food, games, scarecrow sculpting, drawings.
- Sacred Heart Church, 204 N. Ohio St. — pancake breakfast.

Free parking is available at the school, the American Legion and along the railroad tracks.

The 27th annual Wanatah Scarecrow Festival car show is from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, at Wanatah Lions Club Park, 309 School Drive. Presented by Michiana Antique Auto Club, registration is from 9 a.m.-noon. All vehicles are welcome. The entry fee is \$15 per vehicle. Spectators are free.

Visit www.scarecrowfest.org for more details.

Mac & Cheese Fest

After last year's absence due to COVID-19, Dig the Dunes' fourth annual Mac & Cheese Fest returns at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, in the street in front of Zorn Brew Works, 605 E. Ninth St.

Fifteen samples will come from 10 restaurants and five individuals competing for the title of Mac & Cheese Fest Champion 2021. Past winners include Fiddlehead, Royale with Cheese and Momma Sue's, with ingredients ranging from feta to duck to jalapeños. This year marks the first time home recipes compete alongside restaurants.

The current lineup of competitors includes Momma Sue's Catering, Moe's Mediterranean, Goblin & The Grocer, Jennie Rae's Restaurant, Trailyard, Leed's Public House and Patrick's Grille. Chicken Dolphin and Johnny V will perform. Brews this year hail not only from Zorn, but also Burn 'Em Brewing and Shoreline Brewery.

Tickets are \$25 for general admission, \$50 for VIP, \$15 for children and vegetarian options, and free for 5 and younger. Visit tinyurl.com/4d83pc8h for details.

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LCSO in the Spotlight



Kathleen Lang.

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

Kathleen Lang will enter her 32nd year as a member of LCSO's horn section.

She is a senior judge for Indiana after having served as LaPorte Superior Court 1 judge from 2005-2014. She is a graduate of the Chicago-Kent College of Law and serves on the faculty of the University of Notre Dame Law School and Chicago Kent School of Law. She also is a professional bagpiper who soloed with LCSO at the 25th annual Holiday at the Pops concert. She is active on several boards in the LaPorte area, and serves as chair of the Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte board.

She and her husband, Alan, have two adult children and enjoy hiking with their dog, Jersey, as well as traveling.

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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 Pickup 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:

- **Talk to a Financial Advisor Day from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, at the main library.** Get a free short consultation with a financial advisor about personal money and investments.
- **Gmail for Beginners from 10 a.m.-noon Friday, Sept. 24, at the Main Library Meeting Room B.** Learn how to use a Gmail account. Registration is required.
- **Readers Corner — Book Club from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28, at the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room.** Refreshments will not be served, but participants may take coffee or tea.

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.

Fall Bird Migration Program

Naturalist Wendy Jones will present a virtual program on fall bird migrations at 6:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, Sept. 28, in the Pokagon Room at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Jones will focus on which species to watch for during seasonal transitions, and tips to gear up for the winter feeding season. She is the director of environmental education at Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, Appleton, Wis., and the former chief naturalist at Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve.

Sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library, use of face masks is requested.

Email new.buffalo.fol@gmail.com for details.

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.

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 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.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Writing Out Loud at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25.** Janine Harrison wrote the poetry collection Weight of Silence (Wordpool Press, 2019)



Harrison

and the book If We Were Birds (Locofo Chaps, 2017). A travel memoir/guidebook, Turning 50 on El Camino de Santiago: A Solo Woman's Travel Adventure, arrives this year. Her work has appeared in countless publications. She teaches creative writing at Calumet College of St. Joseph, freelances and serves as

a teaching artist and activist throughout Chicagoland. She was a Highland (Ind.) Poet Laureate, an Indiana Writers' Consortium president and a poetry reviewer for *The Florida Review*. She lives with her husband, fiction writer Michael Poore, and daughter, Jianna, in Northwest Indiana.

- **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.

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

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Indiana Dunes National Park

• **Mount Baldy Sunset Hike from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24.**

Meet at the parking lot off U.S. 12 for a ranger-led hike to the dune, with no reservations required. The dune, itself, remains closed to the public. Follow closure signs and stay out of roped-off areas.

• **Migration Birding Hike with the Indiana Audubon Society from 9-11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 25.**

An Indiana Audubon Society expert leads the program that meets at the Visitor Center, then carools to the birding spot of the month. Take binoculars and dress for the weather.

• **National Public Lands Day from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Sept. 25.**

Join staff and volunteers at 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter, to help improve a native habitat. Wear comfortable clothes; work gloves and equipment will be provided.

• **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26, at Paul H. Douglas Center.**

The ranger-led stroll explores a black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.

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 for details.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following program will be offered:

• **Marram Grass Planting from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 26.**

For the volunteer project, take a short hike up the dunes to transplant marram grass, helping prevent future erosion. Long pants, water and gloves are recommended. Park entry is free because of National Public Lands Day. All volunteers must fill out volunteer waiver forms.



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 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:

- Oct. 6 — Pulmonary health, Patti Solona, Northwest Health LaPorte.
- Nov. 3 — Understanding Medicare Parts A, B, C and D, and the upcoming annual enrollment period, Megan Rogers, State Health Insurance Assistance Program specialist.

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.

Pioneer Days

Historically clad re-enactors and vendors lead the family event from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 25-26, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North.

The cost is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children or seniors (4 and younger are free). Experience outdoor cooking, crafts, candle dipping, wagon rides and food.

Pumpkin Painting & Bingo

Decorate a pumpkin from 5-6:15 p.m. Monday, Oct. 4, at Luhr County Park.

The maximum allowed is 30 people. Pumpkins and decorations will be provided. Play bingo and win prizes. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call to register at (219) 325-8315.

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.

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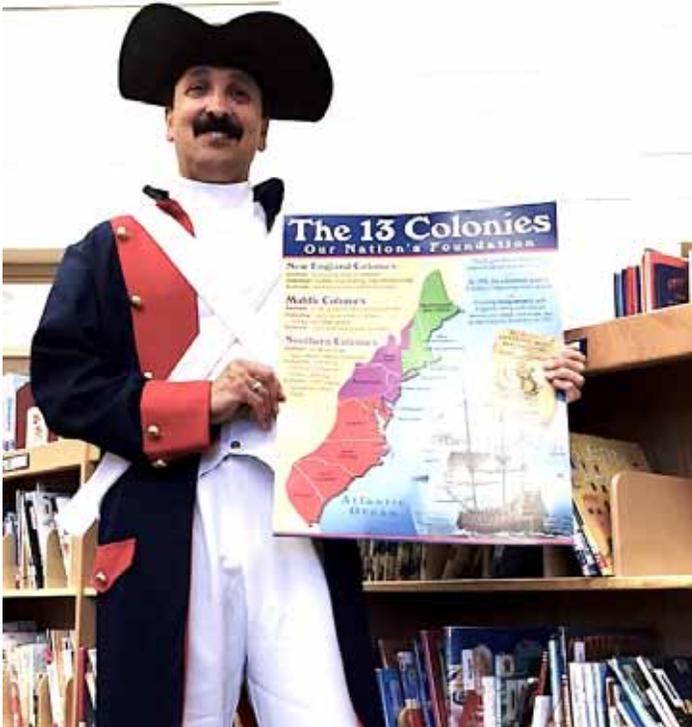
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Constitution Day



David Schena, a counselor at Pine Elementary School: A Magnet School for the Arts, helped celebrate U.S. Constitution Day at the school Sept. 17. Each year, he dresses up and visits classrooms to teach messages from the Constitution and answer student questions.

Art Barn School of Art

The following programs are available at Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso:

- **Advanced Drawing for ages 14-17 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Fridays, Oct. 8-29.** The cost is \$85. The instructor is Mindy Milan. Students work on drawing problems using pencil, charcoal, colored pencil and other dry media to expand knowledge of abstract and representational drawing.

- **Ceramics for Kids & Youth ages 5-9 and 10-13 on Saturdays, Oct. 9-Nov. 13.** The cost is \$179. Instructor Betsy Barger will guide students to complete glaze-fired works. The separate classes for different age groups emphasize basic techniques of hand-building with clay, including pinch pot, coil and slab construction methods.

Call (219) 462-9009 or visit www.artbarnschool.org for details.

Mystery at the Mansion Tickets

Tickets are on sale for The History Museum's "Mystery at the Mansion: Sealed with a Kiss," which is Oct. 15 and 29 at the 38-room Oliver Mansion, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend.

Tours, which are limited, leave every 15 minutes, with the first at 5:30 p.m. EDT. Reservations are recommended at www.historymuseumSB.org. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$15 for members. Masks are required.

This year's event heads back to 1955. Industrial espionage is under way at Ball-Band, with design plans for its self-sealing fuel cell — intended for the military — in jeopardy. Participants walk through the mansion, listening to the characters' dialogues, with the rooms serving as backdrops to each scene. Details of the crime surface as the play unfolds.

Local author Roger Chrastil, who scripted past Mystery at the Mansion plays, as well as The History Museum's "Christmas at Copshaholm" specialty tours, conceived the story. He also wrote several other works, including the plays "An Immigrant's Story" and "Or Does It Explode?"

Call (574) 235-9664 for more details.

Friendship Gardens Golf Outing

Friendship Botanic Gardens' annual charity golf outing is Thursday, Sept. 23, at Briar Leaf Golf Club, 3233 Indiana 39, LaPorte.

All proceeds benefit restoration and continued growth at the Gardens. Advanced registration is required at tinyurl.com/44ybmrpx. The cost is \$125 per golfer (\$500 per foursome). Tickets also include two complimentary drink tickets for the bar cart. New tee sponsorships are available for \$125, or \$100 for a renewal tee sponsor.

Check-in and lunch by Portofino Grill begin at 11:30 a.m. The shotgun start is at 1 p.m. Prizes will be awarded. Tasting tables include Zorn Brew Works, Basic Hard Seltzer, Mamitas and Hotel Tango. Other offerings include a 50/50 raffle and other raffle items.

The Gardens is located at 2055 E. U.S. 12. Call (219) 878-9885, email info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org or visit www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org for more details.

Noon Time Talk Series

The Noon Time Talk Series continues at 12:20 p.m. EDT Thursday, Sept. 23, at Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart.

The film screening "Jim Dine" traces the project installed at Chazen Museum of Art at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

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

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JROTC Helps Remember 9/11



The Color Guard presents the colors at Patriot Night.

High school students today were not alive during the terror attacks of 9/11.

The cadets of Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps helped keep the memory of Sept. 11, 2001, alive by providing the Color Guard for the Patriot Day ceremony before the Michigan City-Valparaiso football game. The event had a large attendance, with the home stands practically filled to capacity.

"One of the many things we have learned in JROTC is to remember the sacrifices of so many men and women who have served our country over the last 20 years," Capt. Declan Rice, the cadet commanding officer, said in a press release.

Second Lt. Darrick Hammond, the cadet executive officer, stressed how examples of heroism on 9/11 influenced his ability to lead in JROTC.

"We try to put the 14 Leadership Traits and 11 Leadership Principles into practice in the many activities we have in the JROTC," he said in a press release. "The actions of the first responders on that day, along with the military's war on terrorism, have provided us with models of unselfish leadership."

Master Sgt. Jeff Benak, the Marine instructor who was on active duty during much of the War on Terrorism, knows first-hand about sacrifice for a greater good.

"Some of my fellow Marines were either killed or wounded," he said in a press release. "It is that kind of selfless devotion to duty that we try to instill in our cadets."

JROTC will continue to support patriotic events throughout the year, particularly around Veterans Day and Memorial Day. MCHS will honor veterans with a ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 10 in the school gym. The public is invited, especially veterans, who will be honored. U.S. Congressman Frank Mrvan is the guest speaker.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Sept. 23 — The Potawatomi Audubon Society, 6 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library Exchange, 807 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 871-9896.

Sept. 24 — Mount Baldy Sunset Hike, 5:30-7:30 p.m., parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/

Sept. 24-26 — Footlight Players radio play, "We're Not in Kansas Anymore," Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15, \$10/children 12 & younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, www.footlightplayers.org

Sept. 24-26 — Wanatah Scarecrow Festival, U.S. 30 and 421. Car show: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Wanatah Lions Club Park, 309 School Drive. Times/details: www.scarecrowfest.org

Sept. 25 — Peacemakers' Sangha's 20th Day of Mindfulness, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Taleamor Park (The Petersons' LaPrairie Farm), 2215 E. County Road 350 North, LaPorte. Cost: \$15 donation. Info: (219) 874-3754, leemalizia@gmail.com

Sept. 25 — Migration Birding Hike with the Indiana Audubon Society, 9-11 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/

Sept. 25 — LaPorte First United Methodist Church UMW Arts & Crafts Show, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 W. Indiana 2, LaPorte. Free parking/admission. Wearing masks requested.

Sept. 25 — Lubeznik Center for the Arts fundraiser, "Arbash: Repaint the Town," 6-7 p.m., virtually. Registration: www.lubeznikcenter.home.qtego.net

Sept. 25 — Writing Out Loud, Janine Harrison, 7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Sept. 25-26 — Pioneer Days, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North. Cost: \$2/adults, \$1/children or seniors (4 & younger/free). Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

Sept. 26 — Mac & Cheese Fest, 1 p.m., street @ Zorn Brew Works, 605 E. Ninth St. Tickets: \$25/general, \$50/VIP, \$15/children & vegetarian options, free/5 & younger. Reservations: tinyurl.com/4d83pc8h

Sept. 26 — Marram Grass Planting, 2-4 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Sept. 28 — Readers Corner — Book Club, 6-7 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library Coolspring Branch Meeting Room, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Through Sept. 30 — New exhibit, "Diversity" (Madeleine Schooley), The Legacy Center Gallery in Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Info: jessicar@qas.org

Through Oct. 15 — Exhibit, "Bramson/Indiana/

Lake," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.lubeznikcenter.org

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

Sept. 23 — Noon Time Talk Series, 12:20 p.m. EDT, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Cost: \$5, members/free. Info: (574) 293-6660.

Sept. 24-26 — "Doubt, A Parable," Elkhart Civic Theatre @ The Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 3 p.m. Sun. Tickets: adults/\$22, seniors 62+/\$20, students/\$16. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, www.elkhartcivictheatre.org/tix

Sept. 25 — Harbor Country Hikers, 10 a.m. EDT, Harbert Road Preserve, Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.com

Sept. 25 — Summer Art Market on the Green, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EDT, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org/events/art-market/

Sept. 25 — The School of American Music outdoor concert, Spring Creek Stage, Dewey Canon Park, 14 Maple St., Three Oaks, Mich. Concert/6 p.m. EDT, pre-concert dinner/5 p.m. EDT. Tax deductible tickets: \$50. Reservations: www.schoolofamericanmusic.com, (269) 409-1191.

Sept. 25-26 — The Region of Three Oaks Museum virtual Elm Street stroll, 4 p.m. EDT, starting @ Three Oaks Heritage Hall, 8 E. Linden St. Masks required for unvaccinated while indoors. Donation: \$12/museum members, \$15/non-members. Info: (773) 991-6239.

Sept. 26 — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra Master Key Home Tour, noon-5 p.m. EDT. Tickets: \$25/advance, \$30/day of. Reservations: (269) 982-4030, www.SMSO.org

Sept. 26 — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center, Lake Street north of U.S. 12, Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/

Sept. 28 — Program, fall bird migrations, 6:30 p.m. EDT, Pokagon Room @ New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: new.buffalo.fol@gmail.com

Through Sept. 26 — Oils by Liz Williams, The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Info: www.pinesvillage.org, (219) 465-1591.

Through Sept. 30 — Area Artists Association exhibit, "A New Beginning," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Masks required inside. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

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

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: "Card Counter." Rated R. Check website or call for times. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

SMSO Home Tour 2021

Six homeowners will open their doors to the public to support Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra during the Master Key Home Tour on Sunday, Sept. 26.

Homes will be open from noon to 5 p.m. EDT for visitors 12 and older. Tickets cost \$25 in advance and \$30 the day of the event. Because the tour features private homes, not all of them will be accessible for people with disabilities. The event follows CDC-recommended guidelines regarding masks.

Final Design Kitchen/Bath, 1601 Lakeshore Drive, St. Joseph, Mich., will have an open house during the tour.

Tickets are available by calling (269) 982-4030 or at www.SMSO.org

Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will explore the importance of native plants during a hike at 10 a.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Harbert Road Preserve.

The emphasis is how these plants affect the survival of birds and other wildlife during the fall and winter. HCH President Pat Fisher will explain how to promote native vegetation and enhance, rather than stress, the local environment.

The preserve is a 90-acre venue in Three Oaks, Mich., with wide prairie, wetland and woodland trails. It includes nesting fields and wildflower patches for birds of all kinds. Long pants, a sun hat, sturdy shoes or boots and insect repellent are recommended, along with plenty of water. Visit www.harborcountryhikers.com for more details.



American Red Cross

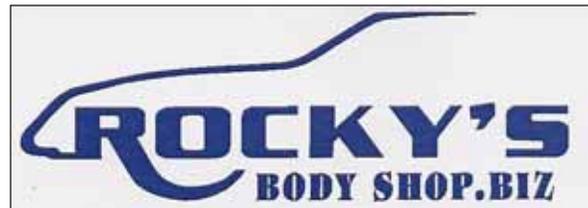
The American Red Cross LaPorte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:

- Golden Living Center, 1700 I St., LaPorte, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23.
- Northwest Health LaPorte, 1007 W. Lincolnway, LaPorte, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24.
- Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., LaPorte, 1-6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 28.

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.

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On September 23, 1642, Harvard College (now Harvard University) held its first commencement.

On September 23, 1845, the “New York Knickerbockers,” America’s first baseball club, was chartered.

On September 23, 1912, the first Mack Sennett “Keystone Comedy” motion picture was released.

On September 23, 1952, Richard Nixon delivered the “Checkers” speech.

On September 23, 2000, at the Sydney Olympics, Marion Jones won the women’s 100-meter final in 10.75 seconds; Maurice Greene took the men’s 100 in 9.87 seconds.

On September 24, 1780, Benedict Arnold, after being arrested for attempting to give the British the plans for West Point fortifications, escaped to a British ship.

On September 24, 1869, financial panic (which would become known as “Black Friday”) gripped the nation when the price of gold dropped, the aftermath of an attempt by Jay Gould and Jim Fisk to corner the world gold market.

On September 24, 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt signed a bill establishing Wyoming’s “Devils Tower” as the first national monument.

On September 24, 1929, in the first “blind” (all-instrument) flight, Lt. James Doolittle piloted a Consolidated NY2 biplane over New York’s Mitchell Field.

On September 25, 1690, the first American newspaper, *Publick Occurrences*, was published in Boston. The Royal Governor was not happy with the first edition; so a second one never appeared.

On September 25, 1789, the first U.S. Congress, meeting in New York, adopted 12 amendments to the Constitution and sent them to the states for ratification. Ten of the amendments became known as the “Bill of Rights.”

On September 25, 1904, a New York City police officer ordered a female automobile passenger on Fifth Avenue to stop smoking a cigarette; a male companion was arrested and later fined \$2 for “abusing” the officer.

On September 25, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson collapsed after a speech in Pueblo, Colo., during a national speaking tour in support of the Treaty of Versailles. He returned to Washington, where he suf-

ferred a stroke Oct. 2, leaving him partly paralyzed.

On September 26, 1774, legendary folk hero Johnny “Appleseed” Chapman was born in the Massachusetts town of Leonminster.

On September 26, 1892, in Plainfield, N.J., John Philip Sousa and his band presented their first public concert.

On September 26, 1898, American composer George Gershwin was born in Brooklyn, N.Y.

On September 26, 1957, the long-running musical “West Side Story” opened on Broadway.

On September 26, 1969, the album “Abbey Road” was released by The Beatles.

On September 27, 1852, Englishman George Stephenson operated the first steam locomotive to haul a passenger train.

On September 27, 1919, in anticipation of approval of women’s suffrage, the executive committee of the Democratic National Committee met in Atlantic City to discuss ways of attracting female voters.

On September 27, 1938, the English luxury liner Queen Elizabeth was launched at Glasgow.

On September 27, 1942, Glenn Miller and his orchestra performed together for the last time in Passaic, N.J., prior to Miller’s entry into the Army. He died in December 1944 when his plane vanished over the English Channel.

On September 28, 490 B.C., the Greeks defeated the Persians in races held at Marathon. According to legend, a Greek soldier, dispatched to notify Athens of the victory, ran the entire 26 miles. It was from this that we derived the word “marathon.”

On September 28, 1920, in what became known as the “Black Sox Scandal,” eight members of the Chicago White Sox baseball team were indicted for allegedly “throwing” the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds.

On September 28, 1924, two U.S. Army planes landed in Seattle, completing the first around-the-world flight. The total elapsed time was 175 days.

On September 29, 1789, the U.S. War Department established the new nation’s first army. It had a total authorized strength of several hundred men.

On September 29, 1829, London reorganized its police under the name of Scotland Yard.

On September 29, 1906, with a gala party attended by almost everyone in the city who was anyone, Chicago’s South Shore Country Club officially opened its doors.

On September 29, 1953, Chicago’s Carson Pirie Scott & Co. became the first department store to sell insurance.

On September 29, 1963, the situation comedy “My Favorite Martian” and the variety program “The Judy Garland Show” premiered on CBS television.

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Lend a Hand Day

LaPorte County Extension Homemakers will host Lend a Hand Day from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 21, at Swanson Center, 910 State St., LaPorte. The group will assemble quilts, bags, backpacks, lap robes, wheelchair totes, birthday bags, hats and other items donated to residents through service organizations. Call (219) 362-3016 for details.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

A Slow Fire Burning by Paula Hawkins (hardcover, \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and audiobook. 305 pages.)

“Daniel was dead, to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that.”

Yes, the famous first line of Dickens’ A Christmas Carol, except for the name substitution. It suits this story so well, I had to start with it, and besides, it’s the only piece of information the reader receives that is the absolute truth. Beyond that, everything else is on the table, sometimes under the table. Confusing? You might say that. Or you might say the complexity of the story and number of possible suspects makes a thrilling psychological read.

Daniel’s death is discovered by his nosy neighbor, Miriam Lewis. A middle-aged single woman with many secrets of her own, she and Daniel have end to end “narrow-boats” — what we call houseboats — along Regent’s Canal, London.

Police find Daniel lying in a pool of his blood. An obvious struggle took place and a knife wound, several in fact, prove his murder. Miriam claims she saw a young woman leaving his boat early the morning before. While that might be true, she lies and omits other things, making you wonder what she is hiding. Like why did she neglect to mention she picked up Laura’s key on the floor next to Daniel’s body? It’s now safely tucked away in a box with other “mementos.” She has some sympathy for Laura and the way life has treated her and, after all... *“power shifts, doesn’t it, sometimes in unexpected ways? Power shifts, and worms turn.”*

The aforementioned young woman is Laura Kilbride, 25, who lives in a seventh-floor walkup, and works part time at a local laundrette. She was hit by a car at age 10 and suffered a traumatic brain injury, as well as other physical injuries. She’s...different. She’s used to being accused of everything, and she has been a frequent visitor in the court, with charges of *“public intoxication, petty theft, trespass, vandalism, disorderly conduct.”* So she isn’t surprised when two detectives show up on her doorstep — but very surprised for the reason. Did she kill Daniel? A vehement no! Even though the police find a bloody T-shirt and Daniel’s watch in Laura’s bathroom.

Add to these two women Carla Myerson, Daniel’s aunt. Carla and her estranged husband, Theo, are separated because of a tragic accident many years

ago involving their young son. Daniel was present when the accident happened and Angela, Daniel’s mother, who was supposed to be baby-sitting, was dead drunk on her bed. Needless to say, Carla and Theo have distanced themselves from Angela. But can Carla stay away from her sister forever?

These women basically are the main characters with a connection to Daniel, but many others float around them, adding to the secrets everyone is keeping from the police and each other.

One of them is Irene, an 80-year-old widow for whom Laura gets groceries. She lives next door to Angela. Maybe Irene’s not as dotty as some would believe. She watches and listens, a lot.

Theo is an author and one-hit wonder. His crime novel, “The One Who Got Away,” was an instant bestseller, and his publisher’s still waiting on another one. Not likely to happen.

Parts of Theo’s book are scattered throughout the story, leaving clues maybe? There is so much interaction between all the characters, sometimes it’s hard to keep track. And yet, Hawkins’ skill at throwing just the right amount of information at you makes it almost impossible to put the book down.

While the police are about to charge Laura with murder, Angela dies in a fall down the stairs of her apartment. Accident? Hard to ascertain.

There’s also incest, plagiarism and maybe a little revenge added to the mix. How much police investigation will it take for someone to break down? Or will all of them try to keep their secrets?

All the characters here, well most of them anyway, are as the Brits say, barking mad.

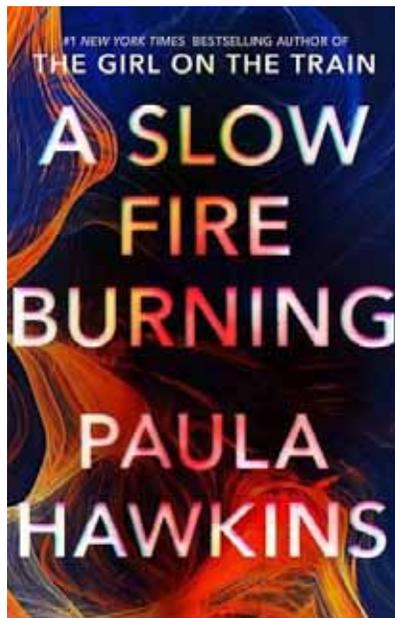
When the killer is finally revealed, the question put to the accused actually is a question that could be asked of most of the characters: *“Could you at least tell me this: Do you regret it?”* Believe me, there’s a lot to regret among this lot.

And they all live happily ever after. Umm...no. Not in this story.

One thing’s for sure: If you like puzzles and sorting through clues, you will love, love this book, or you will hate the whole story. I can’t see a possibility of any in-betweens. Pique your interest? I sure hope so.

Hawkins is the author of the bestselling The Girl on the Train, which was made into a 2017 film, and Into the Water. She lives in London. More information is at www.paulahawkinsbooks.com

Till next time, happy reading!





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