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On the Border

by William Halliar

Some facts, a person might think are set in stone, the exact details recorded and agreed upon for generations.

Serious students and curious souls know this is not true.

For instance, ask yourself the next time when taking a trip by airplane, what keeps this thing in the air? Believe it or not, no one really knows for sure. (For more on this, visit tinyurl.com/2p8pjhhf)

So, it might not come as a surprise that something as mundane as the border between Indiana and Michigan is not a fixed fact either.

How can this be, you ask? The explanation is intriguing, filled with literal twists and turns. And, it has led to a joint effort by Michigan and Indiana officials to resolve the matter for good.

Let's first take a step back in time.

Ohio became the first state in what was known as the Northwest Territory in 1803. Before then, Thomas Jefferson chaired a congressional committee charged with es-

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On the Border

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establishing a system to properly survey this vast new area added to the United States. The committee's work resulted in the Land Ordinance of 1785. It specified the new lands be divided into townships of six square miles, each township divided into 36 sections, each section one square mile and consisting of 640 acres.

The "Ohio Company of Associates," established in Boston in 1785, sought to purchase land in the Northwest Territory to sell to pioneers pouring over the Appalachian Mountains, anxious to settle the land. The Ohio Company had already established a city they called Marietta — named for the French Queen Marie Antoinette — on the Ohio River.

In 1800, an east/west line was established across the middle of the Northwest Territory to mark the northern border of the Ohio and Indiana territories. This line was to begin at the southernmost tip of Lake Michigan and go due east, crossing a north-south meridian set by the Ordinance of 1785, until it finally touched Lake Erie.

The trouble was, no one knew for sure where the southern shore of Lake Michigan was. Set a stake in the beach sand of Washington Park today at the water line, then check it next week. You might find it is either underwater or high up on the beach. The water level is constantly changing.

No fewer than eight surveys tried to determine the lake's southern border, each returning with a different figure. Eventually, the agreed-upon coordinate was 41 degrees, 38 minutes, 58 seconds North Latitude.

When Indiana petitioned the U.S. Congress for

statehood in 1815, it requested the original border at Lake Michigan's southern edge be moved 10 miles north to provide access to the lake for the new state. Thus, the Enabling Act passed by Congress on April 19, 1816, moved Indiana's northern border 10 miles north of Lake Michigan's established southern shore.

(For a more in-depth telling of the story, see the Oct. 15, 2015, *Beacher* article "A Curious Tale.")

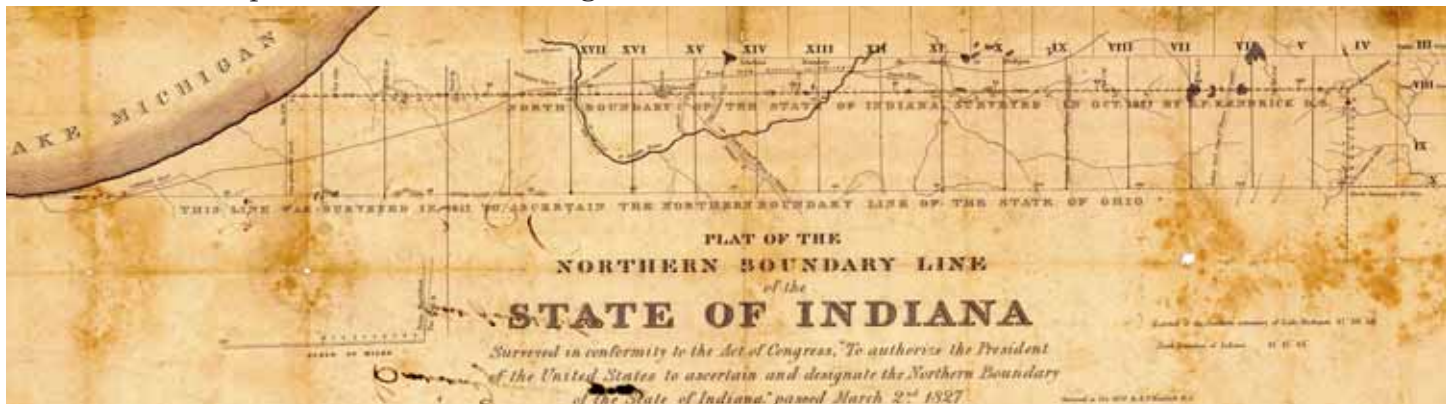
So, Indiana becomes a state on Dec. 11, 1816. The northern border is set as 10 miles north of 41 degrees, 38 minutes, 58 seconds North Latitude. But that border is just an imaginary line on a map. Where is Indiana's border in reality, on the ground? It might be important to know that fact at some point.



Eleazer P. Kendrick was described as a meticulous surveyor.

In October 1827, Eleazer P. Kendrick was sent to the wilds of Indiana to find out. Kendrick was known as a meticulous surveyor, taking detailed notes describing the location of his work. Though it is not recorded, he had to have had the soul of an adventurer because Indiana at the time was an untamed wilderness filled with wild animals and wilder people.

In 2022, Berrien County Michigan Surveyor Elbert Drew told Jakob Lazzaro of Indiana Public Ra-



The 1827 Kendrick survey plat.

dio he wrote in his notes to future surveyors, “If it becomes necessary to resurvey this section (the line between Berrien County and LaPorte County), let me advise the man who undertakes it to get his life insured before he undertakes it, especially in the west.”



This undated photo shows a former Indiana-Michigan border marker.

As a testament to Kendrick’s character, we know he eventually became surveyor-general of the Virginia Military District: 4.2 million acres in Ohio. At the time of his death in 1885, he was a Freemason with the rank of Knight Templar.

Kendrick and his team set out to locate Indiana’s boundary on the ground with compass, transit and a 66’ surveyor’s chain. Over hill and dale, they trekked through swamps and over lakes they measured, hacking through forests and wading through streams,

starting at a point in the sand dunes of Lake Michigan somewhere near the junction of today’s Lake Shore Drive and Michiana Drive.

The team placed 2”x 2” wooden stakes, or “hubs,” in every mile measured on the ground, 104 stakes in all cut from local oak trees they encountered as they went along. Sometimes, if the area where the stake was placed was particularly obscure, a pile of stones was left to identify the location, or charcoal from their cooking fires was dumped into the hole. Occasionally, a plow harrow was left, even a wine bottle — anything to let future surveyors know this was the actual location of an official hub.



An original stake found by a volunteer group.

Along the route, unbeknownst to Kendrick, his compass ran across a magnetic anomaly somewhere in the north, perhaps an iron deposit in southern Michigan, that caused their stakes to veer slightly from the straight line that was their intention. So on a map today, the original survey takes a slight bend to the north in that area.

Kendrick took meticulous notes to establish the location of each stake. He referenced at least two trees in the proximity of each stake with measure-

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ments from each to the stake. He also noted any distinguishing land features, large rocks or bodies of water so those who might follow him could find his stakes. Eventually, 104 oak stakes were placed along Indiana's norther border. The border was officially established.

That was 196 years ago.

Today, all of those stakes have rotted away, and the physical touchstones and evidence of the border between Indiana and Michigan have all but disappeared.



Jack Owens.

For almost a decade, Jack Owens, a retired Michigan surveyor, has been concerned about problems that might arise from this lack of an exact border location. In an article written by Maureen Hayden for the *Indianapolis News and Tribune* on

May 29, 2013, Owens recalls a telephone call while working as a surveyor from an attorney representing the victim of a traffic accident along the state line: *"He asked me what state the accident was in. I said I can't really tell you. We don't know where the state line is."*

Owens and some fellow state surveyors devoted spare time to seeking evidence of the original oak markers using Kendrick's original journals. Owens told Lazzaro of Indiana Public Radio that *"everyone has some idea where the state line is, but knows one knows exactly."*

Over nearly 200 years, the state line has come to be defined by fence rows and county roads that follow the line. Many surveys have been conducted, with stakes defining the corners of sections. Property lines exist today that were located from the original stakes, but the source of their locations — the original wood stakes — are long gone and forgotten.

Owens and his fellow surveyors lobbied the state and, eventually, the Indiana Michigan State Line Commission emerged in 2014 to re-establish the original state line between Indiana and Michigan. Five county surveyors from Indiana and five from Michigan were appointed as commissioners, tasked with searching for and locating the exact positions of the state-line stakes placed by Kendrick back in 1827. Once all of the original locations are discovered, after the approval of Indiana and Michigan state legislatures, more permanent markers or monuments will be placed to fix the border for the next 200 years.

LaPorte County Surveyor Anthony Hendricks is one of the border commissioners appointed to de-



LaPorte County Surveyor Anthony Hendricks serves on the Indiana Michigan State Line Commission. Photo by William Halliar.

termine the original stake locations. He speaks with unguarded enthusiasm about the challenges of this long overdue project. The obstacles encountered, especially in LaPorte County, such as thick woods, creeks and swamps, create a daunting task, even in 2023, making this project the challenge of a lifetime. Because of the difficult terrain, most of the surveying is accomplished in the early spring or winter when the foliage is off of the trees.

The border commissioners have decided upon DLZ, an engineering and survey consulting company, to accomplish the difficult task of locating all of the original stake locations. They began the process of defining the original state line by trekking the route on foot using Kendrick's original notes to seek evidence of the original stake locations.



Steve Jones, DLZ's director of survey, likens the search for 197-year-old wooden stakes to an archeological project.

Although those stakes, and even the reference trees, are long gone, it is still possible using existing, much later survey stakes and fence rows to locate original locations. Steve Jones, DLZ's director of survey, says this search for 197-year-old wooden stakes is a bit of an archeological project.

Kendrick always located his stakes from at least two trees in the vicinity. He would note the type of tree and any unusual features involved. Using GPS and Kendrick's notes, Jones and his crew examine the ground in the area where the stakes might be located, looking for differences in soil density that would indicate the presence of long-ago rotted stakes. They have been able to locate the remains of trees that have long since disintegrated, and by having the ancient wood



DLZ Crew Chief Brian Todd is photographed amid survey work in LaPorte County. Photo provided.

samples analyzed, he can determine the exact species of tree from which it came.

Using this information, Jones and the DLZ crew can find the exact location of Kendrick's original stakes, thus defining the original Indiana/Michigan border.

All existing nearby section corners and property stakes are referenced from these stake locations. Hendricks and Jones stress that if the Kendrick's state line survey varies from modern GPS survey, it is not more than a few inches, certainly never more than a little over a foot. There will be no surprises in the location of the state line. By Federal law, the Land Act of March 1, 1800, all survey stakes placed over the years, no matter how far off, are considered "Without Error." No one's property line will be affected by the survey.

Hendricks estimates the DLZ survey will be complete some time before 2027. After Indiana and Michigan agree on the result, more permanent markers or monuments made of steel, concrete and brass will replace Eleazer P. Kendrick's wooden hubs...and the Indiana-Michigan border will be defined once and for all.



This 2013 photo shows how a state line is marked at the Indiana-Ohio state line, complete with a monument. Photo credit Duane Hall.

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“Renfield” Has Enough Big Laughs to Score a Hit

by Andrew Tallackson

The idea of Nicolas Cage playing Dracula is like tempting fate. You ask yourself, how quickly will the eccentric actor — the poster child for needless weirdness — slingshot over the top?

Either Cage is mellowing, or director Chris McKay (“The Tomorrow War”) reigned him in, but Cage is *very* funny in “Renfield,” a horror-comedy that’s like the genre’s answer to “The Devil Wears Prada.”

The story, propelled by Ryan Ridley’s mostly clever script, treats Dracula and Renfield (Nicholas Hoult, “The Menu”), his human “familiar,” with self-aware hipness. Specifically, the toxic boss-employee dynamic. Stripped of any sense of self, and self-esteem, Renfield is fed up with being Dracula’s lackey. He’s begun attending a support group for enablers and codependents, and just about every scene with these folk is a blast, thanks to a cast that eagerly leaps into comic exaggeration.

Dracula, by the way, is recuperating from a near-death experience, requiring constant “food” to restore his health. And it is the exchanges between Dracula and Renfield that kick Cage into high gear. He’s not scary, more an impatient nag frustrated by Renfield’s “inefficiency.” Watch Cage’s face. As Renfield stumbles over his words, the mockery on Cage’s face, Dracula pretending to care, is a riot.

More inspired casting: Awkwafina (“Crazy Rich Asians”) as Rebecca, a traffic cop who teams up with Renfield to combat Dracula *and* low-rent mobsters. Awkwafina does what she always does: mines every exchange for snark. Like amid the aftermath of a bloody confrontation, when Rebecca tells Renfield, “*You know when something crazy happens and someone’s like, ‘It’s OK. I’ve seen way worse?’ Everything I saw you do today is gonna be my ‘way worse.’*”

(The gore in “Renfield” is extreme, but it’s staged



Renfield (Nicholas Hoult, right) finds himself growing tired of his boss, Count Dracula (Nicolas Cage), always nagging him in the new horror-comedy “Renfield.”



“Renfield”

Running time: 93 minutes. Rated R for bloody violence, some gore, language throughout and some drug use

to such cartoonish effect, you quickly dismiss it rather than be nauseated by it.)

When the mobsters dominate the movie’s climax, all the generous wit is drained from Ridley’s script. You want more laughs from the toxicity between Dracula and Renfield, not shoot-outs and carnage. That, we’ve seen before.

These days, though, you take what you can get. “Renfield” has enough laughs to earn a cult following. Consider me among the initiated.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



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All classes are held at the Michiana Shores theater, 288 Shady Oak Drive.

Tuition is \$200, with some scholarships available.

The schedule is:

- “Creative Drama and Play Creation” for students ages 8-12 from 1-3 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, June 12-28. Students develop basic theater skills, group collaboration and creative expression through games and storytelling.
- “Introduction to Musical Theatre” for students ages 8-12 from 1-3 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, July 10-26. Students develop musical performance skills, including vocalization, song interpretation and movement.
- “Youth Theatre Mentoring Program.” Six sessions from June 1-Aug. 20 are individualized and/or small groups for students 13 and older. Students with previous experience refine skills by working on monologues and songs for auditions and college admissions.

A student showcase for family and friends is in ear-

ly August. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/2s3r8r2r>
The instructors are:

- Michael Fallon (ages 13+ mentoring program) is a music and arts educator with more than 30 years of teaching, conducting, directing and performance experience. He was the director of choral activities, musical theater director and technical theater supervisor at Alan B. Shepard High School in Palos Heights, Ill., for 27 years until his retirement in 2019.
- Danielle Kerr (ages 8-12, Musical Theater, July classes). Since graduating from Northwestern University, she has worked with Youth Alliance Yoga, teaching after school yoga classes all over Chicago, and Mudlark Theater in Evanston, teaching play creation and creative drama. She also writes drama curriculum for www.OneStopDramaShop.com, which specializes in integrating drama with other academic subjects.
- Kyel Roberson (ages 8-12, Creative Drama, June classes), who also works with Michigan City Area Schools’ Safe Harbor Summer Camp Program. This summer, he will perform in the Dunes productions “Boeing, Boeing,” “tick tick Boom” and the Broadway Cabaret.



Students pose after their 2022 performances in “The Addams Family.”



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I'm Greg Coulter and I understand the needs of Michigan City. Our city council needs to collaborate now more than ever—with the mayor, with our neighborhoods, with city employees, our community organizations and with our business community. With many new developments on the horizon, it is important to have a new and forward thinking voice on the city council. We need to all pull in the same direction so everyone has a place at the table. I have my eyes turned towards what we need to accomplish, not just continuing what we've been doing. Changes are coming to Michigan City and we need to be ready:

Vote for VISION not division.



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Harbor Country Film Group



Donald O'Connor (from left), Debbie Reynolds and Gene Kelly star in "Singin' in the Rain."

Harbor Country Film Group will show the 1952 romantic musical-comedy "Singin' in the Rain" at 6:30 p.m. EDT Monday, April 24, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Group leader Eve Moran, in a press release, calls the film "music and romance and dancing, all set around a clever story about a fictional film studio's difficult and wildly amusing transition from silent movies to the talkies."

Starring Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor and Debbie Reynolds, the film placed fifth on American Film Institute's 10th anniversary list of 100 great films, and was voted the 10th greatest film of all time by critics in the 2022 *Sight & Sound* poll.

Moran will introduce the film, screen it and lead a discussion afterwards. Free popcorn will be served. The Friends of the New Buffalo Library sponsors the free group.

Old Lighthouse Museum Contest

The volunteers at Old Lighthouse Museum, to celebrate its 50th anniversary, have created a contest where the prize is a free Lake Michigan Cruise with Harbor Country Adventures.

The contest is designed to see which person can interest the most people in joining the museum's volunteers and work as a summer docent. Each year, the museum struggles a bit to staff the museum Tuesdays-Sundays. An in-depth knowledge of the area's history is not required. Volunteers and staff take a "learn as we go" approach.

The contest winner receives a free ticket to the June 24 Lake Michigan Cruise fundraiser with Harbor Country Adventures. The fundraiser is designed to promote the museum's 50th anniversary. If there is a tie for the number of volunteers signed up, a drawing will decide the winner.

Contact Josh McIntyre at contact@mchistorical.org or call the museum office at (219) 872-6133 for more details.

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Texas Tenors, Purdue Varsity Glee Club to Join LCSO

LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra will conclude its 50th anniversary season with The Texas Tenors and Purdue Varsity Glee Club in concert at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

The Texas Tenors has amassed a worldwide fan base with more than half a million followers on social media and more than 20 million views on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram. The Emmy-winning trio was a top finalist on “America’s Got Talent,” its repertoire ranging from classical to country. The Purdue Varsity Glee Club, directed by William Griffel, has served as ambassadors of the university for more than 125 years. Comprised of 67 singers, it will perform arrangements ideal to LCSO.

The concert, sponsored by Charles and Rita Hagenow and Purdue Federal Credit Union, opens with “Celebration Fanfare,” composed by Rick DeJonge and commissioned by Garry and JoFran Bendix for the anniversary season. The LCSO music director, Dr. Carolyn Watson, will conduct.

General admission balcony tickets, which cost \$30, are available at www.lcso.net. They also will be available at Roxy Music, 1012 Lincolnway, LaPorte, and the Civic, or by calling (219) 362-9020. There is no free student admission.



Above: The Texas Tenors. Below: Purdue Varsity Glee Club.



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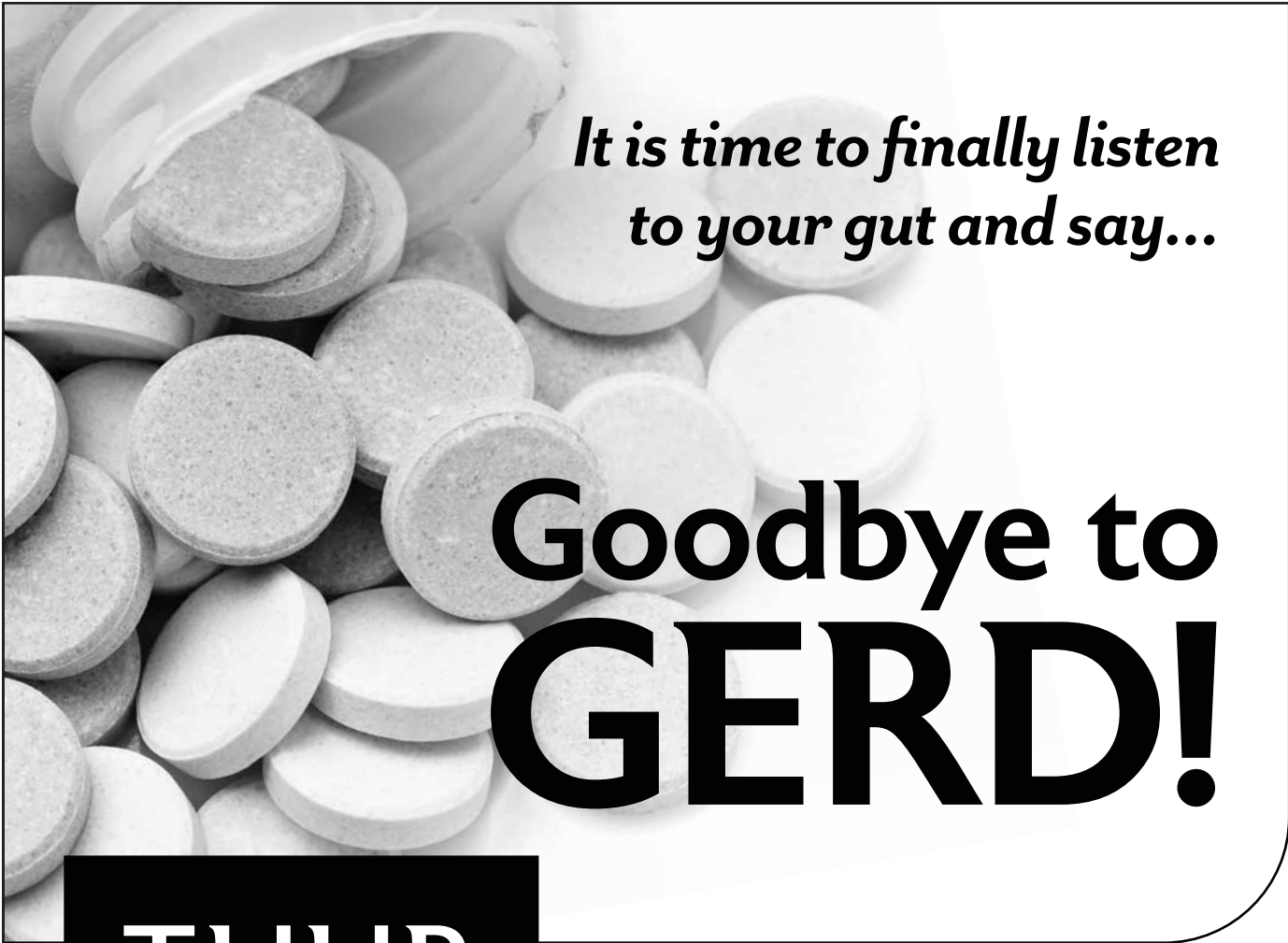
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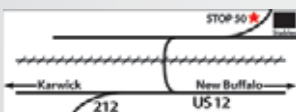
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DAR Chapter Awards Students



Five of the students are photographed during the ceremony.

Members of the Rebecca Dewey Chapter of the National Daughters of the American Revolution have recognized six high school seniors who qualified for the DAR Good Citizen award program.

They also honored a middle-school student who qualified for the DAR American History Essay Contest. The students were nominated by school counselors and teachers.

Students selected for the Good Citizen awards included: Robert Hartz, Brandywine; Elise Schmaltz, Bridgman; Isabell Bryans, Buchanan; Camille Czech, New Buffalo; Anna Johnson, Niles; and Elizabeth Lumley, River Valley. Bryans was the overall winner for her essay, advancing to the state DAR competition. Each student received cash, a certificate, pin and cords to wear at graduation.

Jiwoo Noh, Berrien Springs, was the Rebecca Dewey Chapter American History Essay Contest winner, earning a \$100 award. His essay on George Washington was submitted to the state DAR contest.

State Rep. Brad Paquette attended, with a Declaration of Tribute signed by himself, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist. Each student will receive their personal tribute in the mail.

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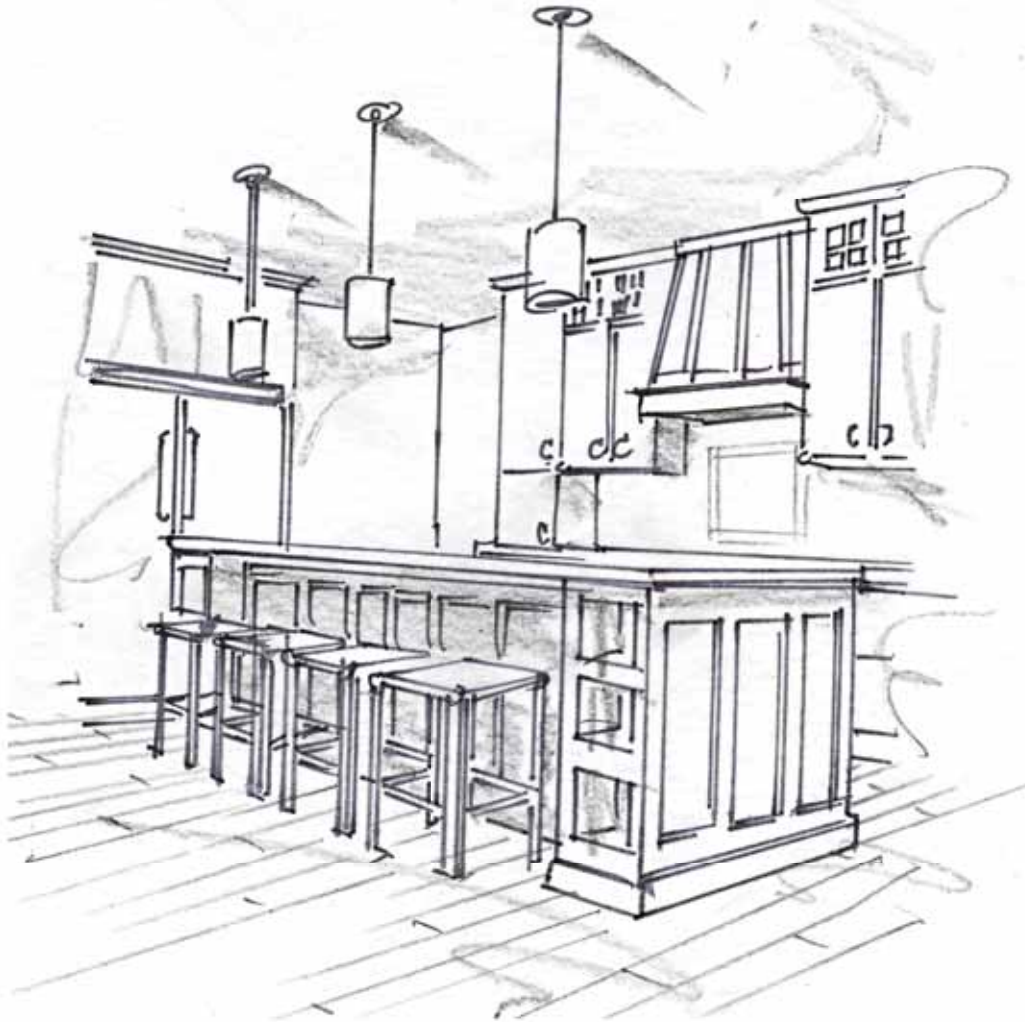
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Color in Art and Society

"Colors, like features, follow the changes of the emotions." – Pablo Picasso

Color.

Just the word excites me. It always has. As a youth, I had very specific color tastes. As time passed, those preferences changed, as I've always been willing to evolve and seek new visual experiences in my home and elsewhere.

Simply experiencing the subtleties in color changes throughout the year enhances my awareness of color on the whole, bringing with it a deeper appreciation of the natural world reflected in my color choices when creating. Artists interpret the world they live in, the times, the sociopolitical and the personal. An individual's color choices might be deliberate, spontaneous, even psychologically based or any combination of the three.

Color is one of the artist's greatest assets, and the ability to see color in all its multiple permutations and possibilities is a challenge and a joy.

However, it all begins with the seeing, and eyesight is a blessing. My fascination with colors began in the fourth grade with a simple classroom prism. As a bonus, if one was especially cooperative and quiet that day, one might be granted the honor of holding the prism up to the light to experience its wonder. The resulting impression was impactful, instilling in my then childish brain the seed of a lifelong passion for color.

What a gift to be able to see the colors surrounding us, to experience the vibrations of warm vs. cool colors, to appreciate the varying hues and subtle changes within one color system, such as blues or greens. As an artist, color became my playground, and the means by which I would push and pull the viewer around and through a work of art. However, in society at large, color plays a role well beyond the

The Inquisitive Artist

Linda Weigel



artist's interpretations.



"Colors express the main psychic functions of man." – Carl Jung

It was during my college years I first became aware of a much broader, deliberate use of color beyond the studio, becoming fascinated with the history of color and influence, of the manipulation of color in business, politics...you name it.

The study of color and how it can affect mood is a powerful psychological tool enabling increased sales, or as a means to calm a group of people, influence a positive or negative message. Marketing people employ color psychology. Interior designers utilize color, light and texture to impact a response to space. Much of what is manufactured, such as clothing, household utensils, furniture or transportation, utilizes color psychology in the production and packaging.

There have been extensive studies on the psychosocial effects of color in humans to understand and assist mood and focus. For example, using a repetition of colors in nursing homes may enhance memory in residents. Font size and color in magazines can enhance readability. One reference I found especially interesting discusses the importance of color in a classroom. Color recommendations for floor coverings, furniture, walls, bulletin boards and more when integrated carefully can have a considerable impact on an equal learning environment. Pink, for instance, has demonstrated that it can calm prison inmates.

Since the early 1930s, psychologists and researchers have extensively studied human response to color. I once worked in an office for a professor of human factors psychology at the University of Illinois. At the time, he was researching pilot response times to color and size changes in the flight instrument panel of an airplane with all its multitude of dials. I'd never heard of such a thing before, but it made perfect sense once explained to me.

Research into studies of color and color response have been used to forecast color trends, to establish best colors to induce consumer buying. Some studies seek to establish the difference between male and female color response according to age or social status. Have you ever noticed how many fast food chains use red in their logos or inside their restau-



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rants? Red has been shown to stimulate appetite.

Interesting, isn't it?

The yellow of the golden arches is a cheerful yellow, the color kids use to draw the sun and one associated with happiness and fun times. Yellow produces a kind of feel-good chemical in the brain. I recently read that homes with yellow trim or plantings may sell faster.

Blue is known to elicit a calming, tranquil response and can reduce blood pressure and respiration rates, except in the case if there is too much of it or it's too dark, which can appear depressing. A unique adaptation of the color blue brings us to a cultural tradition unique to southern areas of the U.S. Haint Blue is a type of spiritual color, and one I was completely unfamiliar with. I first encountered it in Key West, Fla., on a walk with another artist friend. I had noticed that the porches of all the houses we passed had a similar blue paint on the ceiling of the porch. I mentioned it, and she told me about the tradition of keeping out the Haints (spirits). The blue ceiling is meant to represent water and is there to keep your house safe from the spirits. Haints can't cross water, and the blue of the ceiling discourages them from "crossing" into your house. Regardless, the color was refreshing and looked beautiful against the mostly white painted exteriors.



"Color is all. When color is right, form is right. Color is everything, color is vibration like music; everything is vibration." — Marc Chagall

All that leads me to wonder, from where does my personal attraction for certain colors come? Where does yours? Many sources are involved. I do know that some of it is genetic, and the result of how the neurotransmitters inherited from my parents will react on the endocrine system when seeing a color. I don't truly understand the entire process, but it's interesting nonetheless.

I know that memories play a part as well. The area I live in, and the natural light and regional climate, certainly are significant. Importantly, mood and the psychological state of mind at any one time can affect one's artistic color choices, and as mood changes, colors might change, too.

For example, I think of Vincent van Gogh when I think of the evolution of mood and its effect on color choice, and Claude Monet when I think of seasonal changes and its effect on color choice (see all those haystacks he painted at different times of the year and different times of the day).

However, for many artists, the greatest attribute to color selection is simply the personal, emotional response to direct observation of the world around them, be it rural, urban or any combination of the two. All that visual information, combined with their unique history with color, can result in spectacular work.

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Hop to It



Families turned out in droves for Michigan City's Easter Egg Hunt on April 8 in Fedder's Alley at Washington Park. The event was a collaborative effort between community businesses, police, fire, Parks & Recreation, Emergency Management, Special Events and numerous volunteers. All photos by James Conlin.

Continued on Next Page





Learn more about the staff of The Beacher Weekly Newspaper

Meet Laszlo Montgomery

Area of Residence:

Michigan City.

Title: official greeter/paper delivery pooch.

What I love about

The Beacher: devouring cardboard boxes.

What I love about delivering The Beacher with Dad: riding around with my head out the window.



Favorite movies: “Turner and Hooch,” “Lassie Come Home” (*huba huba*), “Up,” “Scooby Doo,” “One Hundred and One Dalmatians,” “As Good as it Gets.”

Favorite books/authors: “See Spot Run.” A big NO to “Old Yeller” and “Where the Red Fern Grows.”

Favorite music: “Who Let the Dogs Out.”

Favorite TV shows: “Lassie” (*huba huba huba*).

Favorite food: steak.

Favorite sports team: Any team named “The Wolves”

Reason I love living in this area: Woods to explore and sandy beaches. I especially like Friendship Botanic Gardens and Indiana Dunes National Park.

Photo by
James Conlin



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Paper

“Unprisoned” Uses Laughs to Make Wise Observations on Family, Race

by Andrew Tallackson



Delroy Lindo and Kerry Washington are wonderful together in the Hulu dramedy “Unprisoned.”

Why aren’t more people talking about “Unprisoned”? Is it because the dramedy is on Hulu, which ain’t exactly at the top of the streaming food chain? Or is it because, by exploring family, cultural identity and the black experience, the idea of it sounds too heavy?

A little of both, I suspect.

A shame, because it’s one of the best shows out there, with Kerry Washington (“Little Fires Everywhere”), the star-executive producer, affording Delroy Lindo (“Da 5 Bloods”) the best role of his career. These two are incredibly good together, Lindo in particular exuding an energy, a charisma, that dominates the laughs and heartache. The result is an eight-episode series — largely in 30-minute chunks — that feels too short because you crave more.

Washington, as an actress, has a way of playing women too smart for their own good. That’s not meant, by the way, as a patronizing slight. What I mean is, the characters she gravitates to overthink things. They deflect, which is ironic, because Paige Alexander, her character here loosely based on show creator Tracy McMillan, is supposed to have it all together. Paige is a therapist and relationship expert. Whether through therapy or TikTok clips, she presents the air of being successful, happy.

The arrival of her father, Edwin (Lindo), out on parole after a 17-year prison stint, reveals how fragile that perception is. Paige is nursing a lifetime of hurt. A woman who, in her youth, coasted through foster families, resentment toward her father now ingrained into her very essence.

Staying with Paige and her 16-year-old son, Finn (Faly Rakotohavana, wonderful), we see how Edwin gets under her skin. Washington revs Paige up, as if her life is so complete, any conversation between daughter and father is reduced to cutting remarks, desperate reassurance that she is not a failure.

And Edwin? We get why people are drawn to him. Lindo, as Edwin, knows how to work a room. He can dole out a smile that thaws any frigid soul. He is filled with so much life and good cheer, you never see him as the snake oil salesman Paige believes him to be.

“Unprisoned,” instead, offers a complex look at post-prison life. Edwin has skills that make him hireable, but being a convicted felon prevents him from getting hired. There is a lack of give-and-take between society and ex-cons looking to prove themselves. Lindo’s brave face against Paige’s constant expectation of failure is heartbreaking and hilarious, the standout scene being Edwin’s confrontation with a spiteful boss. The moment may be Lindo’s best piece



The secret weapons of “Unprisoned”: Brenda Strong (left) and Faly Rakotohavana.

of acting: piercingly direct and profanely honest.

Much of the laughs in “Unprisoned” comes from the least likely source: Brenda Strong as Nadine, Edwin’s on again-off again love, still devoted to him after his prison release. Strong, you may recall, was the lily white, deceased narrator of ABC’s “Desperate Housewives.” Here, she does an about-face. Nadine is brash, deliciously smug. It’s like watching a tiger that just ate its young. The crassness of the character isn’t necessarily vulgar talk, but unfiltered conversations. Strong constantly surprises you here.

The element of surprise, indeed, is the secret weapon of “Unprisoned.” Rakotohavana creates a rarity: a smart, laid-back, bighearted teen. Intensely devoted to family, he takes a liking to Edwin. The two learn from each other, with Finn frequently being the parent of the two. The calming influence.

Like Paige, McMillan, who based the show on elements of her own life, grew up with a white mother and a black father. Early in “Unprisoned,” we get the sense Paige and Finn haven’t necessarily dodged the issue of race. They are not ashamed nor conflicted; more, they’ve concentrated more on creating a life for themselves. But in the crucial sixth episode, Paige, Edwin and Finn head down south to retrieve personal and financial information that might help Edwin snag a better job. And it is here Paige and Finn get a brief taste of what life was like for Edwin as a child. These two hit the pause but-

ton on their own hurried existence, welcoming a key side of themselves. Bravo to how the show movingly handles the subject.

The edge to “Unprisoned” extends elsewhere in the show. It can be racy, with brief flashes of nudity and salty talk you don’t find on network shows.

Hulu hasn’t announced whether “Unprisoned” gets a second season. The series ends with a dramatic cliffhanger, and we realize, this family is nowhere near the end of its journey. And we, as the viewer, are more than willing to continue the ride with them.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Bird Walk and Talk from 9-10:30 a.m. Thursday April 20.** Join a ranger for a morning stroll while observing the vast array of bird life in the park. Meet at the parking lot north of U.S. 12 on Broadway Avenue, Beverly Shores.
- **Community Park-wide Cleanup for Earth Day from 9 a.m.-noon Friday, April 21, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes, Indiana Dunes Tourism, Mermaid Straw and the park's volunteer office, guests work with staff to pick up trash. Dress for the weather. Equipment and protective gear are provided. Temporary passes are available.
- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, April 21, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.
- **Gardening at Chellberg Farm from 9 a.m.-noon Saturdays, April 22 and 29.** Wear comfortable clothes. Work gloves and equipment will be provided. Insect repellent and sunscreen are recommended. The Chellberg Farm parking lot is located at 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter.
- **Woodland Wildflower Hike from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays in April at Heron Rookery, 1336 County Road 600 East, Michigan City.** Join a ranger to view woodland flowers. The Heron Rookery trail runs along the Little Calumet River, with the hike starting at the east parking lot.
- **Mount Baldy Summit Hike from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, April 23.** Meet at the parking lot off U.S. 12 for a ranger-led hike to the top of the dune. Passes are required. The lot and beach are open from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. The dune, however, is still closed.
- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 2:30-4 p.m. Sundays in April.** Rangers and volunteers will share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse and garden and visit the animals. Passes are required. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily in April at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center and the Paul H. Douglas Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and

beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit tinyurl.com/2p83798v for more details.

- **Bailly/Chellberg History Hike from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturdays in April.** Explore the grounds of both historic homes, and learn about early settlers and farmers who came to the region in the 1800s. Park at the Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. Passes are required.
- **Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in April at Paul H. Douglas Center.** The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.

□

May 24 is the deadline to apply for the National Park Service Teacher Ranger Teacher program.

K-12 teachers work in the park and learn about resources, participate in a lesson-planning webinar, develop at least one lesson to be used at school, assist the park with an educational project and increase understanding of place-based learning. Required is 240 hours participation June 12-July 30.

The University of Denver, a partner in the project, will pay a cash stipend to participants who pass all requirements. All questions can be submitted to IDNP Education Specialist Christine Gerlach at Christine_gerlach@nps.gov or (219) 395-1885. An application is at tinyurl.com/4rfrxbb6. An application request also can be sent directly to Gerlach.

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 programs will be offered:

- **Walk with the Timberdoodles at 7 p.m. Friday, April 21.** Join a naturalist on the beach pavilion's west side to search for shorebirds often called woodcocks, bogsuckers or timberdoodles. The moderate hike is just more than one-mile long.
- **Are They Here Yet Hike? at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 22.** Stop by the Nature Center, where a naturalist will introduce spring ephemerals.
- **Salamander Gander at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 22.** Meet at the Nature Center to view and learn about salamanders.
- **Two-Dune Trek at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 22.** Join a naturalist, and wear hiking shoes, to not only see dunes views, but also learn about the park's natural and cultural history.
- **Cold Blooded Buffet at 10 a.m. Sunday, April 23.** Meet at the Nature Center Auditorium to see reptiles and amphibians eat live meals.

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.

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The 14th Annual Polish Bikers' Pilgrimage and Blessing of Motorcycles is Sunday, May 7, at Our Lady of Czestochowa Shrine, 5755 Pennsylvania St., Merrillville.

Hosted by the *Stowarzyszenie Rajd Katynski Pamiec i Tozsamosc USA* (Katyn Riders Society), Holy Mass will be celebrated in Polish at noon, followed by the blessing of motorcycles and a picnic on the shrine grounds. Menu items and prices vary; food also will be sold in Millennium Hall.

The event is held rain or shine; motorcyclists not planning to attend Mass, but who would like to have their bikes blessed, should arrive at the shrine before 1 p.m. and park on the grounds where space is available.

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American Red Cross

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

- A.K. Smith Career Center, 817 Lafayette St., 7:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Tuesday, April 25.
- Northwest Health Heart and Vascular Building, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, noon-5 p.m. Thursday, April 27.
- St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, 818 Franklin St., 2-6 p.m. Thursday, April 27.

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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Smile Scholarship

Michigan City Dental P.C. will offer a “smile scholarship” for teens and young adults in LaPorte County entering post-secondary education and/or the local workforce.

The goal is to provide treatment that will improve their lives. This can mean necessary treatment they haven’t had the means to get previously, or cosmetic treatment to improve alignment or appearance.

Interested applicants should send an email to smilemichigancity@gmail.com, a “smile” selfie, and answer the following questions as a short essay:

- What you would like to change about your smile? What treatment are you interested in having?
- How will improving your dental health and/or your smile affect your life?
- How have you contributed, or how do you plan to be involved, in our community?

The scholarship is open to young adults 16 and older. It will cover the cost of treatment provided by Michigan City Dental, 4212 E. Michigan Blvd. The treatment plan will be determined after a free preliminary dental assessment is made. The scholarship does not cover treatment completed elsewhere, although the doctors may make recommendations on outside treatment based on a patient’s needs.

Recipients must agree to complete all customary new patient paperwork, including a photo release form that will include before and after photos. They must agree to make all scheduled appointments as prescribed by the dentist and return for a six-month followup after treatment is complete. Minors must have a guardian sign off and accompany them to appointments until a treatment plan is accepted.

Recipients must put a \$50 deposit to schedule an appointment that will be returned if they make it to their appointment on time and complete treatment as prescribed. Each visit will proceed as such.

Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 20, in the City Hall Mayor’s Conference Room, 100 E Michigan Blvd.

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KAC Solo Exhibit

“Excursions,” Marat Paransky’s solo exhibit designed as a response to highly visible disasters, debuts in The Lab on Saturday, April 22, at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

Paransky will participate in a preview reception from 6-8 p.m. EDT Friday, April 21, with an artist talk at 7 p.m. EDT. Light refreshments will be provided.



Marat Paransky's 2020 graphite work "Returners III."

In 2010, the artist began making sculptures from household items related to nuclear emergencies and human health. The objects were built on secondhand memories of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster and its ties to his childhood. Since then, the installation has grown to consider other catastrophes and his responses to them.

Paransky is a sculptor, painter, photographer and mixed-media artist living and working in Farmington Hills, Mich. Born in Kyiv, Ukraine, in 1986, much of his work for the KAC project is rooted in childhood memories.

Visit tinyurl.com/yuarp983 for more details.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **Youth Advisory Board Meeting at 6 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 20.**
- **NBTL Poetry Slam from 6:30-7:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, April 20.** The library will close National Poetry Month with the all-ages event. Plenty of room is available for participants and viewers. Refreshments will be available. Sign up by calling or emailing the library.
- **Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran at 6:30 p.m. EDT Monday, April 24.** The movie is “Singin’ in the Rain.”
- **NBTL Book Club at 10 a.m. EDT Tuesday, April 25.** The focus is Heart’s Invisible Furies.
- **Vernal pools hikes at 10:30 a.m. EDT Saturdays, April 22 and May 13 and 27.** Meet in the New Buffalo Elementary School parking lot, 12291 Lubke Road.

Weekly programs:

- Craft Time all day Wednesday while supplies last.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Story Time at 4 p.m. Thursday.
- Lego Club all day Saturday.

All times are Eastern. New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Call (269) 469-2933 for more details.

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Three Oaks Flag Day Hog Roast

The annual Three Oaks Flag Day Hog Roast is from 4-8 p.m. EDT Saturday, April 22, at the Three Oaks American Legion Hall, 204 W. Linden St.

The event is sponsored by the post, Cordogan & Clark and Journeyman Distillery. The meal includes pork, baked beans, mac 'n cheese, cole slaw and dessert. The new Flag Day Prince and Princess, and Three Oaks/River Valley Royalty, will attend, as will the 2023 grand marshal, Sheriff Paul Bailey. Buddy Pearson performs at 6 p.m. EDT.

Tickets are available through committee members or at the door. Participation in the silent auction is on an individual basis, with only cash and checks accepted. Anyone who wants to donate to the silent auction should contact Heather at (269) 612-1960.

All proceeds benefit the Three Oaks Flag Day Parade, which also is bolstered by sponsorships. Donations from surrounding businesses fill the silent auction, including gift baskets, adventure packages, gift certificates and decor.

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| 3. Spare Me | 29 | 23 |

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| | SCORE |
|--------------------------|-------|
| 1. Debbie Novak | 186 |
| 2. Diana Holt | 176 |
| 3. June Salmon | 171 |
| 4. Carolyn Wiggins | 157 |
| 5. Dottie Brinckman | 156 |
| 6. Barb Macudzinski | 155 |
| 7. Deb Konicek | 150 |
| 8. Ann Bogart (series) | 417 |
| 9. Nancy Kubath (series) | 403 |

SPLITS

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Diana Holt | 3-10 |
| Robyn Rice | 2-7-8 |
| Mary Lou McFadden | 3-10 |

The season is done until September, with new teams or bowlers always welcome.

Walking Program

Purdue Extension-LaPorte County is offering Get WalkIN', an email-based program where people can walk on their own and receive emailed support and information.

Participants must complete two short online surveys. Any LaPorte County resident 18 and older may enroll. Register now because the class starts April 24. Contact Chrissie Lai at (219) 324-9407 or lai241@purdue.edu, or register at <https://bit.ly/3nDCwVO>



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Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public. 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 library is changing overhead lighting to LED fixtures. They will feature automatic ambient lighting, centralized controls for turning on and off and conservation in unoccupied public areas. The library will remain open during all phases of the project, but reserves the right to close if necessary. Areas under the work zone will be closed. The goal is to minimize closure time to its collections and services. The meeting rooms will close while work is done.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Scratch + Microbit (ages 9-17) at 4 p.m. Thursday, April 20.** Learn to connect a Microbit to the Scratch coding platform. Microbit is a tiny circuit board designed to help children learn to code. Scratch is a coding platform to create stories, games and animations. Call Dave at (219) 873-3045 for more details.
 - **Film showing, "Ticket to Paradise," at 2 p.m. Friday, April 21.** The movie, Rated PG-13, runs 1 hour, 44 minutes.
 - **Friends of the Library Collector's Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22, at St. John's United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 101 St. John Road.** Portofino Grill is the caterer. Each ticketholder can take one item to be appraised by Martin Papke of Kathy's Antique Shop, Chesterton. Tickets, which cost \$25, are available from a Friends of the Library board member or the library circulation desk.
 - **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 24.** The foreign-policy discussion program continues its 25th season. The topic is "Global Famine."
- Reading material is available at the circulation desk. Call 873-3049 for more details.
- **Toy Story Scavenger Hunt through April.** Find Woody, Buzz, Jessie and Mr. Potato Head in Youth Services. Clues are listed below each picture. Receive a prize for finding them all.
 - **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night at 5:30 p.m. Thursdays in April.** Membership is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Also, the group has organized a local chapter of the Warm Up America Foundation. Volunteers are knitting and crocheting handmade squares (7x9 inch) that will be joined together to make full-size afghans.
 - **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in April.** Youth ages 6-17 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
 - **Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens weekly.** Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Makerspace. Supplies are limited.
 - **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.
-
- Volunteer genealogists can answer questions from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays (Pat Harris) and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. the last Saturday of the month (Colleen Miltenberger).
-
- (Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.)*



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Scholarship Contest

The Michigan City Human Rights Commission is accepting entries for the 2023 Hawkins-Williams Educational Scholarship Award and 2023 Judi Huber Educational Scholarship Award.

The winner of the Hawkins-Williams Educational Scholarship Award receives \$1,000. The contest is open to any graduating high school senior attending school within the Michigan City Area Schools boundaries. The entries must include an essay related to the stated theme, a certified copy of high school transcripts and three letters of recommendation. Visit tinyurl.com/mve9adwk for details.

The \$1,000 Judi Huber Educational Scholarship Award also is for graduating high school seniors. In addition to the required essay, the submission is judged on academics, community service and extra-curricular activities. Visit tinyurl.com/4ajfdr2p for more details.

All applications are due by 4 p.m. Friday, May 19. Packets can be mailed, emailed, uploaded or brought into the office, the address for which is: Michigan City Human Rights Department, City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, IN 46360. Email dgonzales@emichigancity.com for more details.

Additional information is available at tinyurl.com/2p98a73n

Great Lakes Grand Prix



XINSURANCE is the new title sponsor of Great Lakes Grand Prix, held along Michigan City's lake-front, through 2027.

XINSURANCE also will be one of seven Class One powerboats competing in the American Power Boat Association series, according to Jack Arnett, LaPorte County Convention & Visitor Bureau CEO.

Indiana Tourism Association named Great Lakes Grand Prix the Best Event in Indiana. This year's race week is Aug. 2-6 at Washington Park. Visit <https://greatlakesgrandprix.com> for more details.

Friday Night at The SAL

The Salvation Army of Michigan City, 1201 Franklin St., will present another session of its family friendly "Friday Night at The SAL" from 5-7 p.m. Friday, April 21.

The free monthly event, held every third Friday, is open to the public and includes dinner, dessert and prizes. This month, the activity is Disney karaoke. Past activities include family game night, a talent show, Bingo, glow dance and art projects.

More information is available by calling (219) 874-6885, visiting www.SAmichigancity.org or by following The Salvation Army of Michigan City on Facebook.

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In the Area

April 20 — Scratch + Microbit (ages 9-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

April 21 — Film showing, "Ticket to Paradise," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 21 — Friday Night at The SAL, 5-7 p.m., The Salvation Army of Michigan City, 1201 Franklin St. Free. Info: www.SAmichigancity.org, (219) 874-6885.

April 22 — Friends of the Library Collector's Breakfast, 9:30 a.m., St. John's United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall, 101 St. John Road. Tickets: \$25, available at circulation desk.

April 22 — LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, 7 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. General admission balcony seats/\$30. Reservations/tickets: www.lcso.net, (219) 362-9020, Roxy Music, 1012 Lincolnway, LaPorte, the Civic.

April 24 — Great Decisions, 6:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049

April 24 — Family Pajama Storytime, 6-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

April 25 — Readers Corner-Book Club, 6-7 p.m., Coolspring Library Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

April 26 — Birds of the Indiana Dunes: Feeder & Yard Birds (adults 19+), 5-6:30 p.m., Coolspring Library Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Through April — Exhibits: "Works by Lydia Lemmons" & "Celebrating Our Depot," The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays/11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sundays. Info: www.bsdepot.com

Through June 30 — Artwork by the Rev. David Kime, the Rev. Roque Meraz, Dr. John Wilhelm, The Legacy Center Gallery at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Center 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: (219) 872-9196.

First and Third Mondays — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Senior Health/Wellness Center (old hospital ER, Barker/Buffalo).

Mondays in Michigan City — Bingo, Moose Family Lodge 980, 2107 Welnetz Road. Doors open/8:30 a.m., early birds/9:30 a.m., regular Bingo/10 a.m.

Mondays in LaPorte — Weekly line dance lessons, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1130, 181 W. McClung Road. Cost: \$5. Beginner dance lessons, 2-3 p.m. Improver dance lessons, 3-4 p.m. Info: (219) 363-8301.

Tuesdays — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 109 Ann St. Doors open: 3:30 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. Starting Feb. 7: \$45 entrance fee (includes all cards). Info: (219) 336-3099.

Tuesdays in April — Makerspace: open lab hours, 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Thursdays — Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night, 5:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

In the Region

April 20 — Bird Walk and Talk, 9-10:30 a.m., parking lot north of U.S. 12 on Broadway Avenue, Beverly Shores. Info: www.nps.gov/indu. (219) 395-1882.

April 20 — The Linda Ronstadt Experience, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oak, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee, \$65 + \$6 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

April 21 — Community Park-wide Cleanup for Earth Day, 9 a.m.-noon, Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

April 21 — Expo '66, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oak, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$55 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

April 21 — The Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

April 21 — Walk with the Timberdoodles, 7 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 21 — Exhibit preview reception, Marat Paransky's "Excursions," 6-8 p.m. EDT, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Artist talk: 7 p.m. EDT. Info: tinyurl.com/yuarpp983

April 22 — Are They Here Yet Hike?, 9 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 22 — Guided walk around Porter County Courthouse Square, 10 a.m., Porter County Museum, 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Info: tinyurl.com/muue8hh4

April 22 — Salamander Gander, 11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 22 — Two-Dune Trek, 2 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East,

Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 22 — Three Oaks Flag Day Hog Roast, 4-8 p.m. EDT, Three Oaks American Legion Hall, 204 W. Linden St. Tickets sold at door: \$20.

April 22 — Dunes Arts Summer Theatre 2023 Season Announcement Party, 5-7 p.m. EDT, Hummingbird Lounge, 9 S. Barton St., New Buffalo, Mich. Tickets: \$25. Reservations: tinyurl.com/ednts6nf

April 22 — Album release, Matt Lenny and The Breakdown, 7 p.m. EDT, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$12/general, \$15/at door. Reservations: <https://ticketstripe.com/mattlenny>

April 22 — The Ides of March featuring Jim Peterik, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oak, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$6 convenience fee, \$65 + \$6 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www.acornlive.org

April 23 — Cold Blooded Buffet, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

April 23 — Mount Baldy Summit Hike, 1-3 p.m., parking lot off U.S. 12, Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

April 23 — Open Mic Night featuring Jen Lawson, 7 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oak, Mich. Regular seating/free. Performer inquiries: openmic@acornlive.org

April 24 — Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran, 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

April 25 — NBTL Book Club, 10 a.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Through May 18 — Stephanie Samaitis Carnell exhibit, The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

Through June 4 — Andy Sweet's "South Beach," Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.krasl.org/andy-sweets-south-beach

Through April 28 — Two exhibits, "Fiber Art '23" & CAC Youth Art Exhibition, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

Through April 30 — 2023 Community Student Art Exhibitions, Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Reception: middle-, high-school/ 6-8 p.m. EDT April 20. Info: (269) 983-0271, www.krasl.org

Through May 29 — "Built to Last: Studebaker Buildings Past & Present," The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11 - adults, \$9.50 - seniors 60+, \$7 - youth ages 6-18. Info: (574) 235-9714, www.studebakermuseum.org

Through July 31 — "Budgie's Garden" Art Show,

Front Street Crossing, 227 S. Front St., Dowagiac, Mich. Featured artist: Lisa Quinlan-Heibutzki (past collaborator with *Beacher* columnist Charley McKelvy).

Mondays — Pickleball, 5:30 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free, donations welcome. Info: (269) 426-3909, friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com

Saturdays in April — Gardening at Chellberg Farm, 9 a.m.-noon, Chellberg Farm parking lot, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Saturdays in April — Woodland Wildflower Hike, 1-3 p.m., Heron Rookery, 1336 County Road 600 East, Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Saturdays in April — Bailly/Chellberg History Hike, 1-2:30 p.m., Bailly/Chellberg parking lot off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays in April — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center, 100 N. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, visit www.nps.gov/indu

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: "Dazed & Confused." Rated R. Time: 7 p.m. April 20. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.



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Death of a Traitor by M.C. Beaton with R.W. Green (hardcover, \$27 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 225 pages.)

M.C. Beaton is the pseudonym for Marion Chesney, born in Scotland. She is the best-selling author of two very popular series — 22 million copies sold worldwide/translated into 17 languages — the Agatha Raisin series and Hamish Macbeth series. Brits have named her “Queen of Crime.” She is a master of the “cozy mystery,” a genre so named because of its lighter read. There is murder and mystery, but with a lighter touch, little or no rough language. But that doesn’t make them less entertaining or mysterious. Characterization is important, as well as location, with a feel of actually being there — walking the roadways and observing life in small Scottish and English villages.

Sadly, Beaton passed in 2019 and R.W. Green, a close family friend and author in his own right, was asked by her to help finish what was to be Beaton’s last book — an Agatha Raisin story, Hot to Trot. Apparently, he will continue writing the two series, and judging by this book, he is carrying on the life and characterization of Agatha and Hamish in Beaton’s original mold.

As in this Hamish Macbeth novel, the title gives you the leading theme — treachery.

Hamish is the police presence in the small village of Lochdubh in the Scottish Highlands. He lives alone with his dog, Lugs, and a wildcat named Sonsie. Villagers aren’t keen about the wildcat, but Hamish seems to have her under control...sort of.

The story starts out with a missing person — Kate Hibbert. Her cousin, Diane Spears, filed the missing person’s report because, truth is, no one else would have missed Kate.

Hamish doesn’t know this or have a lot to go on, except Gregor Mackenzie saw her walking out of town pulling a suitcase behind her. The whole village seemed to give a collective sigh of relief.

She came to Lochdubh a year ago, bought herself a small cottage and inserted herself into people’s lives by helping out around their houses, interfering in their lives and eventually alienating herself to all who knew her.

Then...Diane Spears shows up in person and announces she is sticking around Lochdubh until Hamish can provide answers to her questions on what has happened to her cousin.

People in the village who knew Hibbert all say the same thing: “...she was a nice, helpful lass, yet nobody had been in the least bit upset that she had vanished.”

Not long after, a call comes in about a dead body

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



washed up on an island in a nearby loch. Of course, it turns out to be Kate Hibbert. The body had “ropes around the waist and the ankles...tied to rocks... This had been no accident. The body had been dumped in the loch.”

Hamish finds a suitcase near the body. Opening it, he notices a plastic bag inside the torn lining. It appears to have been hidden on purpose.

Before he has time to check out the bag’s contents, Superintendent Peter Daviot, his immediate supervisor, notifies him they are bringing in a team from Glasgow to head up the murder investigation. Say what? This is Hamish’s turf. To make matters worse, the head detective, DCI Blair, hates Hamish, and the feeling is mutual. Blair’s a blustery, overbearing man who loves lording it over Hamish. Sounds like Hamish will work this case without input from Blair.

Bread crumbs are scattered across the pages for the reader to file away for future reference. Like Clara and Gregor Mackenzie, and their nervousness about talking to Hamish. Fiona and Ian Duncan also are nervous that Hamish will come

calling with questions they don’t want to answer. Several others give off the same vibe. What are they hiding? Then again, red herrings may be in the mix.

Remember the package hidden in the suitcase? It contains a love letter using initials, no names, as well as diamond earrings and an expensive watch. They just happen to be the same ones stolen from Hannah Thomson’s house some five years ago, or so she said.

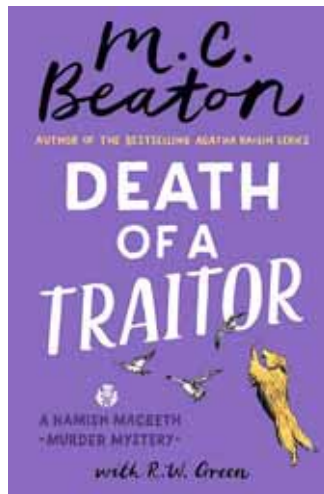
Throughout the story, the Scottish Highlands provide serene scenery and picturesque villages that stand in stark contrast to a vicious murder and secrets the villagers thought they could keep buried.

How could such a brutal murder take place in such a beautiful setting? And Hamish Macbeth is the sensitive, likable, yet tough policeman for whom you just can’t help but cheer.

And, yes, Hamish has his share of women friends. Pricilla Halburton-Smythe, daughter of a local wealthy landowner, and Elspeth Grant, a reporter for a news station, to name a few. All just friends since he married Dorothy a year ago. Unfortunately, she was killed soon after...but that’s another story.

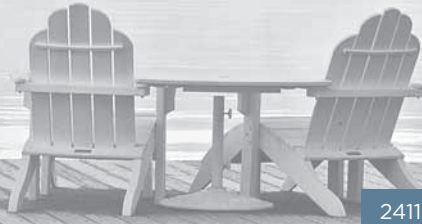
As for this story, well, sleepy Scottish villages aren’t always as they appear to be. Treachery has no boundaries.

Till next time, happy reading!



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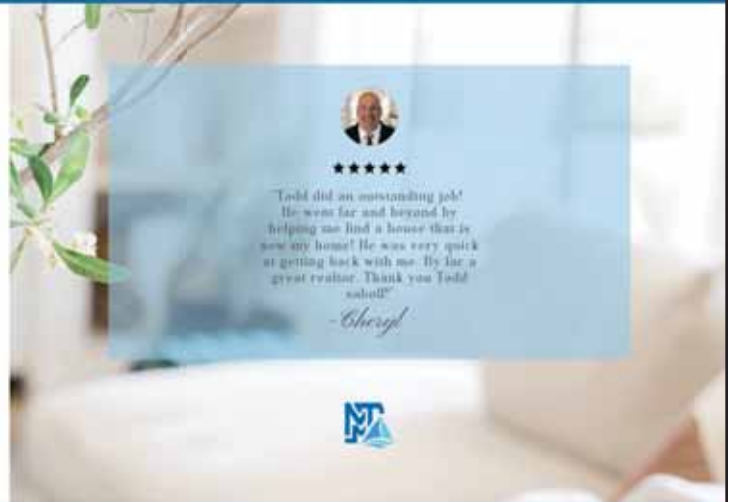
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