



Volume 39, Number 42 Thursday, October 26, 2023



It was taken in a mere

moment in time and is simply titled "Comfort." Nonetheless, the un-

forgettable image taken by Michigan City native Dylan Buell not only cap-



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Published and Printed by THE BEACHER BUSINESS PRINTERS

Delivered weekly, free of charge to Birch Tree Farms, Duneland Beach, Grand Beach, Hidden Shores, Long Beach, Michiana Shores, Michiana MI and Shoreland Hills. The Beacher is also delivered to public places in Michigan City, New Buffalo, LaPorte and Sheridan Beach.

About the Cover

For this year's Halloween cover, we received some AI assistance. Using a program, we simply offered the prompt, "Create a picture of a family of skeletons having a picnic around Halloween." The resulting image became this year's holiday cover. We hope you enjoy it!

A Moment in Time

by Kim Nowatzke

tured more than words can say, but in August it won the Dave Boss Award of Excellence, making it Photograph of the Year for the 2022 National Football League season in the 55th Football Hall of Fame Photo Contest.

As a Getty Images photographer, Buell snapped the photo of Buffalo Bills center Mitch Morse embracing cornerback Tre'Davious White in the anxious, intense moments following the collapse of their teammate, safety Damar Hamlin. On the sidelines of Cincinnati's Paycor Stadium, the two stood close to where training staff and medical officials administered life-saving aid to Hamlin. The game was canceled after the near-fatal event on Jan. 2, 2023.



Dylan Buell, a Michigan City native and Marquette Catholic High School graduate, is shown hard at work as a photographer for Getty Images.



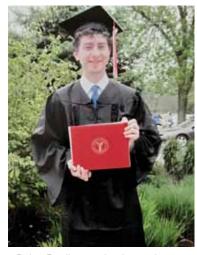
The photograph "Comfort," taken by Michigan City native Dylan Buell, was chosen as Photograph of the Year for the 2022 National Football League season in the 55th Football Hall of Fame Photo Contest.

"Right away, I knew it (the photo) was very different," Buell said. "It was hard to thoroughly process how special it is. A couple of days later when the dust had settled, I had a chance to go through the photos and realized how powerful it is in a quiet way. With athletes in general, you don't see such a display of the camaraderie – the brotherhood – like that. It speaks volumes of the relationships between the two teammates and the teammate injured that night."

The son of Doug and Renee Buell, Dylan Buell's first career choice wasn't that of photographer, although he had a passion for photography and videography growing up.

"It slowly built from when I was a kid to the present day," he said.

He recalls the fun of capturing family get-togethers and friends' sports events with his basic DSL camera. "Lugging one (a camcorder) as big as I was back in the day," he earned the title of "unofficial videographer" for younger brother Damon's Pop Warner football team.



Dylan Buell earned a degree in secondary education, with a focus in social studies, in May 2012, but it was his passion for photography that landed him his first job out of college.

A 2008 Marquette Catholic High School graduate, Buell kept busy there with baseball, spell bowl and quiz bowl, student government, drama club and National Honor Society. He graduated from Ball State University in 2012, where he worked at *The Ball* StateDailycollege newspaper, with a degree in secondary education and a focus in social studies.

Before accepting his diploma, though, he applied at *The State*

Journal in Frankfort, Ky.

"I really enjoyed working at the college newspaper and thought maybe this would be another possible career path," he said. "It was kind of a whim to find out what would happen without any expectations really."

Accepting what he calls a "very good learning experience out of college," Buell graduated on Saturday, moved on Sunday and started his new position Monday.

"At a very young age, Dylan had an eye for detail," Renee shared. "Once he picked up a camera as a teenager and started capturing images, we realized that he had a real talent. We were not surprised when Dylan graduated from Ball State and told us that he would like to try photography as a





A Moment in Time Continued from Page 3



Dylan Buell points to *The State Journal* in Frankfort, Ky., where he worked right after college graduation. It was the beginning of his career as a photographer.

profession. We were supportive and anxious to see where this field would take him."

Many of her son's photographs, she said, have been featured in magazines, including *People* and *Sports Illustrated*, as well as on the covers of several books.

But after a publisher bought out the family-owned newspaper he worked for, Buell found himself laid off in October 2015. His friend, Rob Carr, also started his career at the same paper and was now working as a photographer for Getty Images. He brought Buell along with him to events, mostly The Kentucky Derby.

In March 2016, Buell decided to "take a risk with freelancing because there aren't any guarantees," taking a position with Getty Images based out of Kenosha, Wis., to primarily cover the Milwaukee-Chicago area. He photographed a gamut of sports, including basketball, football, baseball, golf, sailing, drone racing and beach volleyball.

"I've always grown up playing and watching sports," he said. "It (taking the job photographing sports) makes perfect sense to me."

In March 2021, he moved to Cincinnati, where a work opportunity opened up that provided more possibilities.

"The soccer team, FC Cincinnati, is doing really well this year," he said. "The University of Cincin-

nati and Xavier (University) are very popular and high energy. It's a very passionate sports town with the Bengals being here and with the Reds still popular. It's a very good sports town that not all people realize, and it's a great city to live in."

Looking back on his photography career so far, a favorite event he covered was The Match golf event in Big Sky, Mont.

"The landscape scenery and wildlife were breathtaking," Buell recalled. "I would love to go back as soon as possible. It was challenging because we had a lot of communication issues with the mountains."

Buell would love to go to Paris and cover the 2024 Summer Olympics. Shooting the FIFA World Cup also is on his bucket list.

"I like to spend time outside also photographing nature and wildlife," Buell said. "Anytime spent outdoors is what I'm up to if I'm not working."

Buell received his award, chosen out of more than 1,300 submissions, for his Photograph of the Year on Aug. 6 at the Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. His parents, brother and friend, Kim Ziarko, accompanied him on the trip.



The Buell Family — Dylan, Renee, Doug and Damon — after the Michigan City Area Schools 2023 Retirement and Wall of Fame Dinner, when Renee was inducted into the MCAS Wall of Fame.

At the beginning of Buell's speech, after thanking his parents, he told the audience, "I'm not the first one in my family to be inducted into a Hall of Fame. Earlier this year, my mother was inducted into our hometown Hall of Fame (Michigan City Area Schools Wall of Fame) after a 35-year career as a public elementary school teacher."

Buell's parents are equally proud of their son.

"We have had the pleasure of watching his career grow from being a photographer at a newspaper, to shooting sporting events around the country," Renee Buell said. "His dedication, initiative, hard work and creative eye have led him to so many accomplishments. We are extremely proud of him and can't wait to see what the future holds."

Dylan told the audience when accepting the award that it "will surely go down" as one of the highlights of his career.



Friend Kim Ziarko stands with Dylan Buell next to his winning photograph, "Comfort," in the Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio.

"As a kid who both watched and played sports for as long as I can remember, it's been a joy to document football from the sidelines for the past seven years," he said. "It can be easy to forget that a football team is not a bunch of athletes playing a game, but a group of men and women who form a family. It's unfortunate that at times it takes an event like that on Jan. 2, 2023, to remind us of that fact. Thankfully, this story had a happy ending."



Dylan Buell, photographing a Green Bay Packers game.





Disappointing "Killers of the Flower Moon" Still Deserves to be Seen

by Andrew Tallackson

"Killers of the Flower Moon"

Here's the problem with "Killers of the Flower Moon."

Martin Scorsese, one of America's greatest living directors, and sensitive to his film's potential as a white savior story, took the material too far in the other direction.

He stripped it of emotion.

The result is a good movie, one that should be seen, but nowhere near a masterpiece because it lacks the impact of one.

David Grann's masterful 2017 non-fiction work, upon which the film is based, functioned on two levels. On one, an investigative look into a repugnant

chapter in American history. On another, a fascinating exploration of the FBI at the dawn of its inception.

Yes, the FBI swooped in to make the appropriate arrests, but there are no "sav-

iors" in this pocket of early 20th century history. We're left with the cold, hard fact that Osage members were killed because of white American greed.

The movie opens with the Osage Nation in Oklahoma becoming rich thanks to oil on Osage land. Determined to strip them of that wealth were white community members, many of whom married Osage brides, then killed them off to reap the benefits. Others killed Osage members in cold blood.

The mastermind behind it was political boss William Hale King, and he's played by Robert De Niro in a wolf-in-sheep's-clothing performance. The Oscar winner could have chewed every corner of the scenery, but he underplays it. King presents himself as a friend to the Osage community, but beneath the surface is ruthless white entitlement. And, he's efficiently manipulative of his mush-mouthed simpleton nephew, Ernest Burkhart (Leonardo DiCaprio), to carry out his dirty work.

By involving members of the Osage Nation in "Killers of the Flower Moon," Scorsese's film takes

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the time to quietly observe its customs, painting a portrait of history we haven't seen. Native people holding the keys to the kingdom, in many cases employing white residents as hired help. And we see, in far less greater detail than the book, members of the FBI figuring out how to solve this case.

Everything is in place for Scorsese, back on America's "mean streets," to do this story justice.

The tone, however, is all wrong. I wouldn't mind the nearly 3 ½ hour length if the feel of the film wasn't so detached. It's too quiet. The score by the late Robbie Robertson is sparsely used. So little, in fact, that at times, there is nothing to underscore

> the emotion of a scene. There's no pull to the drama.

Save for one power-

Running time: 206 minutes. In theaters. Rated R ful moment in which key for violence, some grisly images and language. Osage members gather, their words a passionate plea to stand their ground, we simply are an observ-

er to these events. Osage lives are taken, but we don't know much about them. Make a connection so their loss is felt. Scorsese may as well be staging a History Channel re-enactment with faceless actors. That leaves Lily Gladstone, as Ernest's Osage

wife, Molly, to carry the weight of the picture. Molly, battling crippling diabetes as family members are systematically killed off, sees her life shattered. The moments when Molly cries out in despair...you feel that. Gladstone plays Molly as a quiet reservoir of grief and strength. Always questioning, refusing to accept the surface value of a carefully crafted lie. She is all but assured an Oscar nomination.

DiCaprio is compelling late in the film, when the orders of his uncle conflict with his love for Molly, and the great John Lithgow, as Prosecutor Leaward, does what he always does. Commands a room like it's nobody's business, which is good, but freshly minted Oscar-winner Brendan Fraser overacts his every moment as Hale's attorney.

The final scene of "Killers of the Flower Moon" spins the aftermath of these characters as a radio "true crime" program. The point is to convey how this tragedy was reduced to "entertainment." However, you're so caught up in the mechanics of the radio broadcast, trying to follow how this "radio play" unfolds, the result has a muted effect.

My words here probably come across as not caring much for "Killers of the Flower Moon." That is not entirely true. Disappointed is more accurate. Admiring the talent and skill on display, but left hollow by a movie that doesn't know its characters. Too often, it holds them at bay.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@ gmail.com

ELECT ★ ANITA REMIJAS ★ LONG BEACH TOWN COUNCIL



"I'm committed to preserving the charm of Long Beach"

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 6 year full-time resident / 34 year homeowner
- Vocal advocate for the residents and town of Long Beach
- Knowledgeable about town issues via regular attendance at meetings
- Will advocate for fiscal responsibility, civility, respect, and open communication

GOALS:

- Guarantee access to and protection of the lakefront and beach
- Use common sense approach to reduce any waste of financial resources
- Work to maintain the unique charm and character of Long Beach

BACKGROUND:

- Long Beach Park Board (2020 current)
- Long Beach Advisory Plan Commission (2019 2022)
- Legal Administration (1972 2013)



anitafortowncouncil.com

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT ANITA REMIJAS



- ✓ A Long Beach native and property owner of 12 years
- BS in Finance from Marquette University
- Administered BZA, APC, and website maintenance for Long Beach for 8 years
- 8 years in corporate financial accounting and analysis
- ✓ Proud mother of four young children
- ✓ Deeply rooted and vested in our future

—— Goals —

Provide effective and efficient management of the Clerks office

Operate with honesty and integrity

Focus on Training, Communication, Internal Controls

Accelerate the modernization of the accounting platform and payroll system



Apply skills to be a public servant who makes a positive impact on our Town.

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Discover the harmonious blend of seclusion & luxury in this 4 bedroom, 4.5 bathroom gem that has every box on your checklist marked! Enjoy the perks of beach rights at Stop 21 in Long Beach. Each bedroom in this immaculate home features an en-suite bathroom, with the primary suite conveniently on the main level. For those who love hosting, the home's open-concept floorplan delivers a space designed for effortless flow and interaction. The entire home exudes elegance and sophistication, from the remarkable waterfall marble island, kitchen cabinets & hardware to beautifully landscaped yard. The expansive deck provides a feeling reminiscent of a treehouse, enhanced with another outdoor space off of the 4th bedroom in the above grade basement. The 2+ car garage ensures ample room for your vehicles and storage as does the convenient mud room. Tucked away in a dune, the home is a serene escape that still promises easy access to the Long Beach Country Club and the beach! Better get that golf cart ready!

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1815 RIDGEMOOR DRIVE Long Beach, Indiana 4 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHS | \$630,000 Kristin Shoub | 630.362.4188









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Gene and Linda Simmons Named Salvation Army Campaign Chairs

The Salvation Army of Michigan City announced

that Gene and Linda Simmons are the 2023

Christmas campaign chairs.

Gene Simmons represents the 6th Ward on the Michigan City Common Council, while Linda Simmons serves as marketing director for Visit Michigan City LaPorte tourism bureau. He is a Vietnam veteran who served in the U.S. Army. Immediately after returning home from service, he joined the Michigan City Police Department, where he served as chief of police before retiring. She started a career with McDonald's as an office manager with the Lubeznik family before becoming owner/ operator of two McDonald's restaurants in Chicago. They have three children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

"This is our community, and we love our community. We want to give back in whatever way we can," the couple said in a press release. "We feel that we should all collectively do what we can to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness."

As campaign chairs, they will assist The Salvation Army in raising funds to provide food and toys to more than 600 local families this

Christmas. With a goal to raise \$230,000, funds raised through the Christmas campaign will support additional programs here, including a food pantry, utility assistance, weekend backpack feeding program, free summer camp, free clothing closet and case management.

The Simmonses will be recognized as this year's Christmas campaign chair during the annual Red Kettle Kick Off from 7-10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, at McDonald's, 3507 Franklin St.

Those interested in volunteering as a red kettle bellringer can sign up at www. RegisterToRing.com, or contact The Salvation Army at (219) 874-6885, Ext. 1003, for more information.



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La Porte County Habitat for Humanity is growing and we are seeking dedicated, mission focused people to join us on our board and committees, in our office and on the construction site to crew lead and volunteer.

Email Sophia **exdir@laportehabitat.org**, or pass this along to great people you know. Thank you!



Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

Donate . Volunteer www.laportehabitat.org



Red Kettle Kick Off

The Salvation Army of Michigan City will host its annual Red Kettle Kick Off, the Christmas

campaign theme being "Love Beyond Christmas," from 7-10 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, McDonald's Restaurant, 3507 Franklin St.

Last year, The Salvation Army provided holiday assistance to 618 local families, and it's anticipated that number will be higher this year, as many households continue to struggle due to inflation in the post-pandemic economy.



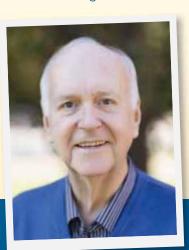
Sam Lubeznik (left) is photographed with Maj. Marc Johnson, divisional commander for The Salvation Army Indiana Division.

As is tradition, the Lubeznik family – owners and operators of local McDonald's restaurants – will donate proceeds from coffee sales at the Michigan City locations during the kickoff. The event will feature a "celebrity" coffee pour, children's choir and live broadcast with WEFM.

Elect Ernie!

Long Beach Residents are entitled to Accountability and Fiscal Responsibility.

- Building Commissioner cannot hold that position and be a large contractor in Long Beach at the same time. "Ethical Policy" button at ErnieSummers.com.
- 501(c)(3) charitable organizations are prohibited from "political activities", yet Long Beach Community Alliance (LBCA) members and Volunteer Firemen openly campaign for their candidates on social media and yard signs. "Political Activities" button at ErnieSummers.com.
- A Councilman voted in favor of every appropriation for the Public Safety Building and was the leading advocate for building the Public Safety Building, despite being former Chief of the Long Beach Volunteer Fire Department and current Deputy Chief. "Conflicts" button at ErnieSummers.com.
- Three Lakefront homeowners received final Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) approval and building permits, but the LBCA filed an administrative appeal, and the Town violated the homeowners' constitutional due process rights by having an LBCA member revoke the approval. Judge Stahlbrink vacated the BZA ruling and ordered a new hearing with no conflicts. "Conflicts" button at ErnieSummers.com.
- Mr. Lemay flagrantly violated Judge Stahlbrink's order, appointed only LBCA members to the new BZA over objections, and they all recused themselves the day of the hearing. "Conflicts" button at ErnieSummers.com.



 The Building Department does not make their documents available for Access to Public Records Act.

If elected I will:

- Work within the State Board of Accounts procedures for proper documentation and approval of all invoices, proper budgeting, and respect the constitutional municipal debt ceiling.
- Prioritize Fiscal Responsibility.
- Work with the Public Access Counselor to ensure compliance with the state Open Meetings Act.
- Work to eliminate conflicts of interest.
- ► Treat everyone fairly.
- Fight discrimination, favoritism, nepotism and cronyism.
- Work with all Boards and Commissions in the Town to make sure the Town Clerk-Treasurer's Office has access to all documents subject to the Access to Public Records Act
- Listen to the concerns of all Long Beach Residents.
- ► Follow the Code of Ethics Adopted by the Town Council.

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for Long Beach Clerk-Treasurer
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Ernie *will* restore credibility

RE-ELECT JOHN KOCHER

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Long Beach Resident

Reins of Life Volunteer Training

Reins of Life, 9375 W. County Road 300 North,

Michigan City, will host volunteer training from 2-4:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 30, or 5:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31.

The non-profit, therapeutic horse-back-riding organization serves people in the Michiana region with any diagnosable disability. Each participant requires 1-3 volunteers per lesson. More than 100 partici-



pants per week is the average.

Volunteers are trained to prepare horses for lessons and walk next to riders during lessons to provide extra support. Opportunities to help include school group programs on weekday mornings, weekend classes, special events and feeding horses. Horse experience is not required. Volunteers must be at least 13 and wear closed-toe shoes.

Call (219) 874-7519 to register. Visit www. reinsoflife.org for more details.

Halloween Events

 Franciscan Health Michigan City will host a free Trunk or Treat from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, at the Legacy Campus, 301 Homer St.

DJ Jammin' D will provide entertainment, and children will receive a glow stick while supplies last. Food trucks will be present.

Call Audrey Goress, Franciscan Health Michigan City volunteer coordinator, at (219) 877-1421 for more details.

 Trick or treat through LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28.

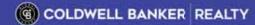
Admission is free to trick-or-treaters. Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.

- Trick or treat hours Sunday, Oct. 29.
 Pottawattomie Park is from 3-5 p.m. and Trail
 Creek from 4-6 p.m.
- Trick or treat hours Tuesday, Oct. 31.

Michigan City and Long Beach will have trick or treat from 5-7 p.m. LaPorte is from 6-8 p.m.

Also in Long Beach, the police and fire departments will host trunk or treat from 5-7 p.m. Oct. 31 at Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. If it rains, the event likely moves inside to the gym. Anyone wishing to participate should email LONGBEACHFD46360@GMAIL.COM

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South Shore Line Update

The South Shore Line has successfully completed the first phase of the Double Track NWI project.

Train service was set to resume between Michigan City and Dune Park stations Oct. 25. While construction began in late 2021, the project reflects a years-long collaborative endeavor aimed at extending the double track area that now ends at Gary all the way to Michigan City. That includes signal, power, platform and parking improvements at five key passenger stations along the route.

The primary objective is reduced travel times, heightened service frequency and improved passenger experience, including the introduction of 14 additional weekday trains each weekday. High-level platforms and the elimination of 20 at-grade crossings exist as safety precautions.

With the resumption of train services between Michigan City and Dune Park, passengers can board and disembark trains at all stations between Carroll Avenue and Dune Park, according to a revised train schedule effective Oct. 25. To allow for completion of Double Track construction, busing services will continue to stations between Dune Park and Gary Metro Center.

South Shore officials, according to a press release, hope to complete the Double Track NWI project by May 2024.

MCHS Mattress Fundraiser

Michigan City High School's band program will host the first one-day mattress fundraiser from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, at the school, 8466 W. Pahs Road.

The band program benefits from every purchase. Thirty mattress styles will be on display in all sizes and styles priced below retail. Adjustable power bases, premium pillows, bed frames and mattress protectors will be available. The brands include Simmons Beautyrest, come with full factory warranties and are made to order. Delivery is available.

Visit bit.ly/beds4michigancity23 for details.







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for LONG BEACH TOWN COUNCIL



- If I am going to put my name on any town spending appropriations, it will be on the up and up and thoroughly investigated.
- I am a person who follows the rules.
- I am experienced at evaluating the reality and consequences of Town Council decisions.
- I will continue to investigate and research before
- I vote on spending the taxpayers' money.
- I am not afraid to explore issues coming before the town council that are questionable or suspicious.

Paid for by Better Government for Long Be

MARY LOU IS A LONG TIME RESPECTED RESIDENT IN LONG BEACH

Indiana Dunes National Park

- Saw-whet Owl Banding Demonstration from 7-10 p.m. Thursday and Sunday, Oct. 26 and 29, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. The Indiana Audubon will shed light on Indiana's smallest owl. See them banded following hourly net checks. The program is weather dependent and cancelled during rain or high winds. Space is limited. A donation is required. Registration is required at www.indianaaudubon.org/events
- Fall Colors Hike from 5-6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, and 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, at the National Park Headquarters, 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road, Chesterton. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes.
- Pinhook Bog Open House from 9-11 a.m. Saturdays in October. Meet at the bog parking lot for a ranger-led hike to experience carnivorous insect-eating plants and rare orchids. Passes are required. The bog parking lot is at 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City.
- Paul H. Douglas Center Open House and Nature Play Date from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays in October. Participate in a free nature-themed craft in the art room, watch the staff feed the animals or build a fort in the Nature Play Zone.
- Furs to Farm Flashback from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays in October at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farmhouse, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. At Bailly Homestead, the chapel and fur traders' cabin will be open. The main house will be closed due to ongoing restoration. At Chellberg Farm, tour the farmhouse and visit the animals. Rangers and volunteers will be on hand at each location to share area history.
- Mount Baldy Summit Hike from 9-11 a.m. Sundays in October. Meet at the parking lot off U.S. 12 for a ranger-led hike to the top of the

- dune. Passes are required. The parking lot and beach are open from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. The dune, however, is still closed.
- Miller Woods Hike from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays in October at Paul H. Douglas Center.
 The ranger-led stroll explores a rare black oak savanna, and offers views of Lake Michigan and Chicago.
- Feeding at the Farm from 4:30-5 p.m. Sundays in October at Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Join a volunteer or ranger to help feed cows and chickens at Chellberg Farm. The program, sponsored by Friends of Indiana Dunes, is part of the Farm & Garden Crew, where volunteers take care of the farm, including its buildings, animals and resources.

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 during "Howl" oween in the Dunes Weekend 2023:

- Boo-tiful Birds at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 28. Meet at the Nature Center's Bird Feeding Observation Room to experience the backyard habitat and help fill the feeders.
- Snake Superpowers at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 28. Meet at the Nature Center to see snakes and learn about their defensive abilities.
- Pumpkin Decorating at noon Saturday, Oct. 28. Meet at the nature center's fire ring, with free pumpkins provided thanks to the Friends of Indiana Dunes (while supplies last). To avoid planted pumpkins in the park, decorations are provided only for the outside of pumpkins. Judging is from 3-6 p.m.
- Owl Prowl at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28. Join a naturalist to walk from the campground gate to try and call nearby owls.
- Trick-or-Feeding Time at 10 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 29. Stop by the Nature Center Auditorium to see reptiles and amphibians eat live treats.
- Spider Scavenger Hunt from 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29. Stop by the Nature Center to pick up a sheet that tests knowledge of spiders. Prizes are awarded.

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 Burial" is One Hugely Entertaining Courtroom Drama

by Andrew Tallackson



Jamie Foxx (right) and Tommy Lee Jones are at the top of their game in "The Burial."

Intended as an old-school rabble rouser, and with everyone firing on all cylinders, especially Jamie Foxx, "The Burial" may just be the year's most allaround entertaining movie.

That is because it's actually about something. Loosely based on fact, it introduces people you care about. People who stand for something. There is something comforting about that.

In fact, midway through "The Burial," which just debuted on Prime, a dependably gruff Tommy Lee Jones explains to Foxx's larger-than-life attorney why he demands justice. It is for the purest reason possible. Foxx's character is moved, and we are, too. The movie wins you over with a good story populated with great actors.

Inspired by the 1999 New Yorker article by Jonathan Harr ("A Civil Action"), "The Burial" documents with humor and heartache how financially strapped funeral home owner Jeremiah O'Keefe (Jones) — advised by his longtime attorney, Mike Allread (Alan Ruck) — meets with Canadian funeral home giant the Loewen Group to buy out part of his business. A handshake deal goes south, the terms stretched out and watered down. O'Keefe is convinced he's about to get fleeced.

So, he turns to wildly successful personal-injury



"The Burial"

Running time: 126 minutes. Prime. Rated R for language.

lawyer Willie Gary (Foxx) because of his track record, having won all 12 of his last high-profile cases.

Foxx is so comically fired up, the performance must be seen to be believed. He's like Don King on meth. Charismatic, wealthy — he's featured on "Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous" — Willie is all about Willie: the next case that thrusts him back into the limelight. Embellishes his track record. He's a motor mouth: always babbling, thinking, promoting, anticipating. Foxx's energy level is stacked so high, the effect is exhilarating.

So, "The Burial" could have been "Erin Brockovich:" another feel-good David-and-Goliath court-room picture. That changes, though, when the issue of race enters the picture. Director Maggie Betts, working from a script she crafted with theater veteran Doug Wright, draws parallels to the O.J. Simpson trial in motion (the movie is set in 1995). It seems, at first, that Willie's tactic of clouding the issue at hand mirrors Simpson's legal defense team. However, the matter is far more complicated.

It has elements of comedy, with the Loewen Group, headed by a weasely Bill Camp ("The Queen's Gambit"), going tit for tat by hiring a who's who of black lawyers, the lead played by Jurnee Smollett (HBO's "Lovecraft Country") with typical gusto. And with Willie's erratic legal team — half black, half white — fraying at the seams, it is Jeremiah's young black attorney, Hal Dockins (a wonderfully grounded Mamoudou Athie) who puts them to shame, uncovering the case's secret weapon.

Turns out, Willie's game plan necessitates proving the Loewen Group's cruddy track record. No longer is money the key issue: Jeremiah wants the Loewen group stopped from committing

further fraud. We see that in a scene only an actor like Jones could pull off. A settlement on the table, Jones gazing into the eyes of his wife (Pamela Reed), her knowing smile the confirmation he needs to insist on a jury verdict.

And Foxx, who's painted Willie as a smooth-talking Svengali, undergoes a transformation. He owns up to his mistakes, is drawn to a greater sense of duty. In an effectively understated moment, he sees literal proof of the graves of slaves and people of color erased in favor of white greed.

By the end of "The Burial," Willie and Jeremiah are not the same people. The case has emerged as something deeper, and they carry the weight of that responsibility. As a legal drama, the story makes all the right moves to an immensely satisfying payoff. The story gives you a lift for all the right reasons.





One of the most powerful scenes in "The Burial": A moment between a husband and wife in which the truth is revealed not by what is said, but by the unspoken language between spouses.

I love...love this movie.

(Stay through the credits, by the way. Midway through, Foxx crosses paths with the real Willie Gary, sly as ever at age 76.)

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com



Revisiting Two Scary Movies Celebrating Anniversaries This Year

by Andrew Tallackson



The most iconic image of "The Exorcist": A priest arrives at the home of a young girl possessed by the devil.

The thing about scary movies is, they're only truly scary once.

That first time.

In a darkened theater, packed into a seat and surrounded by people eager to be spooked. To cover their eyes, squirm in their seats, maybe let out a scream or two.

Onward from there? A different story. You know when and where the scary moments arrive. With each viewing, a bit of the bite is drained from the scare itself so, in some cases, the fright no longer exists. Thus, you return solely to appreciate the craft of the movie. A performance. A visual or effect.

John Carpenter's "The Fog" has that effect on me. Since its release in 1980, I've probably revisited it upwards of 20 times. No joke. Not because it still creeps me out, but because of the beauty and elegance of Carpenter's visuals. That haunting score, which can take an otherwise pleasant image and transform it into something ominous.

Time, however, has a restorative effect on scary movies. The greater the distance from the original viewing, the more memory clouds recollections of it. Rebirths it to some effect.

Two horror movies that couldn't be more opposite celebrate anniversaries this year. One is an undisputed classic, the other on its way to becoming one. The classic, it'd likely been 25-30 years since revis-



iting it, the other just four or five years. How'd they fare?

There are simple explanations as to why certain movies become the benchmarks for all to follow. They got there first, or they achieved perfection right out of the gate.

Think about it. Every shark movie, we compare it to Steven Spielberg's "Jaws." And speaking of Spielberg, when movies tackle the Holocaust, we prep our mental scorecard as to how it stacks up to "Schindler's List." When a movie has a profound impact, other films have trouble measuring up.

"The Exorcist" is that type of film. This December, it celebrates its 50th anniversary. Time has not dulled its ruthless power. I appreciated that now, as a 53-year-old parent, his 17-year-old son seated on the couch next to him for his first viewing.

That the movie arrived early in the 1970s, which

achieved some of the greatest cinematic moments on record, is key to its triumph. Director William Friedkin, who just passed away in August, ascribed to the natural style embraced by contemporaries like Francis Ford Coppola, Sidney Lumet and Martin Scorsese. Stripping their films of gloss and achieving unforced grit.

"The Exorcist," for a lack of a better explanation, feels real. Like it's happening to you. That you cannot escape it. That, every time someone enters the room of young Regan (Linda Blair), it's like staring into the face of evil. Each time you leave her room, your entire body relaxes the tense frame it's locked in, thankful to get the heck out of there. Because Friedkin, working from William Peter Blatty's adaptation of his own novel, the script receiving an Oscar, doesn't hold back. The devil here is a profane, antagonizing tease that engages in psychological warfare, picking at emotional scars of all who enter.

I probably saw the movie three or four times as a teen, more to prove to myself that I could withstand it. Today, I am struck by how thoughtful it is. A strange word, "thoughtful," for a movie whose iconic images include green vomit, rotating heads and desecration of religious iconography.

No, today, I am impressed by how quiet it begins. Allowing stories of two priests (Jason Miller, Max Von Sydow) to run parallel to that of Regan and her actress mother (Ellen Burstyn) so by the end, all three paths merge. How unforced the relationship between mother and daughter is. And, more than ever, for me as a parent, watching Burstyn's an-

guish come through at witnessing the physical and mental torture of her only child. And, as a faith journey through the bleakest of experiences, the movie is about entering a world of darkness and emerging from it into the light. Scarred, but survivors.

My son, groomed on modern cinema, watched intently. At the end, as the two priests waged a final battle for Regan's soul, he was pressed so hard into my side, it was like a death grip. He never budged.

His terror became my terror.

A sign of a true classic. All these years later.

All signs pointed to "World War Z" being a colossal flop.

The early buzz was as bad as you can get. Reports of a significant pause in the production to rewrite a disastrous third act. A budget overrun, starting at around \$100 million and ballooning to double that amount.

There was no way the film could survive itself.

Ten years later, "World War Z" remains the highest grossing zombie film. Brad Pitt's most successful movie. A streaming staple, especially on Netflix, where to this day it flits in and out of the streaming giant's Top 10 most popular offerings.

How does it hold up a decade later, especially after AMC's "The Walking Dead" and its spin-offs monopolized the genre? Insanely well. I would argue, in fact, that it's a modern classic.

The source material, ironically, was not made

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The opening scene of "World War Z" set amid traffic in Philadelphia is unrivaled in scale and tension.

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for the movies. Despite author Max Brooks — son of Mel — being inspired by everything George Romero, his 2006 book was unfilmable. Movies need a consistent protagonist from start to finish. The novel had none, each chapter a new episode, new characters, contributing to an oral history of a zombie war *after* it happened.

As a streaming series, "World War Z" would work splendidly. But as a movie, if holding true to Brooks' vision, it would be episodic at best, and have to delete key moments to fill a two-hour time frame.

What director Marc Forester ("Monster's Ball") did with his writers, Matthew Michael Carnahan, Drew Goddard and Damon Lindelof, is take one character, former UN investigator Gerry Lane, hand it over to one of the biggest stars on the planet, Pitt, then start from scratch. From the beginning, before the "war" of Brooks' novel.

Smart move.

Here's the thing. Zombie movies, starting with Romero's original "dead" trilogy — "Night," "Dawn," "Day" — were celebrated as masterpieces in some circles, but deemed exploitation fare by most others. Cheapies destined for cult followings despite Romero's insistence on treating them as social commentaries. And from storytelling standpoints, they always began *after* the initial outbreak, with events already set in motion.

"World War Z," however, had the budget to stage Day One. The opening scene, in which Pitt and his family are trapped in Philadelphia traffic, is a triumph of epic, pulse-pounding storytelling. No other zombie film has come close. Confusion turns to fear, then chaos. Forester stages the outbreak as an apocalyptic ground zero. Masses fleeing, cars smashing into each other, explosions. All from high angles so we get a feel for the scope of the disaster.

By plunking you in the heart of the terror, "World War Z," in that sequence alone, achieves something "The Walking Dead" failed to do after the first few seasons. The AMC show became so obsessed with painting humans as the real monsters, after a while, it forgot about the zombies. But in "World War Z," the sensation of danger, of being vulnerable and exposed, permeates every single scene.

From then on out, the movie's real star, the heroes, are not Pitt and Forester, but editors Roger Barton and Matt Cheesé. From the opening moments, "World War Z" does not stop. It's edited like a runaway train, tying your stomach in knots and refusing to untie it until the end. The movie really is about survival. About humanity's last stand.



A sequence on a plain carrying an infected passenger hiding within it is full of queasy terror.

There are moments, like the image of planes lined up on a runway, preparing to take off, where you can feel the collapse of civilization unfolding before your eyes. And here's the kicker: next to no blood, gore or carnage. All that suspense, guided by editors who know how to reveal just enough to spike your adrenaline.

Paramount has never fully released the movie's initial ending, dubbed "The Battle of Moscow." Early test screenings lambasted it as chaotic, that Pitt was transformed into a hero of near supernatural abilities instead of being a thinking man's protagonist. The new ending, in which Gerry ends up at a World Health Organization facility in the United Kingdom, has been universally roasted as uninspired. A haunted house "boo" ending.

Watching it now, 10 years after its debut, I am amazed at how thoughtful it is. How in keeping it is with the movie's exploration of the bread crumbs Mother Nature leaves as to her weaknesses. Now, I am moved. That in the end, the greatest weapon to wage in war is the mind. Our ability to think through a crisis.

"World War Z" may just be a genre piece, but then again, so was "The Exorcist." In both cases, the filmmakers, the actors, they never treated the material as beneath them, instead throwing everything they've got into making the images as real as possible.

They succeeded.

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Everyone may have been "Working for the Weekend," but by the end of the workday Friday, Sept. 22, there were shouts of "Let's Go."

For 1,200-plus people at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St., it was a night of music by iconic Canadian rock band Loverboy and Cars tribute band Carpool.

"There definitely was a lot of energy tonight..." said Rick Henderson, LaPorte, who attended the concert with his wife, Pam. "I am proud of our city to have big name concerts in a town the size of ours."

Carpool, from Atlanta, Ga., got the night revved up as it cruised through the Cars' catalog, performing classic hits such as "Just What I Needed," "My Best Friend's Girl" and "You Might Think."

Rick Henderson, a self-professed Cars fan, has seen the original band four times, describing Carpool as awesome.

"They are spot on as a Cars tribute band," he said. "They definitely take you back. They had every nuance of the Cars — the look, the sound — everything they did was very well-researched and perfect."

Pam, on the other hand, has never been to a Cars concert.

"It felt like I was there. It gave me a chance to enjoy that experience with Rick, not to mention, in our own beautiful community," she said. "As for Loverboy, I saw them in 1982, and they sound as great now as they did back then."

While Carpool definitely let "The Good Times Roll," Loverboy made sure the crowd was "Lovin' Every Minute of It" once they hit the stage. It was as if time had stood still the moment lead singer Mike Reno belted out the opening lyrics to "Notorious": "Hey, hey, hey." The band's energy was as strong as it was in the '80s as they sang hits like "Turn Me Loose," "When It's Over" and "The Kid Is Hot Tonite."

Linda McMurray-Colborn, LaPorte, raved about both bands.

"They were both phenomenal," she said. "Mike Reno impressed the hell out of me. For him to still sound that good...phenomenal."

After the concert, Reno quipped, "I'm like a fine Continued on Page 26





About the Photos

The photos to the left are from the Loverboy portion of the concert, the photos above from Carpool.

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wine. The harder I work, the better I get."

Reno reflected on still touring and being on the stage together after 44 years.

"When we started, we were hoping to get a box of beer by the end of the night and meet pretty girls," he said. "Here, we are doing the same thing 44 years later. We must be getting good at it though."

Brett Binversie, LaPorte Events director/LaPorte Civic Auditorium director at City of LaPorte Park and Recreation Department, praised both groups, describing the concert as "high energy" and "extremely entertaining."

"I thought it was great for the city to bring in a national named act like Loverboy to the Civic Auditorium to help rededicate the balcony seating. There was just a lot of positivity out of that show," he said. "Carpool was extremely entertaining as well. We're going to bring them back and build a show around them at some point, because the crowd loved them as well."

Loverboy formed in 1979 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The current band includes Reno, Paul Dean (guitar), Matt Frenette (drums), Doug Johnson (keyboards) and Ken "Spider" Sinnaeve (bass). Reno, Dean, Frenette and Johnson are original members.

Sinnaeve replaced the late Scott Smith.

Throughout the 1980s, Loverboy accumulated numerous hits in Canada and the U.S., earning four multi-platinum albums and selling millions of records.

The Cars formed in Boston in 1976, emerging from the New Wave scene in the late 1970s. It consisted of Ric Ocasek (rhythm guitar), Benjamin Orr (bass guitar), Elliot Easton (lead guitar), Greg Hawkes (keyboards) and David Robinson (drums). Ocasek and Orr shared lead vocals, with Ocasek as the band's principal songwriter and leader. The Cars disbanded in 1988 and were inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 2018.

Members of Carpool stated their mission is to take the audience "back to when The Cars were (and continue to be) the soundtrack of our lives, by recreating the sound, feel, look and vibe that made the Cars world famous." The band features Matthew Trautwein (lead vocals, guitar), Ludwig Austin (lead vocals, bass), Ron Abraham (keyboards, vocals), Derrick Gaddis (lead guitar) and Dusty Ed-

inger (drums, vocals).

"We've learned all the voices and the parts. We watched videos of them, copied their clothes, their equipment as closely as to what they were playing at the time. To get everything exact," Trautwein said. "There's nothing behind us. What you are actually hearing is us. That is something we're super proud of. We want to carry on where they stopped."

The group has been performing and traveling for nearly two years, Trautwein said. They were ready to hit the road right as the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown arrived, putting things on hold for nearly a year.



Austin, considered the brainchild behind the band, explained it's all about energy: within the band and definitely the audience.

"It's funny," he said, "because it's kind of exactly like what The Cars did back in '78. They came out of left field with this much-needed, new, fresh sound and approach. It feels like 1978 all over again, and we have to reintroduce people again to the fact that The Cars had so many great hits. That's the biggest hurdle."

The crowd left little doubt Carpool easily cleared that hurdle. Both bands had the audience singing along, with many dancing in front of the stage or the top of the balcony.

"I was jumping up and down in my seat all night long," McMurray-Colborn admitted.

Austin detailed the formula behind their success. First, the original band had so many hits nearly everyone knows. Secondly, it's keyboard-orientated music, which not a lot of cover band have.

"It makes for a winning combination, especially because we have a first-class keyboard player," Austin said. "It's fun music to play. The thing about this band is, every member really means it. Every member is doing his part, and everybody is doing it collectively.

"Every one of these songs has a memory linked to it. I told the guys that if we feel that, a lot of other people are going to feel the same. That is the beauty of it."

Abraham explained what it was about The Cars' music that attracted him.

"There's no more fun music to play for a keyboard player than the Cars. It's the best," he explained. "It's fun to play, especially when you get in front of an audience like here tonight, where people are having a great time. They're appreciative, and there's "There weren't a lot of keyboards until The Cars came out," he said. "Paul (Dean) and I decided at the beginning to keep it really simple. I said, 'You do guitar part, and a keyboard part will balance you out'."

(Reno hinted at a huge tour next summer, news he was just informed about the day before the La-Porte concert.)

Dean described what made the band work.

"Chemistry. That is the word," he said. "Somebody saw us the first week we played and came up to me and said, 'You guys have chemistry.' OK, I guess we do. We'd only been together maybe two months at that time."

Dean was in other bands prior to Loverboy: 13, to be exact.

"I had this blind faith, it was do or die," he said. "I was going to do something until I couldn't..."

Then came the chance meeting between Reno and Dean during a rehearsal in a warehouse. Dean recalled Reno coming down to hang out with some of the guitar players, then singing during a break.

"I heard him sing and thought, I need to see about getting something going with this guy. I was blown away by his voice. He's really an amazing singer. Even now, he blows my mind," Dean said.

He continued.

"The luckiest day of my life

is when I met Mike Reno, and he'd probably say the same thing about me," he said. "It was that magic, a magic team. We hit it off right away. We wrote two songs the first night we got together. One of them made the first album, 'Always on My Mind'."

Both bands praised LaPorte Civic and, even more so, the audience.

"I felt like I was at a giant high school dance, with bleachers on each side and the basketball hoop in the middle, that's what it felt like tonight," Reno said. "I felt like I was in that movie 'Back to the Future' tonight. It was really fun.

"It was a beautiful room, and the crowd was amazing. To see everyone up front, bouncing around, as they sang along, that's really heartwarming. What else can you say but, thank you."

Austin said, "It's really been gratifying to see how welcoming everybody is. We've had a great time."

Trautwein said Carpool has played a few places the size of the Civic.

"This was great because it had both a big venue



nothing better than that."

He described the band as a group of perfectionists that encourages each other: "We take the love of this music seriously."

Members of Carpool described the evening as a "dream come true," referring to playing with Loverboy.

"This is the biggest privilege ever," Trautwein said. "We've all been Loverboy fans for the longest time, and it's a great opportunity to open for them. We've never had a chance to do that with a group of their stature. What a joy to do it one time. They're so welcoming and helpful. I hope our paths cross again sometime."

There was a genuine sense of reciprocity, of admiration and praise, between the bands.

"I dug Carpool tonight," Reno told *The Beacher*. "I was downstairs warming up singing along with all their (Carpool's) songs tonight because The Cars are one of my favorite bands. When we were growing up, we listened to them."

Reno revealed Loverboy's music was influenced by The Cars' "cool keyboard parts."



Continued from Page 27

vibe and also, very intimate," he said. "People came up front and were dancing. That's a great thing and a lot of fun. They were a great crowd for us."

Dedicated to LaPorte in 1930, the beautiful, regal LaPorte Civic recently completed renovations. Upgrades included new, more comfortable balcony seating, including seating for people with disabilities, added hand railings for safety and replacing the old radiator heating with air conditioning and forced air heating.

"We're going to be able to do a lot of different things at the Civic than in the past," Binversie said. "The Civic building and atmosphere, there's a lot of untapped potential now. We're restarting what was a mecca for some great music back in the '70s and '80s."

He credited Mike Jones for bringing acts like Kenny Rogers, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Night Ranger and Ted Nugent to the Civic. In 1987, Eddie Money not only performed for a large crowd at the Civic, but also a portion of his music video "We Should Be Sleep" was filmed during the concert.

Bethany Lutheran Church has brought in coun-

Bethany Lutheran Church has brought in country music stars Randy Travis and Clint Black.

Next year will see family entertainment and children's acts gracing the Civic stage, Binversie says.

"I think we're seeing there is an appetite for entertainment in our community. We are hoping to provide some of that," he said. "As we build our crowd and are able to fill the balcony, we're going to be able to bring in better acts."

Big-name acts may come with higher ticket prices, but Binversie reminded people there is not the expense, time and hassle of travel and parking.

"Fans can see a good act, close to home," he said.

McMurray-Colborn was one of many concertgoers who commented on the new seats, describing them as comfortable. She also was appreciative of the attached cupholders.

Speaking about the Civic, McMurray-Colborn said, "It's phenomenal. It's affordable and it's right here in town. You don't have to worry about traveling and paying for parking or spending big bucks for decent seats or sitting in nosebleed section. At the Civic, there really isn't a bad seat, and you can leave your binoculars at home."





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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.).

Patrons are no longer charged daily overdue fines. Customers only will be charged for items they damage, lose or never return.



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The following programs are planned:

- Medicare 101 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26, at the Coolspring Library. The educational presentation is free.
- Virtual Author Talk with John Irving from 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26. The author of <u>The Cider House Rules</u> will discuss his "final" novel, The Last Chairlift. Register through the website.
- Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 27, at the main library. Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- Learn to Use a Soldering Iron from 10-11 a.m. and 2-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Coolspring Branch meeting room. Celebrate Día de los Muertos by soldering a skull badge.
- D&D & You: How to play tabletop role-playing games online from 1-2:45 p.m. Saturday,
 Oct. 28, in the main library meeting room.
 Learn how to play D&D and other such games online for free or minimal cost.
- Family Halloween Party from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31, in the main library multipurpose room. Families can wear costumes, make a craft, eat snacks and watch a movie.
- Readers Corner-Book Club from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31, at the Coolspring Branch Meeting Room. The focus is Linda Furiya's Bento in the Heartland.
- Creative Kids (ages 6-11) from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, at the main library. Activities center on creating something new.
- Virtual Author Talk with John Stamos from 7-8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1. The actor has written the book If You Would Have Told Me. Register through the website.

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, including programming through the Exchange building.



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 following programs are scheduled:

- Halloween Paper Circuits (ages 8-17) at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26. Discover how circuits work while creating a paper Halloween design that lights up with LEDs and copper tape. Call Dave at (219) 873-3045 for more details.
- Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays in October. Membership is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, crossstitch, 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.
- Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4
 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 24 and 31. Harris can offer
 tips and advice on how to research a family tree
 or find genealogical records.
- Dungeons & Dragons (ages 10-17) from 4-6
 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1. Supplies and characters are provided on a first-come, first-served basis.
 Email Miss Dana at dwolf@mclib.org for details.
- Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in October. Create with LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D pens. 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.
- 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.
- Spooky Halloween Scavenger Hunt in October. Visit Youth Services, find all the characters and win a prize.

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

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New SAM Woodwind Instructor

The School of American Music, Three Oaks, Mich., has hired a new instructor, woodwind specialist Elisabeth Waldburger.

An active, Michiana-based musician and private

music instructor, Waldburger has been a LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra member since 2016, recently taking on the role of personnel manager. She also participates in other local ensembles, including LaPorte City Band, St. Joseph Municipal Band and Elkhart County Symphony. She teaches clarinet and saxophone lessons in her private studio. Her students represent a number of districts, including



Waldburger

LaPorte, Penn-Harris-Madison, Mishawaka and South Bend schools.

Originally from Granger, she attended South Bend schools. She fell in love with orchestral playing in middle school, when she was accepted into the South Bend Youth Symphony Orchestras. Participating in SBYSO and other performance opportunities, such as ISSMA solo and ensemble events, Indiana All-State Honor Bands and side-by-side concerts with South Bend Symphony Orchestra, influenced her decision to pursue music as a career.

In 2010, she attended Western Michigan University, where she studied clarinet. She received her Bachelor of Musical Arts degree in instrumental performance in 2014 and Master of Music degree in instrumental performance in 2016.

Visit www.schoolofamericanmusic.com, email schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or call (269) 409-1191 for details.

New Buffalo Township Library

- Halloween Story Time. The program is at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 30.
- Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran, "The Band's Visit." The screening is at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 30.
- NBTL Book Club, Gina Wilkenson's <u>When</u> the Apricots Bloom. The program is at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31.

Weekly programs:

- Craft Time on Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Lego Club all day Fridays.
- Saturday Morning Cartoons from 10 a.m.-noon.
- Story time at 10 a.m. Mondays.

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

MEET THE CANDIDATE

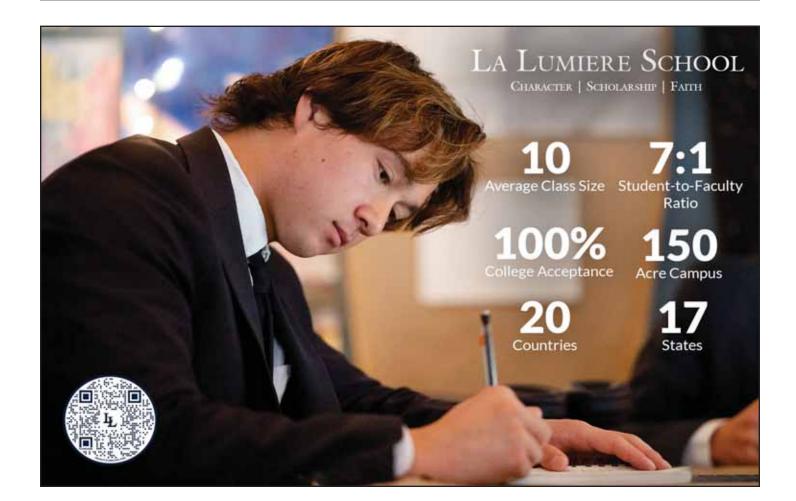
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Insights in History

Rosemary Sanders, the first black musician to play with South Bend Symphony Orchestra, is the

focus of the next "Insights in History."

The program is at 1:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, Nov. 1, at The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Guest speakers are: Marvin Curtis, SBSO board president; Justus Zimmerman. SBSO executive director; and Alastair Willis, SBSO music director.

The program also will focus on the SBSO today.



Sanders

Admission is \$3, or \$1 for members. Reservations are required by Oct. 30. Call the museum at (574) 235-9664 or visit www.historymuseumSB.org for details.

Car Seats Available

LaPorte County Health Department and City of LaPorte Fire Department received 118 car seats to distribute as needed thanks to Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte grants.

Ranging from infant size to five-point harness combo options, the car seats are available for free to those in need. HFL funded nearly \$10,000 to the two entities to purchase the car seats from Evenflo.

In addition to providing free car seats, both entities serve as child-safety seat-check inspection stations. The fire department car-seat location is LaPorte Fire Station 1, 809 W. 18th St. (219-362-3456). The health department site is at Dunebrook, 7451 W. Johnson Road (219-874-5611, Ext. 2438).

Anyone with a child in a child-safety restraint seat can make an appointment at either location to have it checked by a nationally certified technician. The technician will evaluate the child in the seat and the seat in the vehicle. Any Indiana resident can receive seat checks and replacement seats.



New MCAS Recognition Program

Michigan City Area Schools has launched a new Teacher and Employee of the Year recognition program to celebrate those with dedication, innovation and commitment to students.

The program will honor individuals who went above and beyond, making a positive impact on students, colleagues and the community. Recipients will include an:

- Elementary Teacher of the Year.
- Secondary Teacher of the Year.
- Support Staff Employee of the Year.
- Transportation Employee of the Year.
- Food Service Employee of the Year.

The program will honor staff from every area, including teachers and other certified employees (counselors, instructional coaches, success coaches, social workers and nurses), educational support staff (instructional assistants, paraprofessionals, secretaries, EAP assistants), transportation staff (bus drivers, mechanics and monitors) and food service staff. Administrators and managers are ineligible.

Nominations are open by visiting http://educateMC.net/TOY_EOY. Printed forms are available at any MCAS school or at the MCAS Administration Building, 408 S. Carroll Ave.

Nominations will be accepted until Nov. 30. School-level finalists will be celebrated in January, with district winners announced in early April. The MCAS Elementary and Secondary Teachers of the Year will advance for consideration in the Indiana Teacher of the Year program.

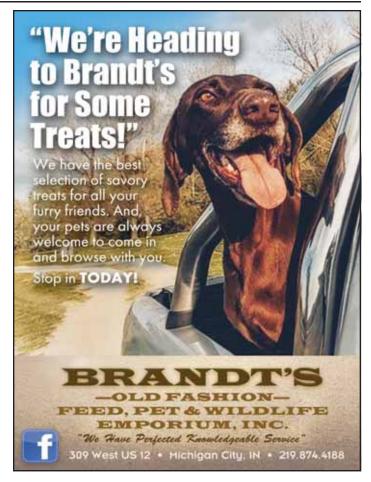
The program is supported by the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, which will play a role in honoring recipients of the district-level honors.



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

- Northwest Health Heart and Vascular Building, 901 Lincolnway, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28.
- Bethany Lutheran Church, 102 G St., LaPorte, 7:30 a.m.-noon Sunday, Oct. 29.
- Purdue University Northwest, Library Student Faculty Building Room 144, 1401 S. U.S. 421, Westville, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2.

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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3. Pin Ball Wizards	16	8
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1. Nancy Kubath		171
2. Mary Lou McFadden		167
3. Barb Macduzinski		161
4. Diana Holt		153
5. Deb Konicek		150
SPLITS		
Kathy Straninger		3-4-10
Dottie Brinckman	3-	10, 4-7
Nancy Klausner		2-7
Joan O'Sullivan		9-10
Terry Bekkan		5-7-9
Sarah Blank		4-7-10
Ann Bogart		3-10

Household Hazardous Waste Day

The final Household Hazardous Waste Day in La-Porte County Solid Waste District's 2023 schedule is from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, in the Marquette Mall west parking lot.

Items collected include household hazardous waste only, including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paint, sharps and medication. Call (219) 363-1450 or (219) 326-0014 for more details.

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National Park Prescribed Fires

The National Park Service will conduct five prescribed fires this fall, totaling more than 1,400 acres.

The largest is the 550-acre Tolleston East area. Located immediately south and east of Ogden Dunes, it is surrounded by U.S. 12 on the north, County Line Road on the west and Stagecoach Road on the south and east sides.

On the west side of County Line Road, and north of U.S. 12, the park plans to burn 374 acres in the Grand Boulevard/Marquette Trail area.

In the middle of the park, near Dune Acres and Porter Beach, 417 acres will be burned in the Howes Prairie area. The fire was attempted last fall, but halted due to the weather. The area contains the first acreage burned in a prescribed Indiana Dunes fire in 1986.

Near the Green Belt Parking Lot on North Mineral Springs Road, just south of Dune Acres, 25 acres will be burned to help restore the Cowles Bog wetland complex.

Seventy seven acres surrounding and including Dunewood Campground will be burned to reduce wildfire threats for campers next season. Burning fallen leaves and any branches reduces fuels available should a fire escape a fire ring during the spring and summer camping season next year.

Goals and objectives have been established for each burn unit. Set conditions must exist, including ideal wind speed and direction, and relative humidity. Weather conditions will be monitored to ensure the fire is completed safely.

A map of the prescribed areas can be found at https://bit.ly/IndianaDunesFallFires

Church Fall Rummage Sale

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 7396 W. Johnson Road, will host its fall rummage sale from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 26-28.

Items available include clothes for ladies, men and children, shoes and purses, kitchen items, bedding and seasonal items, wall hangings, craft items, furniture and books.





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Westchester Public Library

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

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

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

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

"Spooky Sprint" 5K

Runners are encouraged to wear costumes for the "Spooky Sprint" 5K fun run Saturday, Oct. 28, in Washington Park.

Registration starts at 8 a.m. the day of the event, with the race at 9 a.m. It begins at North Point Pavilion, then heads along the beach to Beachwalk and back along Lake Shore Drive.

The entry fee for pre-registered adult runners is \$20, or \$25 the day of the run. Students are \$10.

The event is sponsored by the Michigan City High School Class of 2025, which will use proceeds to host prom, a senior picnic and other class activities.

Register at tinyurl.com/4zrf9tcp. Contact stice@mcas.k12.in.us for more information.

Unity Foundation Annual Luncheon

Unity Foundation will host its annual luncheon from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Cost \$20.

Make reservations at tinyurl.com/nhb6fhh7



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Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.



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In the Area

Oct. 26 — Unity Foundation of LaPorte County annual luncheon, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Cost: \$20. Reservations: tinyurl.com/nhb6fhh7

Oct. 26 — Halloween Paper Circuits (ages 8-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

Oct. 26 — Virtual Author Talk with John Irving, 6-7 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 26-28 — Fall rummage sale, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 7396 W. Johnson Road.

Oct. 27 — Franciscan Health Michigan City free Trunk or Treat, 5-7 p.m., Legacy Campus, 301 Homer St. Info: (219) 877-1421.

Oct. 27-Nov. 19 — Area Artists Association exhibition, "One Foot In," The Rising Phoenix Gallery, 2817 Franklin St. Opening reception: 5-8 p.m. Oct. 27.

Oct. 28 — "Spooky Sprint" 5K, Washington Park North Point Pavilion. Registration/8 a.m., race/9 a.m. Fee: pre-registered adult runners/\$20, \$25/day of, students/\$10. Registration: tinyurl.com/4zrf9tcp. Info: stice@mcas.k12.in.us

Oct. 28 — Learn to Use a Soldering Iron, 10-11 a.m. & 2-3 p.m., Coolspring Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 28 — D&D & You: How to play tabletop role-playing games online, 1-2:45 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www. laportelibrary.org

Oct. 28 — Trick or treat, 2-4 p.m., LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Oct. 29 — Michigan City High School band program mattress fundraiser, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., MCHS, 8466 W. Pahs Road. Info: bit.ly/beds4michigancity23

Oct. 31 — HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Oct. 31 — Family Halloween Party, 4:30-6:30 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 31 — Trunk or treat, 5-7 p.m., Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. Participant inquiries: LONGBEACHFD46360@GMAIL.COM

Oct. 31 — Readers Corner-Book Club, 6-7 p.m.,

Coolspring Branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Focus: Linda Furiya's <u>Bento in the Heartland</u>. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Nov. 1 — The Salvation Army of Michigan City Red Kettle Kick Off, 7-10 a.m., McDonald's Restaurant, 3507 Franklin St. Info: (219) 874-6885.

Nov. 1 — Creative Kids (ages 6-11), 4-5 p.m., La-Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Nov. 1 — Dungeons & Dragons (ages 10-17), 4-6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: dwolf@mclib.org

Nov. 1 — Virtual Author Talk with John Stamos, 7-8 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

Through Oct. 29 — "A Different Look at the Century of Progress," "Volunteers: With A Little Help from Our Friends," The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: www.bsdepot.org

Through Nov. 5 — "Glass: An Exhibition," The Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores. Regular gallery hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays/Saturdays.

Through Nov. 22 — "Pets of LaPorte County" exhibit, LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., Suite 1. Info: (219) 324-6767.

Through Dec. 31 — Work by Michigan City Art League, The Legacy Center Gallery at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Reception: after 10:30 a.m. Nov. 5 Mass. Legacy 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: kd3627@hotmail.com

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 lessons, 2-3 p.m. Improver 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. \$45 entrance fee (includes all cards). Info: (219) 336-3099.

Tuesdays in October — Genealogy Help with Pat Harris, 1-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Tuesdays in October — Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17), 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Tuesdays though mid-November — Dave Littell improv classes, 5-6:30 p.m., Long Beach Community Center gym, 2501 Oriole Trail. Recommendation donation to center. Info: (203) 219-5700.

Thursdays in October — Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night, 5:30-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Saturdays through Oct. 28 — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets. Info: www.emichigancity.com

In the Region

Oct. 26, 29 — Saw-whet Owl Banding Demonstration, 7-10 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, visit www.nps.gov/indu

Oct. 27 — Henhouse Prowlers, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30 + \$5 convenience fee, \$55 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: www. acornlive.org

Oct. 27, 29 — Fall Colors Hike, 5-6 p.m. Oct. 27/2-3 p.m. Oct. 29, National Park Headquarters, 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road, Chesterton. Info: (219) 395-1882, visit www.nps.gov/indu

Oct. 28 — Boo-tiful Birds, 9:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 28 — Snake Superpowers, 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 28 — Pumpkin Decorating, noon, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 28 — Owl Prowl, 7 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 28 — Boo Ball — A Fundraiser to Benefit The Acorn Center for the Performing Arts with Expo '76 and The Shams Band, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$50. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Oct. 29 — Trick-or-Feeding Time, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 29 — Spider Scavenger Hunt, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Oct. 29-Nov. 5 — "Portraits by Lapidus," Marshall J. Gardner Center, 540 S. Lake St., Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 885-9114, www.millerbeacharts.com

Oct. 30 — Halloween Story Time, 10 a.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Oct. 30 — Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran, "The Band's Visit," 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Oct. 31 — New Buffalo Township Library Book Club, Gina Wilkenson's When the Apricots Bloom, 10 a.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Nov. 1 — Insights in History," 1:30 p.m. EDT, The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Admission: \$3, \$1/members. Reservations: (574) 235-9664. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org

Through Oct. 30 — Duneland Plein Air Painters exhibit, "A Brush with Nature: Duneland Plein Air Adventures 2023," Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.

Through October — "Ever Yours: Postcards From the Golden Age," Porter County Museum, 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Free admission. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Sun. Info: www.pocomuse.org

Through Nov. 3 — Diversified Art Visionaries (Dave), Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Info: www.artbarnschool.org/exhibitions

Through Nov. 30 — Artist David Gray, The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

Through May 12, 2024 — "Indiana Lore," South Bend's The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors, \$7/youth 6-17, free/members. Info: www. historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

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 October — Pinhook Bog Open House, 9-11 a.m., 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

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Saturdays-Sundays in October — Furs to Farm Flashback, 1-3 p.m., Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farmhouse, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays in October — Mount Baldy Summit Hike, 9-11 a.m., parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays in October — 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, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays in October – Feeding at the Farm, 4:30-5 p.m., Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

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Prayer to the **Blessed Virgin**

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Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

I have picked two very different novels this Halloween. Sublime to the ridiculous you might say — one a straightforward murder-mystery, the other a thriller/horror. See if either appeals to you.

<u>Hallowe'en Party</u> by Agatha Christie (paperback \$12.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 259 pages.)

Agatha Christie has sold more than 1 billion books in English, and another billion in a hundred foreign languages. Sales of her books are bested only by the Bible and William Shakespeare. Brits have crowned her "The Queen of Mystery," obviously with good reason.

Christie, who died in 1976, wrote this book in 1969. Two more books featuring Hercule Poirot, the former Belgian police detective, would be written before her death. The work also is the basis for Kenneth Branagh's "A Haunting in Venice."

It's Halloween in a small English village, and Mrs. Drake is hosting a Hallowe'en party for children. There is bobbing for apples in the library (of all



places), other contests and refreshments, of course.

One adult guest is Mrs. Oliver, a rather well-known author of mystery novels. Maybe to impress her, one of the children, Joyce Reynolds, announces she has seen a murder, but no one believes her because she is an infamous liar.

So. imagine the surprise when, after all leave the party, and Joyce hasn't yet returned home, her body is found leaning over the apple bobbing bucket — quite dead. Who would kill a 13-year-old girl?

Mrs. Oliver races to London to get Hercule Poirot to return with her, to see if he can solve what is deemed unbelievable and unsolvable by local police. Many believe the murder had to be by someone with a case of mental illness — what other reason could there be?

Poirot arrives on the scene with his own methodology, which begins with a lot of talking with the party attendees. I find Poirot reminiscent of the logic of Sherlock Holmes, sifting through information — helpful and not — and coming up with a path to murder. No one understands why he becomes interested in the unsolved disappearance of the *au pair* of a local family. His reasoning, "The past is the father of the present." Indeed.

Soon, another body is found...Joyce's brother.

Skeptics keep thinking he is going about this all wrong, while the reader is deep into trying to follow what Poirot has surmised: "Old sins have long shadows." It's an exercise in trying out your own deductive reasoning, and cements Christie's title as Queen of the Mystery.

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



<u>The Night House</u> by Jo Nesbø (hardcover \$28 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 245 pages.)

Nesbø is a Norwegian author who has sold 55 million copies translated into 50 languages worldwide. His main character is Harry Hole, the Oslo police detective. In this standalone novel, Nesbø ventures into the land of horror with a tale that proves to be a lot more complex.

"I put my head in my hands. Damn, it was messy in there."

So our says narrator, 14-year-old Richard Elauved. Wise words, indeed, and probably the heart of this thriller/ horror/psychological Because just when you figure this is just another horror story told around the campfire, it shifts to reveal something else might be happening. It's a great romp into the mind of a master storyteller somewhat akin to a Stephen King novel.



Richard is sent to live with relatives in the little town of Ballantyne after a fire takes the lives of his parents. He sets himself up as the bad guy, the bully in school. He's with Tom as the story opens, making his life miserable, but Tom has no other friends either. Seeing a phone booth (remember them?), Richard tells him to call a random number from the phone book (remember them?) and say something stupid. But something happens in that phone booth — first there's the laughing, then the screaming, the blood and well, Tom is gone...somewhere.

Later, something happens to another boy Richard calls Fatso, because no one wants him around either. This time, another bizarre happening (emphasis on bizarre) that Richard can never explain. Parents discover the two boys are missing. They realize that Richard is the last one to see them; ergo, everyone thinks he killed them and disposed of the bodies

Since no bodies are found, he is sent to the Rorrim Correctional Facility for Young People. Do they think they can cure him? Things from the past bubble up in his memory, but are they real or imagined?

The story ends 15 years later at a school reunion when all is revealed — or is it?

The final word: "You should never trust your memory. It only ever gives you what it thinks you need."

Happy Halloween, and happy reading!





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