



Volume 42, Number 7 Thursday, February 26, 2026

Dynamite New Digs

by Betsy Kohn

Have you noticed?

The former Ivy Tech Community College building, 3714 Franklin St., is coming down, but the vocational technical school hasn't left town. Far from it. They've just moved a few feet — 56 feet, to be exact — to the east.

And they're loving their new digs.

Last August, Ivy Tech officials held a ribbon-cutting celebration at its new Michigan City location on the third floor of HealthLinc-Michigan City, 200 Alfred Ave., just across the back parking lot from its former home.

That building, known as The Drs. Rade and Leslie Pejic Campus, had a long history.

Walters Hospital and Clinic opened there on Dec. 15, 1963. It later became Kingwood Hospital, but by the 1980s, the 89-bed facility transitioned into a psychiatric center. When Kingwood closed in 1989, the Pejics subsequently purchased it. Rade was a celebrated Michigan City surgeon and Leslie a mental-health therapist and former director of The Madison Center. For a time, the building was known as the Halstead Building, in honor of the father of modern surgery.

In 2011, the Pejics gifted the building to Ivy Tech, which already was leasing space there. That year, Ivy Tech lauded the Pejics as Benefactors of the Year.

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Ivy Tech Community College now is housed on the entire third floor of HealthLinc-Michigan City, 200 Alfred Ave. Photo by Betsy Kohn.

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Over the next decade, Ivy Tech utilized the facility for its Michigan City campus, offering general education classes and specialized medical certifications. But as the years passed, the aging building presented a number of challenges.

“It was originally a hospital, so many of the rooms were the size of patient rooms, with walls that couldn’t be moved for structural reasons,” explains Dr. Lora Plank, Ivy Tech vice president of academic and student affairs. “There were also mechanical issues. It really didn’t make sense to invest in rehabbing that space.”

When HealthLinc opened its new medical office building adjacent to Ivy Tech in 2025, it was an ideal solution.

“It’s the perfect partnership,” Plank says. “We were able to design the classrooms and labs from

the ground up.”

Ivy Tech now occupies the entire third floor of the HealthLinc building. In addition to classrooms for general education subjects like math and English, newly outfitted spaces include large labs for nursing and anatomy courses, a computer lab, a lounge area for students, a space for tutoring and faculty offices.

“It’s just so nice and new, very slick. Everything students need is at their fingertips,” says Dr. Scott Simerlein, who teaches anatomy and physiology. “It’s a really wonderful environment.”

Amie Adey, who has taught medical assisting at Ivy Tech for three years, is thrilled with her new classroom.

“With the new build, we were able to incorporate two patient exam rooms,” she says. “It’s set up exactly how the doctor’s office would be. Students are able to practice positioning patients for different procedures.”

Adey, who is a 2015 Ivy Tech grad, is proud that



The former Ivy Tech site dates back to 1963, when Walters Hospital and Clinic opened there on Dec. 15, 1963. Photo by Betsy Kohn



Amie Adey (center), who teaches medical assisting, works with Madison Michael and Brittney Kozor on taking someone's blood pressure. Photo by Betsy Kohn.

all of her students this semester elected to go beyond the 10-week certification program to graduate with associates degrees in medical assisting.

One such student is Rylee Palm, a 2023 Michigan City High School graduate.

“When you come to a doctor’s office, the medical assistant is the person who’s going to take you back, check your vitals – your blood pressure, your temperature, your height and weight,” Palm says as she practices taking a blood pressure reading. “It’s always been my interest to be in the medical field. I did nursing, but it wasn’t really my thing. This is definitely a fit for me.”

Another student, 22-year-old Medaryville resident Danyel Stalbaum, juggles classes with two jobs as a certified nurse assistant at Northwest Health in Porter and Parkview Haven in Francesville. She obtained her CNA certification through Ivy Tech while still in high school and is supplementing it with her medical assistant degree.

“The new setup is more practical for hands-on work,” she says. “We have actual patient rooms, we have a phlebotomy room. Just like it’s going to be in the field.”

Michigan City resident Lana Johnston, 34, says she hopes to be “an advocate for patients” as a medical assistant. She currently works in the dietary department at Franciscan Health and was inspired to pursue her Ivy Tech degree by her mother, Dianne, who recently passed away. She enjoys the small

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class sizes, and has grown close to her fellow students, who she says are like family.

“These classes benefit everyone,” she says. “There’s a lot of one-on-one with the teacher, and opportunities to learn together and build friendships.”

Prior to graduation, all of Adey’s students will take a certification exam and be placed in an externship, working alongside certified medical assistants in clinical settings across the region. Plank notes that the close proximity to HealthLinc makes them an ideal placement for students not only in medical assisting, but also in nursing and in pharmacy tech, a program offered at Ivy Tech’s Valparaiso campus.



Dr. Lora Plank, Ivy Tech vice president of academic and student affairs, is photographed in the anatomy lab. Photo by Betsy Kohn.

Plank is pleased that enrollment is up at the Michigan City campus, with 334 students taking classes this semester. A new class for EMT certification this spring will increase that number.

“Students are seeing this beautiful new space,” she says, “and that’s a draw.”

Flexibility and convenience also are appealing factors.

The Michigan City campus is open from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. most days. Students can schedule virtual classes for some subjects and take advantage of many supplemental services, including financial-aid help, career counseling and life coaching.



Dr. Lora Plank reveals the CNA lab where students get first-hand experience. Photo by Betsy Kohn.

Plank also is excited about a new program coming this fall to Michigan City’s Ivy Tech: cloud technologies.

According to Ben Marrero, Ivy Tech’s dean of information technology, the Michigan City campus

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Fun Facts About Ivy Tech Staff

Dr. Scott Simerlein was the poet laureate of La Porte County from 2013-2023. He also wrote a Young Adult fantasy novel, Rudger Rump and the Mage of Ages. He sneaks anatomy references into the book. One of his characters is a bookworm named Vermis, which Vermis means worm, and it’s a part of the cerebellum, which is a part of the brain).

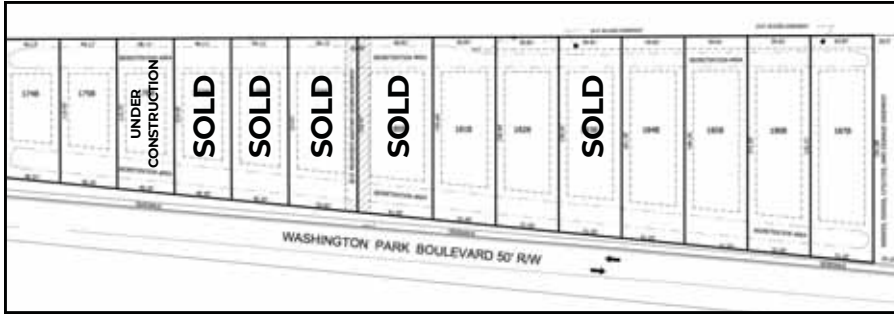
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Dr. Lora Plank, a LaPorte resident, has worked for Ivy Tech for more than 30 years. She was one of the first teachers assigned to the former building, teaching in the surgical technology program. Over the years, she has been the dean of health and dean of nursing. She’s served in her current role as vice chancellor of student and academic affairs since 2017.

□

Amie Adey now works full time for Ivy Tech as the medical assistant teacher, but previously was a medical assistant at Dr. Vidya Kora’s office. She still works at his office on breaks and during the summer. She and her husband have a farm in Plymouth, where they have fainting goats, pigs, corgis, chickens, ducks and barn cats.

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erty on Franklin Street?

The college still owns the site, and Dr. Plank says campus leadership is working toward having a permanent, new facility there to serve all of LaPorte County.



Until funding for that project is in place, however, Ivy Tech will be right at home with HealthLinc.

“This is the perfect partnership, and it is going to give us a chance to grow before we find a permanent solution,” she says. “We have so much to offer here.”

(Registration for summer and fall classes at Ivy Tech opens March 2. Stop by the Michigan City campus, call (219) 879-9137 or apply online at www.ivytech.edu)

The Future going up...

will offer data technician and cloud technologies certifications, which are in high demand by employers. The data center technicians play key roles in making sure these computing facilities operate smoothly. Cloud technology, also called cloud computing, provides IT resources through the Internet.

“It’s a hands-on program, and we’re installing all the equipment needed,” Marre-ro says. “It’ll be a real-world experience where students will be working with routers, switches, racks – everything they would find at a data center.”

So what will happen to the “old” Ivy Tech prop-



...The Past Coming Down. Photo by Andrew Tallackson.

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Owner Ben Konowitz at age 3 holding a gutter

Ben Konowitz, owner of LP Seamless Gutter, announced this week that the company is expanding awareness of its half round gutter and soffit and fascia services throughout the beach communities. "From Arbor to the Zoo in Michigan City, our family business has always had the skill and dedication for half-round gutter as well as detailed soffit and fascia work," Konowitz said. "We've traditionally relied on referrals and word of mouth for the more custom projects. The beach area has beautiful homes that deserve craftsmanship at a high level. We are making a deliberate effort to let homeowners know that we provide architectural options that match those properties while also supporting the Beacher as a newspaper."

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"We're also incredibly proud that our 501(c)(3) Big Comedy LaPorte, has just surpassed \$200,000 in funds donated to local organizations including the PAX Center in LaPorte, whose mission is to keep LaPorte County well feed and well loved." Konowitz said. LP Seamless Gutter's motto, *integrity, backed by service*, comes from Ben's grandfather, Mel Anderson, who had a small tax preparation business.

His mother and father, Cile and Tim Konowitz built LP Seamless into the quality driven, reliable, service based business that Ben has been proud to continue since he became sole owner in 2016. He beams, "I love that everyone clocks in at LaPorte Seamless every morning and we have our amazing in-house employees answering the phones, to providing our free estimates, to performing installations and everything in between."



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“I Can Only Imagine 2” Takes Thoughtful Look at Enduring Scars of Abuse

by Andrew Tallackson



John Michael Finley is back as MercyMe’s Bart Millard in “I Can Only Imagine 2.”

First time I heard MercyMe’s “Even If,” it cut deep. The song arrived a few years after the worst health scare of my life, a period plagued by fear and uncertainty. The lyrics were a testament to faith amid life’s trials.

The evolution of “Even If” is the thrust of “I Can Only Imagine 2,” a faith-based sequel no one asked for, but one that ends up being a thoughtful look at the enduring scars of abuse, and the importance of faith amid life-threatening illness.

Weighty themes for a family film, but a driving force behind it, and the surprise 2017 hit that preceded it, is director Andrew Erwin, who consistently makes faith-based films inclusive for wider audiences. He doesn’t bludgeon you over the head with messages; instead, he allows the actions of his characters to speak for themselves.

The original film centered on the turbulent relationship between MercyMe lead singer Bart Millard (John Michael Finley) and his abusive father (Dennis Quaid), the message being one of healing.

Round 2 finds Bart amid the success of MercyMe, but struggling as a father. His eldest son, Sam (Sammy Dell), is diagnosed with diabetes, Bart feeling

★ ★ ★

“I Can Only Imagine 2”

Running time: 110 minutes. In theaters. Rated PG for thematic material and some language.

like the bad guy for constantly badgering his son to take his insulin. When Sam joins the latest MercyMe tour, Bart finds himself at a crossroads. What the movie effectively reveals is how, with no positive paternal role model in his youth, Bart is at a loss, in danger of becoming the same type of father he once loathed. The screenplay plays fair with Bart’s uncertainty so the eventual bond between father and son feels genuine.

At the same time, we meet MercyMe opening act Tim Timmons, and he’s played by “This is Us” alum Milo Ventimiglia in a performance that juices up the entire film. Ventimiglia plays Timmons as a wildly unpredictable prankster, keeping everyone in the band frosty. The actor has never been this rambunctious, and when it’s revealed that Tim has been battling cancer, you batten down the hatches for sentimental mush. Instead, the character kick-starts the journey to writing “Even If” with Bart.

The movie really is about grown men coming to terms with their own fragility. The first film had more at stake, thanks largely to Quaid’s volatile presence as Bart’s father. The sequel’s climactic performance resorts to Hollywood corn, where everyone conveniently happens to be in the same place at the same time.

But the performance of “Even If,” captured live by the actors at Colorado’s stunning Red Rocks Amphitheatre, sells the finale. The lyrics, the conviction in Finley’s voice as Bart, well, there is real power there. The movie has earned the right for the song, and the story behind it, to move you.

Contact me at atallackson@gmail.com

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Heritage Night Alumni Recognition

Michigan City High School Athletics has rescheduled Heritage Night for Saturday, Feb. 28, at the school, 8466 Pahs Road.

The original opponent, Marion High School, was unable to reschedule, so the Wolves now take on La Lumiere School. The junior varsity game tips off at 5 p.m., with the varsity game at about 7 p.m.

The evening will honor Michigan City basketball history by recognizing several milestone teams and alumni, including:

- The 1966 Elston High School Boys Basketball State Championship team, marking the 60th anniversary of the state title season.
- The Rogers High School Boys Basketball Semi-State teams from 1979 and 1984-1987.

Recognition likely starts at about 6:15 p.m. Fans and alumni are encouraged to arrive early and help pack the Den. Visit www.GoMCWolves.com and follow Michigan City Wolves Athletics on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter (X) @MichCityWolves for more details.

LP Adult Softball Leagues

March 20 is the deadline to register for La Porte Park and Recreation 2026 adult softball leagues.

The Coed Upper and Lower leagues will play Monday nights at Scharf Fields, located on Truesdell Avenue in La Porte. The Women's League returns on Thursday nights. The Coed Church League, which returns to Scharf Fields, plays on Tuesdays.

Registration fees, collected upfront, amount to \$400, plus a refundable \$30 forfeit deposit fee. All leagues will adopt a "pay-at-the-plate" system. Prior to each game, each respective manager will pay the umpire \$15 cash.


Call (219) 326-9600 or contact Evan Miller at emiller@cityoflaportein.gov for details.

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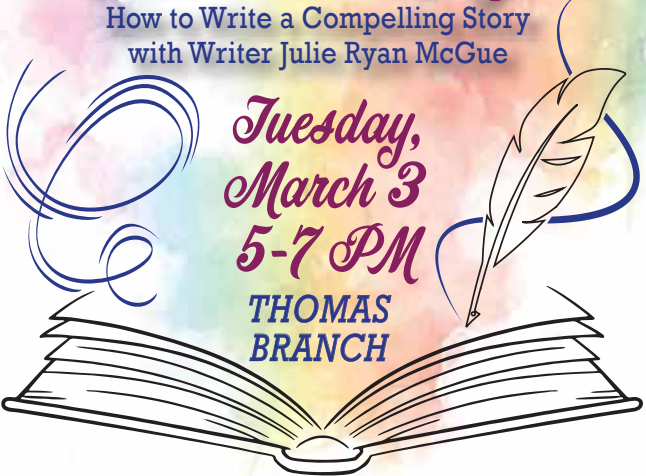
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New PoCo Muse Exhibit

An exhibit about Hillstrom Organ Works, which produced the musical instruments in Chesterton from 1880-1913, is on display through April 26 at Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse), 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso.

The company became a major employer, and played a key role in northern Porter County’s Swedish community.

“Swedish immigrant Charles Oscar Hillstrom learned to make organs while still in his home country,” Executive Director Kevin Matthew Pazour said in a press release. “Not long after arriving in Chicago, he founded the Hillstrom Organ Works.

“In 1880, Hillstrom moved his business to Chesterton, attracted by the availability of native trees for organ case construction and well-established railroad lines. The company became the economic pride of Chesterton.”

Hillstrom Organ Work produced some 40,000 reed organs, shipping them across the United States and around the world. A Hillstrom organ is part of the PoCo Muse collection.

Museum hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday, with free admission. Free half-hour guided tours are at 10 a.m. the third Saturday of each month. Visit www.pocomuse.org or find @pocomuse on social media for more details.

Cooking Matters Class

March 5 is the deadline to register for the free Cooking Matters class presented by Franciscan Health and La Porte County Family YMCA, 901 Michigan Ave.

The class is from 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12. Participants will prepare and taste a new recipe. The class also will highlight healthy food swaps, budget-friendly grocery shopping, proper cooking techniques and general nutrition tips.

Contact Selena Tinoco, Franciscan Health community health specialist, at (219) 221-4153 or Selena.Tinoco@FranciscanAlliance.org to register and for more details.



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The Ballet Lady



Judith Joseph, as The Ballet Lady, has been touring La Porte County Paladin Head Start classrooms this month. The program, which involves music, movement and creativity to empower youth, is part of Metamorphis Traveling Theatre. Call (219) 872-4813 for more details.



American Red Cross

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

- La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon-6 p.m. Tuesday, March 3.

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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Painting the Iconic Horace



Horace, in my view, seems pleased with my painting of him. Photo by Barbara Schreiber.

A measure of any self-respecting artist's success is the ability to please a hard-shelled customer.

In my case, that would be my friend Barbara Schreiber's tortoise, Horace.

(Actually, I think Barbara is Horace's human, but that's a debate for another time.)

Anyway, Barbara and I became friends at Chicago's Monastery of the Holy Cross. We, and other like-minded folks, meet there once a month with the monks to explore Benedictine spirituality. And in the course of those meetings, I struck up a friendship with Barbara, who lives near Chicago Midway International Airport. Over the course of our conversations, I discovered she acquired Horace as "a tiny baby 23 years ago from a reptile shop in Orland Park (Ill.)." I shared some of my watercolor paintings with Barbara and said I welcomed the challenge of painting Horace. Not an icon exactly, but a portrait, if you will.

"Just send me a photo of Horace, and I'll see what I can do," I told Barbara a few months back.

Barbara responded by emailing me an image of Horace in her garden.

That was great, but I needed some backstory be-

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



fore I could grab a single brush.

After all, in the Benedictine tradition, one does not paint an icon. Rather, one "writes" an icon. An icon, after all, is a story in paint, so one writes it, not paints it.

(Indeed, I had taken a stab, or two, at writing icons of Saint Benedict, himself.)

Barbara dutifully provided some important details on the life and times of Horace. And, you should know, my internet research disclosed that tortoises are known for their impressive longevity, with a life expectancy of at least 50 years. Many can live more than 100 years.

Barbara is in fine health, and of an age that should guarantee her a long and happy life with

Horace.

“With constant attention and handling,” she explained, “Horace is very friendly. He knows his name and recognizes my voice. He follows me around the house and in my garden. Like a little dog.”

Hmmm.

I studied the photo of Horace in the garden Barbara sent me. I was certain I could paint something Barbara would like.

But Horace?

How do you please a tortoise?

The pressure was on, but I forged ahead with brushes and paint. I was, however, haunted by the notion that Horace would not be pleased with my painting. Would he do a slow crawl over from Chicago to our cottage in the Michigan dunes and, I don't know, I have never seen a horror movie



Barbara Schreiber took this photo of her pet tortoise, Horace, for me to use as my inspiration.

involving angry tortoises, so I just had vague dreads.

But I stuck with it and produced a painting that I liked. Natalie liked it and was sure Barbara would be pleased. And she was, when I presented it to her a few weeks back, at a meeting at the monastery.

But would Horace like it? Barbara, of course, does not bring him to the monastery, so he would not see it until she got home that afternoon.

I waited anxiously by the in-basket, and voilà, Barbara sent photographic proof of Horace's pleasure

with my painting.

You be the judge, but I am quite sure Horace is smiling.

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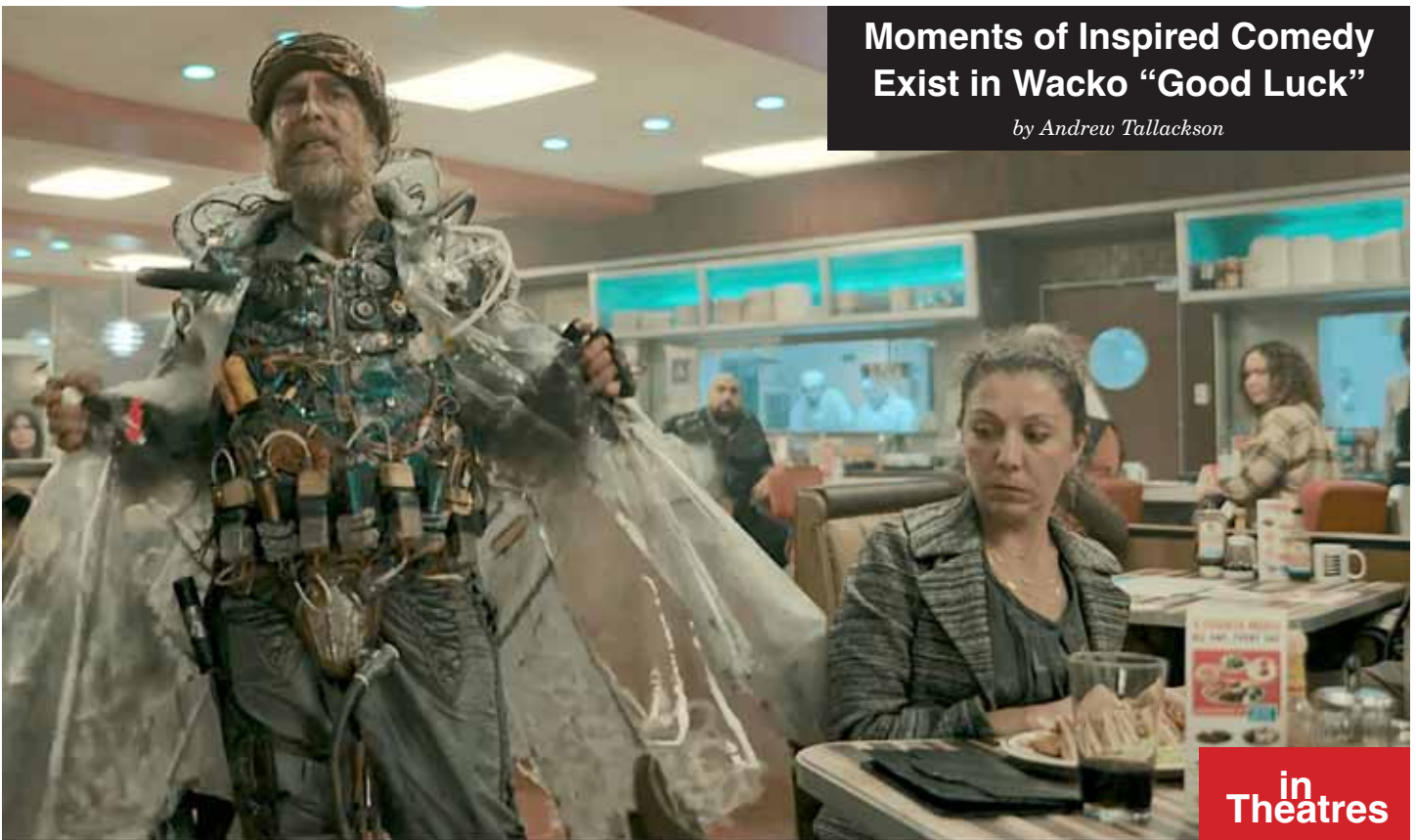


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Moments of Inspired Comedy Exist in Wacko “Good Luck”

by Andrew Tallackson



in
Theatres

Sam Rockwell (left) stars as a time traveler from the future arriving in the present to stop dangerous AI in “Good Luck, Have Fun, Don’t Die.”

“Good Luck, Have Fun, Don’t Die” is “The Terminator” on crystal meth. A bonkers time-travel anti-AI sci-fi comedy that operates at such a fever pitch, it exists somewhere between inspired insanity and massive migraine.

The director is Gore Verbinski (“The Ring,” the early “Pirates of the Caribbean” pictures), who hasn’t made a feature film in 10 years and here seems to channel “The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension” (1984). Yes, that reference dates me, but both are almost defiantly hyper-weird. So out there, your initial reaction is, what the heck were these people smoking?

Oscar-winner Sam Rockwell (“Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri”) plays an unnamed man from the future who arrives in present-day Los Angeles to stop specific AI that will destroy the planet in the near future. With a nod to “Groundhog Day,” this is not his first crack at it. If things go south, he pushes a button that restarts the process.

As the movie begins, he arrives at a diner looking like a homeless man wired to explode. And because he’s made this trip repeatedly, he knows which individuals must join him. Rockwell has made a career out of playing loopy eccentrics, and you prep for laughs. Instead, he shouts his dialogue as if doing so will disguise the limp dialogue supplied by screenwriter Matthew Robinson (2020’s agreeably odd “Love & Monsters”).

Once the time traveler has his team in place, the movie divides its time between ushering the crew

★ ★ 1/2

“Good Luck, Have Fun, Don’t Die”

Running time: 134 minutes. In theaters. Rated R for pervasive language, violence, some grisly images and brief sexual content.

toward its destination and pausing to reveal all the character backstories. And it’s here that the movie hits its stride.

Michael Peña (“Ant-Man”) and Zazie Beetz (“Joker”) are two of my favorite actors, and while their characters — two burned-out teachers — are sorely underwritten, the movie’s attack on cell-phone technology hits the jackpot. Their school is one where no students make eye contact with either the staff or other students. They bury their faces in their devices. When Peña tries to strike up a conversation about “Anna Karenina,” the ensuing conversation flits between students still glued to their phones, one girl announcing Keira Knightley starred in a movie with that title.

Haley Lu Richardson’s Ingrid is another delight. She’s medically diagnosed as allergic to tech, her nose bleeding every time she’s near a cell phone. So, she makes a living as a costumed princess for birthday parties. Clueless of pop culture, her thrift store princess getup inspires one ticked-off mom to announce the entertainment has arrived, and she’s “Elsa’s cousin.”

(The “Frozen” reference is completely lost on Ingrid, who just goes along for the ride.)

Where “Good Luck, Have Fun, Don’t Die” stumbles, badly, is in the presence of the otherwise charming Juno Temple (“Ted Lasso”) as a mom grieving her son’s death after a school shooting. But in this world, society is numb to tragedy. Parents no longer have to mourn when someone kills their kids. They’ll just pay top dollar for a suitable clone. Verbinski allows Temple to go for tragic realism, contrasted with *very* broad comedy where callous soccer moms admit they’re on their third or fourth clone. In what alternate reality is that funny? Some lines, you do not cross for laughs. School shootings are one of them.

By the time we arrive at the hectic climax, complete with teens reduced to zombies by their cell phones, mechanical dolls and a barrage of iffy effects, the movie seems to have lost itself.

Verbinski and Robinson then toy with you. Teasing a happy ending, then slingshotting the characters in another direction. Rockwell, *finally*, makes you smile at what his time traveler has up his sleeve.

The message of “Good Luck, Have Fun, Don’t Die” is a good one. Technology has robbed us of our humanity. Only when we cast aside tech conveniences can we rediscover who we are as a people. The movie, though, is too weird to find an audience during its initial run. Weird only packs seats if Tim Burton’s name is attached to it. Time, itself, may be the



Juno Temple plays a grieving mother willing to join a time traveler on his mission.

true test, where revisiting it down the road, armed with the knowledge of how wacko it is, will indicate whether genius was buried somewhere inside.

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Judging by the impressive turnout, Teddy is a hit with families. Michigan City Public Library's "Read to a Dog" program features therapy dog trainer Colleen Melendy, who brings Teddy, her nearly 7-year-old goldendoodle so visitors can read to him. Books are provided, but guests can take their own. Melendy takes Teddy elsewhere in the region, including hospitals, nursing homes and libraries. Photos by Andrew Tallackson.



Oscar Watch: “Blue Moon”

by Andrew Tallackson

Lorenz Hart (Ethan Hawke) finds comfort, and relevance, in 20-year-old Yale student Elizabeth Weiland (Margaret Qualley) in “Blue Moon.”

In “Blue Moon,” Ethan Hawke does arguably his best work, a performance so exhausting and defeated, it’s like witnessing a new chapter in his career.

Darn right, he deserved that Best Actor Oscar nod...but he’s got a snowball’s chance in you know where of winning. The nomination, itself, will have to be the win, drawing more attention to the film through its recent Netflix debut.

What a year 2025 was for Hawke. First came FX’s “The Lowdown,” in which he played a low-rent Oklahoma journalist whose motormouth reflected a brain on constant fast forward. In “Blue Moon,” which reteams him with longtime collaborator Richard Linklater (the “Before” trilogy, “Boyhood”), he stars as Broadway lyricist Lorenz Hart, seven months before his unfortunate death. Hart is rabidly chatty, which means that, save for brief exchanges with other characters, Hawke rarely stops speaking. He *is* the screenplay. No easy feat, but the Oscar nomination speaks more to the heartbreak of Hawke’s performance in what amounts to a stinging portrait of a Broadway casualty.

In fact, the night on which “Blue Moon” unfolds is the final nail in Hart’s theatrical coffin. It’s March 1943. Hart is newly sober, and he’s slipped out of the opening night of “Oklahoma!” on Broadway. The play, which revolutionized musicals by having songs *advance* the story, not *interrupt* it, marked the first successful union between Hart’s former collabora-



tor, Richard Rodgers (Andrew Scott), and Oscar Hammerstein II (Simon Delaney). They would become Broadway’s greatest duo.

But Hart, whose bout with alcoholism drove the wedge between him and Rodgers, was no longer a hot commodity. When he arrives at Sardi’s, where the “Oklahoma!” afterparty is scheduled, Hawke reveals everything we need to know about the lyricist. He’s bitter, but through Hawke, it translates as an air of superiority. In his mind, he’s better than any mass success that awaits “Oklahoma!” That Hart sits alone, pouring out his angst to the bartender (Bobby Canavale), is another sad visual. Hart no longer has any relevance in the theater community, but speaks of past accomplishments like they still carry certain weight.

Because Hart does nearly all the talking, the early passages of “Blue Moon” have the static feel of a photographed stage play. Like Hawke is performing a one-man show, although it *is* one heck of a show. Then, the “Oklahoma!” party arrives, and Linklater, working from Robert Kaplow’s sophisticated, Oscar-nominated script, zeroes in on the tragedy of

Hart's life. You can see it in the way Scott, as Rodgers, looks at Hart, that he still respects his legacy, a potential for future greatness, but is weary of all the baggage. Hawke also weaves in an arrogance, a pomposity to Hart that, at its core, is jealousy directed at Hammerstein's rousing success.

Even more intriguing is Hart's friendship with Elizabeth Weiland, a 20-year-old Yale student interested in theater production design. Earlier in the night, Hart speaks openly about his homosexuality, but suggests he's fluid in his ability to find love wherever he can. But Weiland is trickier than that. She's played by Margaret Qualley ("The Substance") in a performance refreshingly free of movie clichés. So many young actresses play Hollywood Golden Age starlets like they've watched a ton of old movies, then regurgitated what they saw. But there is nothing studied about Qualley. She speaks like a woman unsure of her future, of her own beauty and confidence. Hart's infatuation with her may not, indeed, be love, but an enchantment with her youth, her potential. When Elizabeth leaves Hart's company to join Rodgers and Hammerstein, the look in Hawke's eyes breaks you. He knows his relevance, his appeal, are a thing of the past.

Maybe, in a less competitive year, Hawke would be a shoe-in for Best Actor. Unfortunately, he's up against a much younger actor playing a similar type of human tsunami: Timothée Chalamet in "Marty



Andrew Scott (left) co-stars as Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart's former Broadway collaborator.

Supreme." Sentiment for those who've long paid their dues does not carry the same weight it did 30 or 40 years ago. Hollywood prefers to reward the next generation; hence, Mikey Madison's win last year for "Anora" over Demi Moore's career-reviving work in "The Substance."

Again, that's why a nomination for Hawke is the next best thing. Those who've never even heard of "Blue Moon" now have Netflix to thank for its streaming afterlife. And the opportunity to witness Hawke at his best.

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La Porte County Public Library

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

The following programs are planned:

- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 27, at the main library.** The storytime includes rhymes, music and activities.
- **Choose Your Own Storytime from 4-4:30 p.m. Monday, March 2, at the main library Multipurpose Room.** Structured around the Every Child Ready to Read curriculum, children
- **Tween Book Club (ages 10-13) from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 3, in the main library Multipurpose Room.** The focus is Chris Grabenstein's Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library. Copies are available at the youth desk.
- **Virtual Author Talk with Michael Perry from 1-2 p.m. Wednesday, March 4.** Perry is a bestselling author and humorist. Register online.
- **Creative Kids — Dr. Seuss' Birthday from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, in the main library Multipurpose Room.** Read some of his famous books, build a craft and cook green eggs and ham.

La Porte 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.

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.

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

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MCAS Kindergarten Roundup

With Michigan City Area Schools' kindergarten roundup under way, parents can take required documents to their child's school between 12:30-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26.

Elementary schools also can assist families with enrollment through March.

Kindergarten enrollment also is open online for the 2026-2027 school year. Students must be 5 by Aug. 1. Parents and guardians can visit www.EducateMC.net/kindergarten, and those enrolling a new student will be asked to create an account through PowerSchool Enrollment.

As part of the online process, parents/guardians can upload:

- The child's official birth certificate.
- Parent/guardian's driver's license or state photo ID.
- Proof of residency, such as a utility bill or lease.
- The child's immunization records and proof of lead testing.
- Custody paperwork (if applicable).

Parents/guardians should call the MCAS Transportation Department at (219) 873-2127 if unsure which school their child attends.

Also, MCAS' Little Wolves Early Learning Center, 1001 U.S. 20, is accepting new enrollments for the 2026-2027 school year. Children entering the preschool program must be potty-trained and turn 3 by Aug. 1. Full- and half-day options are available. There is a fee; however, CCDF and On My Way Pre-K vouchers are accepted. More information and a link to enroll are at www.EducateMC.net/littlewolves, by calling (219) 873-2035 or by email at littlewolves@mcas.k12.in.us. Prospective families are encouraged to schedule a visit to learn more about Little Wolves and meet the director, Holly Martinez.

MCAS also is accepting applications for its K-6 magnet schools, which include Pine Elementary School (a magnet school for the Visual and Performing Arts) and Lake Hills Elementary School (an Indiana-certified STEM school). Most magnet spots for the 2026-2027 school year will be available at the kindergarten level. Slots in higher grades will be filled as space allows before the start of the 2026-2027 school year. Information and applications are available at www.EducateMC.net/magnets. The deadline is Friday, April 24.

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Rotary Club Names WIMS' Ric Federighi as Alinsky Award Winner

Ric Federighi, owner/station manager of WIMS AM 1420/FM 95.1 radio, is this year's recipient of the Paul J. Alinsky Excellence Award presented by Rotary Club of Michigan City.

Named after Paul Alinsky, a Rotarian who passed away in 1997, the award honors his commitment to innovation and leadership by recognizing those in the community who demonstrate Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self."

Rotarian Jennifer Heath nominated Federighi.

"His commitment to local broadcasting, combined with his ongoing support of non-profit organizations and civic initiatives, exemplifies the qualities recognized by the Paul J. Alinsky Excellence Award: professional excellence paired with meaningful community service," Heath said in a press release.

As a local radio station owner and morning host, Federighi dedicates airtime to nonprofit organizations, community initiatives and public-service causes. Beyond the studio, he frequently serves as an emcee for community and nonprofit events, including the Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce annual meeting and dinner. He also broadcasts live from numerous local events, providing

visibility to community programs, charitable efforts and civic engagement activities.

The Rotary Club will present the award to Federighi during a club meeting at noon Thursday, March 12, at The Salvation Army of Michigan City, 1201 Franklin St. The meeting is open to the public, and lunch is available for \$15 per person. Federighi will receive a replica of the Alinsky memorial. In addition, the club will make a donation to a charity of his choice.

Past recipients include Les Radke, Bud Ruby, Duane Mertl, Ron Bensch, Jerry Karstens, Emerson Spartz, Glen Lubeznik, James Welborne, Kathleen Lang, Bernie Scott, Jan Radford, Tom Ringo, Jim Dwor-kin, Dr. Lisa Hendricks, Marty Corley, Don Babcock, Al Whitlow, Dion Campbell, Cyndi Davis, Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins, Angie Nelson-Deutch, Clarence Hulse, Kevin McGuire, Maggi Spartz and Rotary Service volunteers. In 2016, in honor of the club's 100th anniversary, the award recognized every Rotary Club member over the past century. A memorial inscribed with the names of past recipients is on display at City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.

More information about the club is available at www.mccrotary.org



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The staff at La Lumiere School, 6801 N. Wilhelm Road, invite local youth to attend Kids Night at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27, in the school's Marsch Gym.

The evening will feature La Lumiere's national basketball team taking on the nation's No. 1 team, Spire Academy. Children can sit in the student section, meet the team, get free T-shirts and pizza, and participate in contests. One fan will win a free week of basketball camp.

Admission is free for children in eighth grade and below. Visit www.lalumiere.org or contact Athletic Director Kelly Sanderson at ksanderson@lalumiere.org for more details.

Dunes Family Fair

March 1 is the deadline for table reservations for Dunes Family Fair 2026, which is sponsored by Dunes Hospice.

The event is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, May 27, at Dunes Event Center, 110 Clear Lake Blvd., La Porte. The table-registration fee is \$100. All applications and checks can be made to "Dunes Hospice LLC" and sent to: Dunes Hospice, 4711 Evans Ave., Valparaiso, IN 46383.

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Insights in History

Tricia Sloma, WNDU news anchor and reporter, will mark the 138th birthday of Knute Rockne during the next "Insights in History."

The program, "Knute Rockne and a Century of Champions," is at 1:30 p.m. EST Wednesday, March 4, at South Bend's The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. A tour of the "Rockne: Life & Legacy" exhibit is planned.



Sloma

Sloma will show a portion of "Knute Rockne and a Century of Champions," which she produced for WNDU, and for which she received the Edward R. Murrow Award, as well as the 2025 Rockne Distinguished Service Award. The documentary explores The University of Notre Dame's 100 years of national championships, including its first in 1925, when Knute Rockne's Fighting Irish achieved the title.

Sloma is an Emmy-winning co-anchor of 16 Morning News Now, with more than 30 years experience in broadcasting. She was named the 2020 Journalist of the Year from the Indiana Society of Professional Journalists for "Never Again: Preventing Bus Stop Tragedies." Her report also earned the Edward R. Murrow Award and National Association of Broadcasters Service to America Award.

Admission is \$3, or \$1 for members. Reservations are required by March 2 by calling (574) 235-9664, Ext. 6256. Visit www.historymuseumSB.org for more details.

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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday through March 28.** Rangers and volunteers will share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse and garden, and visit the animals. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Critter Time from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sundays through March 29 at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Learn what the park's ambassador animals eat, where they live and how park staff care for them.
- **Snowshoeing in Miller Woods from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Friends of Indiana Dunes sponsors the program. Snowshoeing needs at least a 6-inch snowpack for safety. A limited number of snowshoes are available for loan, or take your own. Inquire at the front desk or call (219) 395-1824 to check for appropriate conditions.
- **Artist-in-Residence Art Display at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday-Sunday at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** View 21 pieces, all inspired by the Indiana Dunes.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor 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.

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:

- **Luminaria Hike and Campfire Treat at 6 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27.** Meet at the Nature Center, where a naturalist will lead visitors on a one-mile, moderate hike, with an option to hike to the top of Mount Jackson. Glowing luminarias will light the trail. A campfire and s'mores are at the Nature Center outdoor program area.
- **Snow Days at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28.** Meet at the Nature Center to learn facts about snow. Experiments and activities are planned.
- **Winter Bird Wander at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, March 1.** Meet at the Nature Center for an easy stroll with a naturalist searching for different bird species and other wildlife. Take binoculars, or borrow a pair from the park.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chertonton. Call (219) 926-1390 to register for programs.

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TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Strike Out	20	4
2. Pin Ups	19	5
3. Pin Pushers	18	6
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE	
1. Barb Macudzinski		169
2. Ginna Lucas		168
3. Diana Holt		166
4. Pat Collado		158
5. Linda Neulieb		152
6. Lisa Albers (series)		402
SPLITS		
Deb Novak — 3-5-7.		
Kathleen Beeler — 2-7.		

Parent Network Craft Fair

Michigan City High School's Parent Network Craft Fair is from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, at MCHS, 8466 W. Paks Road.

The event features various vendors and crafters.



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La Porte County Parks



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

Celestial Night Hike: How the Stars Guided Them to Freedom

The program is from 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City.

Learn about the stars that helped guide Harriet Tubman along the Underground Railroad.

New Buffalo Township Library

• **Adult Literacy Class.** The program is from 5:30-6:45 p.m. Thursdays in February.

Weekly programs

- Story Time at 10 a.m. Mondays and 4 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.
- Craft Time from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Teen Maker Space from 4-6 p.m. Thursdays.
- Chess Club from 4-6 p.m. Thursdays.
- Spanish Story Time at 10 a.m. Fridays.
- Essentrics Exercise for Seniors (gentle) at 10 a.m. Fridays. The intermediate program is at 11 a.m.
- Lego Club from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Fridays and 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturdays.

All times are Eastern. New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Visit www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or call (269) 469-2933 for more details.

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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 following programs are scheduled:

- **Abe Lincoln Visits the Library from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26.** The all-ages program celebrates Lincoln's birthday and President's Day.
- **Needle Arts Club from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays.** Join fellow artists to stitch needle art. A variety of crafts are included. All skill levels and ages are welcome, as is the sharing of skills.
- **Great Decisions, "The Future of Human Rights," from 11 a.m.-noon Friday, Feb. 27.** The foreign-policy discussion program continues. Participants read the "Great Decisions Briefing Book," watch the videos at the library, then discuss with community members. Call (219) 873-3049 to register or for more details.
- **Giant Candyland (all ages) from 4-5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 27.** Collect small prizes while moving through the board.
- **Family Puzzle Challenge at 4 p.m. Monday, March 2.** Work as a family to solve a 300-piece puzzle in the best time. All families get to keep the puzzle, and winners receive a small prize.
- **Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays.** Harris can offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical records.
- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays.** 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.
- **Cozy Time Puzzles and Coloring for Adults at 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 3.** Do a jigsaw puzzle or color while paired with relaxing audio.
- **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.
- **February and March scavenger hunts.** In February, find all four hidden Kawaii characters and win a prize. In March, find the hidden Pokémon monsters to win a 3-D printed prize.
- **Winter Reading Challenge for Adults through Feb. 28.** Pick up a Winter Reading bookmark at the reference desk. Fill in a circle for every 20 minutes of reading or listening to a book. Once filling all the circles, return the bookmark to the reference desk to pick a prize and receive an entry in a drawing. One reader may receive a \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card.
- **Art Exhibition Wall.** Tim Lace's solo exhibit runs through March 6. Lace ventured to New Orleans, capturing men and women who bead the suits in which they parade twice each year: Mardi Gras Day and Super Sunday. The brightly colored suits of beads and feathers celebrate the connections between African and Native American tradition.
- **Learning Center volunteers needed for children and adults.** Areas include reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. Volunteers are needed two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the Learning Center for more details.



Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org or call (219) 873-3049 for more details.

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- "F1"
- "Frankenstein"
- "Hamnet"
- "Marty Supreme"
- "One Battle After Another"
- "The Secret Agent"
- "Sentimental Value"
- "Sinners"
- "Train Dreams"

SUPPORTING ACTOR

- Benicio Del Toro,
"One Battle After Another"
- Jacob Elordi, "Frankenstein"
- Delroy Lindo, "Sinners"
- Sean Penn,
"One Battle After Another"
- Stellan Skarsgard,
"Sentimental Value"

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- Elle Fanning,
"Sentimental Value"
- Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas,
"Sentimental Value"
- Amy Madigan, "Weapons"
- Wunmi Mosaku, "Sinners"
- Teyana Taylor, "One Battle
After Another"

DIRECTOR

- Chloé Zhao, "Hamnet"
- Josh Safdie, "Marty Supreme"
- Paul Thomas Anderson,
"One Battle After Another"
- Joachim Trier, "Sentimental Value"
- Ryan Coogler, "Sinners"

ACTOR

- Timothée Chalamet,
"Marty Supreme"
- Leonardo DiCaprio,
"One Battle After Another"
- Ethan Hawke, "Blue Moon"
- Michael B. Jordan, "Sinners"
- Wagner Moura,
"The Secret Agent"

ACTRESS

- Jessie Buckley, "Hamnet"
- Rose Byrne,
"If I Had Legs I'd Kick You"
- Kate Hudson,
"Song Sung Blue"
- Renate Reinsve,
"Sentimental Value"
- Emma Stone, "Bugonia"

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Rules for The Beacher's Beat the Editor Contest:

Check one box in each category. Only one entry per person. Entries from *Beacher* employees will not be accepted. Forms can be dropped off at *The Beacher* or submitted by mail to: The Beacher, Attn: Oscar Contest, 911 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360. Only scanned copies will be allowed by email to atallackson@gmail.com. **The deadline is noon Friday, March 6.** Editor Andrew Tallackson's picks will appear in the March 12 edition, before the March 15 telecast. Those who beat his picks will be placed into a drawing. **First place receives a \$50 Swingbelly's gift certificate and an AMC movie pass. Second place receives an AMC movie pass.** If no one beats him, readers with the most correct picks will be placed into the drawing. The winner will be revealed in the March 26 edition.

Name:

City/Town:

Phone Number:





In the Area

Feb. 26 — Abe Lincoln Visits the Library, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 26 — Celestial Night Hike: How the Stars Guided Them to Freedom, 6-7 p.m., Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

Feb. 27 — Great Decisions, “The Future of Human Rights,” 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 27 — Giant Candyland (all ages), 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 27 — Kids Night, 7 p.m., La Lumiere School, 6801 N. Wilhelm Road. Free: eighth grade & below. Info: ksanderson@lalumiere.org, www.lalumiere.org

Feb. 28 — Michigan City High School’s Parent Network Craft Fair, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., MCHS, 8466 W. Pahs Road.

Feb. 28 — Michigan City High School Athletics Heritage Night, MCHS, 8466 Pahs Road. Times: junior varsity game/5 p.m., varsity game/7 p.m., recognition/6:15 p.m. Info: www.GoMCWolves.com

March 2 — Family Puzzle Challenge, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 2 — Choose Your Own Storytime, 4-4:30 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

March 3 — Tween Book Club (ages 10-13), 4:30-5:30 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

March 3 — Cozy Time Puzzles and Coloring for Adults, 5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 4 — Virtual Author Talk with Michael Perry, 1-2 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

March 4 — Creative Kids-Dr. Seuss’ Birthday, 4-5 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Through March 6 — Tim Lacey solo exhibit, Art Exhibition Wall, Michigan City Public Library, 100

E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Through March 28 — Exhibit, Jaber Dabagia’s “White Static,” The Rising Phoenix Gallery, 2817 Franklin St. Info: contact@risingphxgallery.com

Through March 31 — Watercolor/colored-pencil drawings by local artist Kristy Kutch, Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Info: kd3627@hotmail.com

Through April 24 — Tom Sourlis’ “Luminaries,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: jsexton@lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Through Dec. 31 — “America A-Z” exhibit, La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

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 Michigan City — Adult Children of Alcoholic and Family Dysfunction (ACA), 6 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St. Info: (219) 801-1296.

First Monday of the Month (February, April, June, August, October, December) — Cancer Support Group, 5-6 p.m., Franciscan Health Woodland Cancer Center Community Room, 8955 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City. Info/registration: (219) 861-5820.

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

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

Tuesdays — Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS), 4:30 p.m., Simeon Square, 1207 S. Woodland Ave. Info: marsha2529@comcast.net

Tuesdays — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 1506 Washington St. Doors open: 4 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. \$40 entrance fee (includes specials except Winner Takes All & Jackpot). Jackpot consolation \$300 guaranteed. Info: (219) 336-3099.

Second Tuesday of the Month — Stroke Support Group for Survivors and Caregivers, 2 p.m., Mother Maria Theresia Room, Franciscan Health Michigan City, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: Kelly Wise at kelly.wise@franciscanalliance.org

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meeting for Friends/Family of Alcoholics, 6 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square. Enter at Sixth Street

Barker Hall side. Info: Candy at (708) 927-5287.

Thursdays — Needle Arts Club, 5:30-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30 a.m. Info: Jan at (219) 241-8757, Paula at (219) 588-3127, www.oa.org

In the Region

Feb. 27 — Luminaria Hike and Campfire Treat, 6 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 28 — Duneland Chamber of Commerce Indoor European Market, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter.

Feb. 28 — Snow Days, 11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

March 1 — Winter Bird Wander, 10:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

March 3 — Insights in History, “Knut Rockne and a Century of Champions,” 1:30 p.m. EST, South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Admission: \$3, \$1/members. Reservations: (574) 235-9664, Ext. 6256, by March 2. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org

Through Feb. 28 — “Hope for a New Season: Duneland Photography Club Exhibition,” Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: www.chestertonart.org, (219) 926-4711.

Through March 1 — “The Half-Life of Marie Curie,” Chicago Street Theatre, 154 W. Chicago St., Valparaiso. Times: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26, 8 p.m. Feb. 27-28, 2:30 p.m. March 1. Tickets: \$25/adults, \$22/seniors 62+, students, military members with ID. Reservations: www.chicagostreet.org

Through April 26 — “From a Baily Point of View,” “Hillstrom Organ Works,” Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse), 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Museum hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tue.-Sun. Free admission. Info: www.pocomuse.org, @pocomuse on social media.

Through May 25 — “Reel Rides: Cars of TV & Film,” 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 & older, \$7/youth ages 6-18. Info: (888) 391-5600, www.studebakermuseum.org

Through May 31 — “Rockne: Life & Legacy,” South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Saturday-Sunday through March 28 — Chellberg Farm Open House, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays through March 29 — Critter Time, 1:30-2:30 p.m., The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s

Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Wednesday-Sunday — Snowshoeing in Miller Woods, 1-3 p.m., The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Wednesday-Sunday — Artist-in-Residence Art Display, 9:30 a.m., The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays — Free sewing classes, 5-7 p.m. EDT, Friends of New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

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

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: “To Catch a Thief.” Rated PG. Time: 6 p.m. Feb. 26. *Also*: “Mid-winter Break.” Rated PG-13. Times: 3:30 & 6 p.m. Feb. 27, 1:30 & 4 p.m. March 1, 6 p.m. March 3. *Also*: “Live! On Stage: Jonathan Richman featuring Tommy Larkin on the drums.” Time: 7 p.m. Feb. 28. All times Eastern. The theater is located at 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On February 26, 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from the Island of Elbe to embark on his second conquest of France.

On February 26, 1870, the first New York City subway line opened to the public.

On February 26, 1919, an act of Congress established Arizona's Grand Canyon National Park.

On February 26, 1940, the U.S. Air Defense Command was created.

On February 26, 1951, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting a president to two terms in office, was ratified.

On February 26, 1972, 107 people were killed in the West Virginia town of Logan when a dam burst under the pressure of excessive rains.

On February 27, 1801, the District of Columbia was placed under the jurisdiction of Congress.

On February 27, 1922, in a unanimous decision, the U.S. Supreme Court guaranteed women the right to vote.

On February 27, 1939, the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed sit-down strikes.

On February 27, 1960, the U.S. Olympic hockey team defeated the Soviets, 3-2, at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, Calif.

On February 27, 1964, the city of Pisa asked the Italian government to spend in excess of \$1 million to straighten the 184-foot Leaning Tower of Pisa. The world famous tower, at that time, slanted 11 feet from the perpendicular, and engineers predicted that, without immediate correction, it would soon collapse.

On February 28, 1827, the Baltimore and Ohio, the first U.S. railroad chartered to carry passengers and freight, was incorporated.

On February 28, 1849, the ship California arrived at San Francisco, carrying the first gold seekers.

On February 28, 1953, James Watson and Francis Crick discovered the double-helix structure of DNA: the molecule that contains the human genes.

On February 28, 1966, astronauts Elliot See and Charles Bassett were killed when their jet trainer crashed in St. Louis.

On February 28, 1974, after a seven-year break, the United States and Egypt renewed diplomatic relations.

On March 1, 1864, Rebecca Lee received a medical degree from Boston's New England Female Medical College, becoming the first black woman licensed to practice medicine in America.

On March 1, 1912, Capt. Albert Berry, from an altitude of 15,000 feet above St. Louis, made the first recorded parachute jump from an airplane.

On March 1, 1932, the infant son of Charles Lindberg was kidnapped from his Hopewell, N.J., bedroom.

On March 1, 1961, President John F. Kennedy authorized the establishment of the Peace Corps.

On March 1, 1962, in Garden City, Mich., the first Kmart store opened for business.

On March 2, 1776, the Navy and Marines fought their first battle of the Revolutionary War, capturing a British fort on the Bahamas' New Providence Island.

On March 2, 1837, Rush Medical College, predecessor of Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, was incorporated in Chicago.

On March 2, 1877, in a close 1876 presidential election, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner over Democrat Samuel J. Tilden.

On March 2, 1888, H.G. Wells, reacting to criticism that his poetry lacked meter, responded, "*Meters are used to measure gas, not the outpourings of the human heart.*"

On March 2, 1933, "King Kong," starring Fay Wray, premiered in New York.

On March 3, 1837, Congress increased the membership on the U.S. Supreme Court from seven to nine justices.

On March 3, 1851, Congress appropriated \$250 for President Millard Fillmore to buy books to start a library in the White House.

On March 3, 1857, John "Long John" Wentworth defeated Benjamin Carver (5,933-4,842) to become Chicago's first mayor.

On March 3, 1875, "Carmen," Bizet's famous opera, premiered in Paris.

On March 3, 1887, Anne Sullivan arrived at the home of Capt. and Mrs. Arthur Keller to teach their blind and deaf 6-year-old daughter, Helen.

On March 4, 1747, Casimir Pulaski, the nobleman who became a hero of the American Revolution, was born in Winiary, Poland.

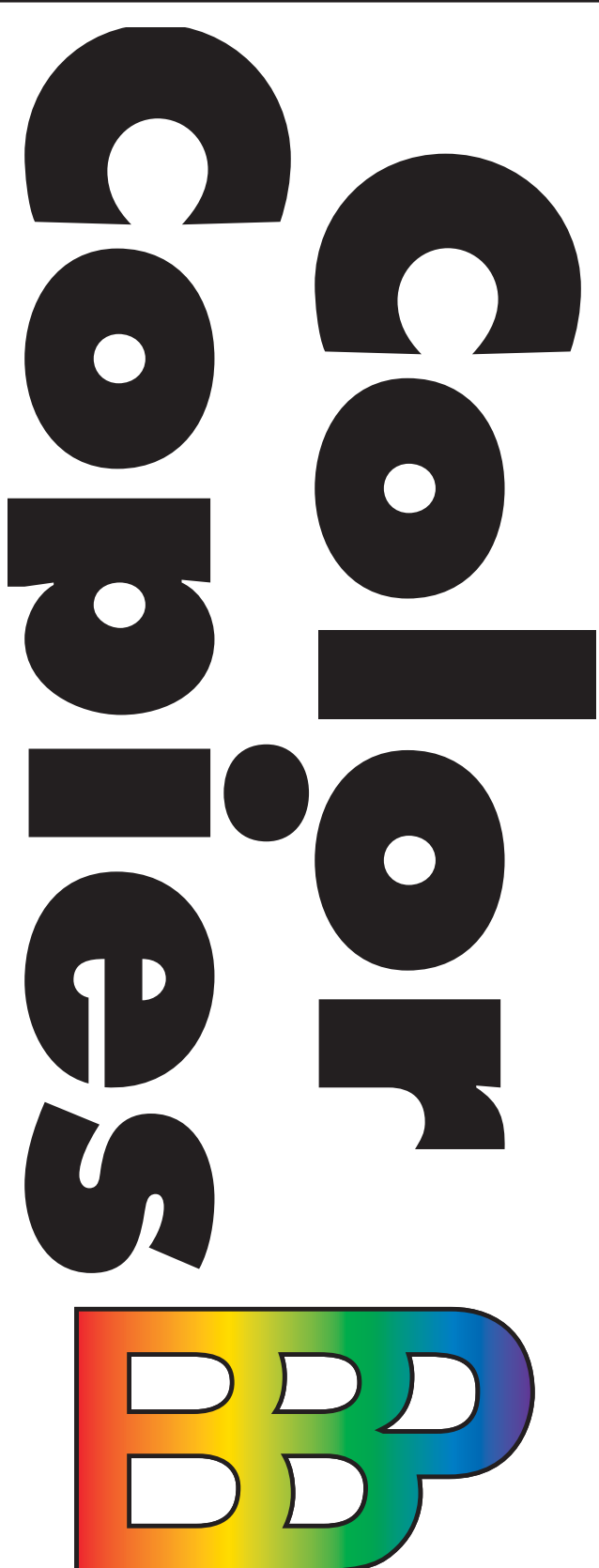
On March 4, 1801, Thomas Jefferson became the first president inaugurated in Washington, the nation's new capital.

On March 4, 1837, the Illinois legislature granted a city charter to Chicago, dividing the city into six wards.

On March 4, 1851, fire destroyed Chicago's first hotel, the Sauganash, located at the southeast corner of Lake and Market streets.

On March 4, 1865, Abraham Lincoln, in his inaugural address, uttered these famous words, "*With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right...*"

On March 4, 1888, Knute Rockne, later to be revered as Notre Dame's football coach, was born in Voss, Norway.



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MCAS Wall of Fame Nominations

March 27 is the deadline to submit 2026 Michigan City Area Schools Wall of Fame nominations.

The annual award, first presented in 1976, honors former employees who made outstanding contributions to MCAS, including: administrators, custodians, food-service personnel, instructional assistants, maintenance personnel, paraprofessionals, teachers, transportation staff and secretarial staff.

To qualify, the candidate must have been employed by MCAS for at least 15 years. Special circumstances may be considered for those who don't meet the 15-year requirement due to hardship or death.

Candidates also must have been retired or separated from the school system for at least five years. Because retirees occasionally are called back to service, the date of separation is considered the official retirement date, not including subsequent employment. Employees from schools independent prior to school reorganization, as well as those from schools no longer in existence, also are eligible. Death does not make a person ineligible.

All applications remain on file for three years. At the end of that time, candidates must be re-nominated. The deadline is Friday, March 27. Forms, a complete list of past recipients and additional details are available at www.EducateMC.net/WOF

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The Tin Men by Nelson DeMille and Alex DeMille (hardcover \$29 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and audiobook. 364 pages.)

"They don't learn, Mr. Brodie. They don't have the capacity to learn. And I urge all of you to stop using 'he' and 'his'. She gestured to the line of robots. "These are things. They are equipment."

"Equipment," said Brodie, "that you chose to shape like human beings."

AI and robots. While not the same thing, they're both at the forefront of the news these days, and bestselling authors are on the bandwagon, using one or the other in their latest novels.

This week's recommendation considers robots as the future of our military. It's a dark, deep hole we are looking into, and scientists are on both sides of using robots as labor-saving devices or soldiers for tomorrow's army. Result: You build a 7 ft. bot made of impenetrable metal and equip them with one main directive — kill the enemy. Of course, safety measures are in place. Just ask the software engineers. What could possibly go wrong? The murder of one of the scientists who built them. That's not supposed to happen...yet it does.

This is Book Three of the Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) team featuring Scott Brodie and Maggie Taylor. Gen. Dombroski, their commanding officer, sends them to Camp Hayden in the Mojave Desert to investigate that murder. They are tasked to find out why a robot, known as No. 21, or Bucky, as the men call it, apparently murdered Maj. Ames, one of four scientists directing tests to determine whether the bots can be utilized in warfare.

What the general knows about what is going on at Camp Hayden causes him to muse that *"if the road to Hell was paved with good intentions, then the Army's best and brightest were out there laying the asphalt."*

Since no one in Washington, D.C., knows what exactly is going on at Camp Hayden, Brodie and Taylor decide the best thing to do is go in with an open mind and extra ammo.

There are 60 robots and 62 Army Rangers stationed at the camp. The Rangers signed up for an 18-month commitment that meant no R&R, families or conjugal visits. No local town to visit. No surprise recreational drugs.

Brodie and Taylor have no idea what awaits them. The pair begins with the obvious question: How do

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



you interrogate a non-human machine? There seems to be no reason for Bucky to turn on Maj. Ames, as these robots have certain commands in their software. Killing Rangers is not one of them. And yet, there stood No. 21 with blood on its hands and Ames in the morgue with a smashed head. Spoiler alert: Ames will not be the only victim.

Question: What can go wrong when you think nothing can go wrong? Even among the four scientists attached to this project, there is disagreement.

Outside the camp is a makeshift town used for battle simulations. In all the battles of Rangers vs. robots, the robots prove superior. That doesn't help the attitudes of the Rangers.

The biggest question in my mind was, why does the robot program exist? The Pentagon says it is to prepare for the actions of America's adversaries — in other words — *"the Russians made us do it."*

Brodie and Taylor are good at their job, and even have a dry sense of humor that pops up. The general can't be happy with his assignment, but he will not give up pushing his men to succeed, as he tells Brodie his mission is to prove the supremacy of man over machine. *"I have an assignment and*

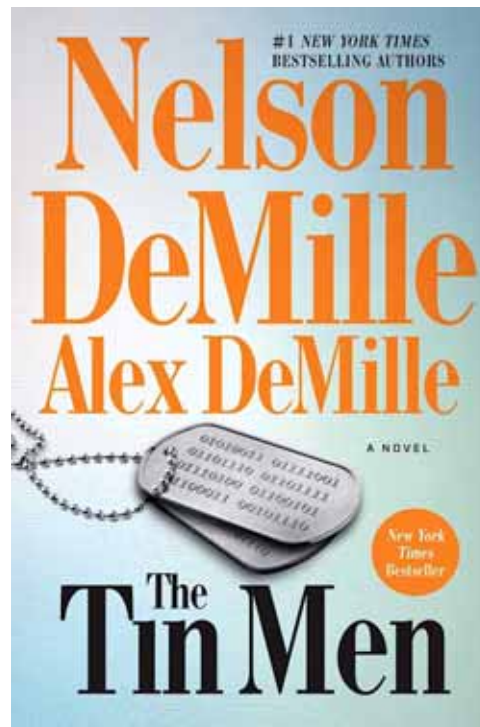
I will succeed no matter what." The scientists have high hopes for their project, refusing to believe what their eyes show them.

The book is believable and frightening in making us believe what we are reading is the future. But the question keeps coming up, what could go wrong? What if it's all an exercise in futility? What if it all goes horribly wrong? What if...?

The final word: Nelson DeMille passed away in 2024. His long and successful career concluded with three books featuring Brodie and Taylor co-written with his son, Alex. Nelson came to his knowledge of military life and protocols from his years as a combat-decorated Army veteran. There is high hope Alex will continue the high quality military and political thrillers we have come to expect from his prolific father.

One of Nelson's books, *The General's Daughter*, was made into a 1999 film starring John Travolta and Madeleine Stowe.

Till next time, happy reading!



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