

Lovin' that Labor Day feeling

Labor Day comes and goes with the passing of the torch from those lazy summer days to the beauty and fun-filled days of autumn. After a hot summer (okay, a few more days to go), the coolness of these late summer days offer a reprise from the heat of summer.

I think the late summer evenings are so delightful. The other night I just sat out in the darkness watching the night sky and listening to the deafening crickets. I am so fortunate that in my neighborhood, the sound of the crickets is the only sound that surrounds me. I guess that is the one consolation of losing my beautiful tree this summer. The sky opened up for viewing.



LOU ANN HOMAN-SAYLOR

The ending of Labor Day and summer brings back rich memories from those once-upon-a-time summers. As a child, we spent our summers on Lake Michigan in a big, rattling house with a pathway down to the water. The house wasn't ours, but a rental. Once we found it, we rented it every year for the summer. There was no shower or bathtub, but there was running water! The dining room table was big and round with plenty of room for guests to come and share in the fun and the stories and the nightly card games.

Oh, how we hated leaving on Labor Day weekend, yet school was to start, and we had to go home. With sand in our pockets, and the summer accumulation of trinkets, we went home to settle back into the school year. With a sigh we tried on our school shoes. Sometimes they fit, other times, it was back to the shoe store to get new ones! I was always happy when my shoes didn't fit so I could get new ones! The shoe store was an adventure in itself as we had our feet measured and then x-rayed. That was great fun, and quite unhealthy!

These same thoughts of leaving were always when I came home from Ocracoke with sand in my pockets once again. These days there is no house to rent in Michigan, or summers on Ocracoke. Labor Day found me cleaning and late day gardening in and around the purple house! I even picked up a paint brush! Maybe this autumn I will get more done on my white picket fence. That task is on-going ... forever!

In between these chores, I find myself sitting on my porch reading and tossing in some poetry, just because. On Labor Day I head to Carl Sandburg for my inspiration for a reading of his famous poem, "Chicago."

Sandburg was born in Galesburg, Illinois, in 1878. He quit school at the age of 13 and became an American laborer. His many jobs included driving milk wagons and laying brick. He worked as a porter, a coal-heaver, a farm laborer, and a dishwasher, as he criss-crossed America. He eventually settled in Chicago to work for the Chicago Daily News. It was there he began to write in earnest. He wrote about the factory conditions, labor rights, race relations and social justice.

In 1914, he wrote the poem, "Chicago," which was a success and first published in Poetry Magazine. Two years later he published a collection of poetry featuring this poem. This was followed by his collection, "Cornhuskers," which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1919.

Carl Sandburg was the people's poet. He is remembered as one of the greatest American poets of the 20th Century. I celebrate him often, but most of all on Labor Day.

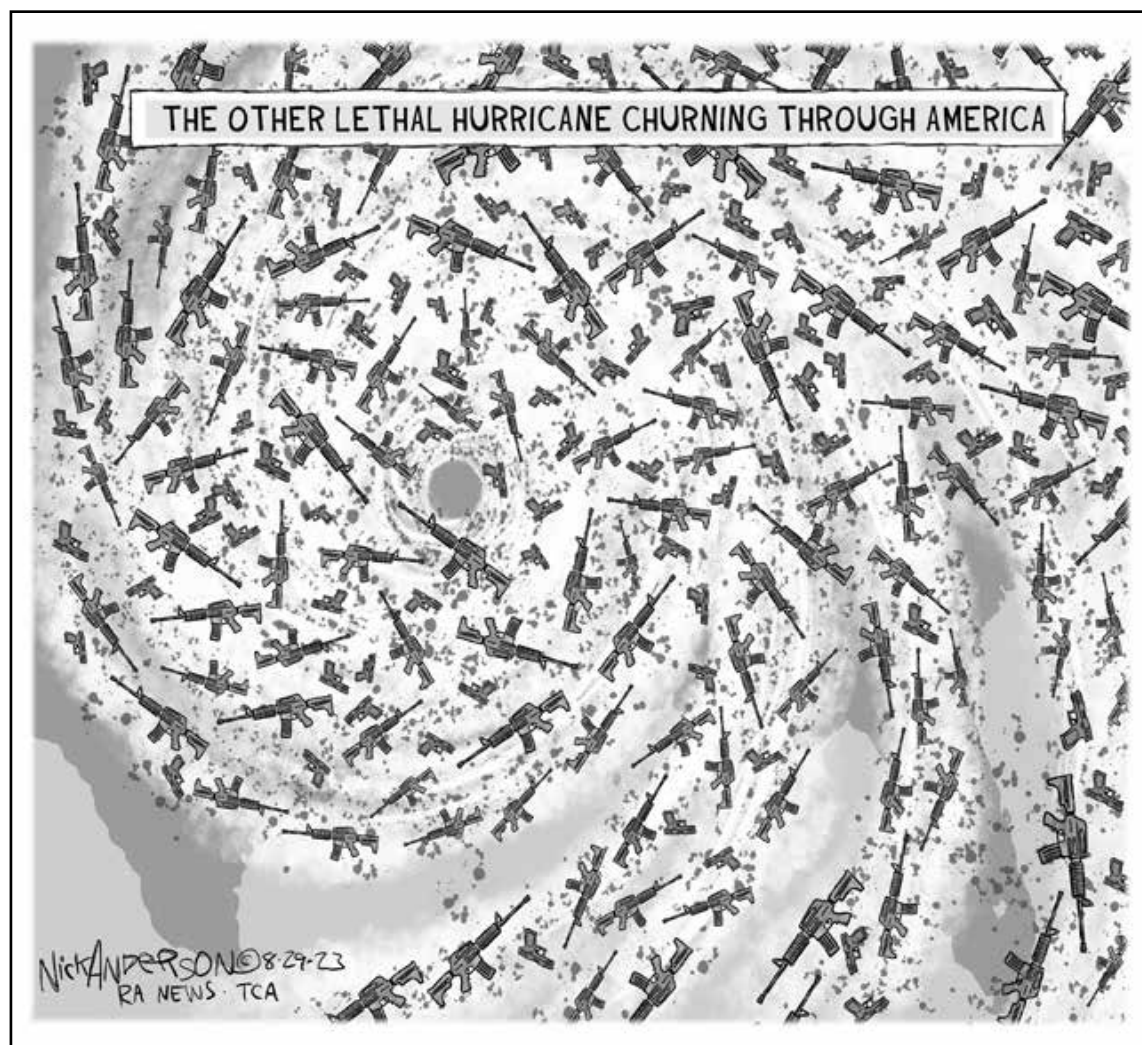
As I re-read Sandburg, I can't help but think of our town. We are made up of much the same ... farmers, laborers, teachers, street cleaners, garbage collectors, nurses, doctors. I also think of Sandburg when I see our firemen sitting outside of their station waiting for the call. I think of Sandburg as the guys redo my street in the coolness of the early morning. I think of Sandburg when the crossing guards take their stance so children are safe to walk to school.

We might not be Chicago, but we are beautiful and mighty with our own stories to tell.

Labor Day comes and goes for another year. I wrap up my paintbrush for another beautiful day. I listen to the crickets ... make burgers on the grill, light the garden candles and sit under the stars.

Hog Butcher for the World,
Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat,
Player with Railroads and the Nation's Freight Handler;
Stormy, husky, brawling,
City of the Big Shoulders:
Carl Sandburg

LOU ANN HOMAN-SAYLOR lives in Angola at the White Picket Gardens where you can find her gardening or writing late into the night under the light of her frayed scarlet lamp. She is a storyteller, teacher, writer, actress and a collector of front porch stories. She can be contacted at loketoftime@aol.com.



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Letters to the Editor

Parks and recreation fall summit planned for Oct. 11

To the Editor:
Attention Noble County Parks, Recreation, and Outdoor Activities stakeholders- You are invited!

The Noble County Parks & Recreation Fall Summit will be held on Oct. 11, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center at 2388 S. C.R. 500W, Albion, Indiana. We want you to join us for the Noble County Parks Board Fall Summit. This in-person event is an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow parks, outdoors, recreation, and nature enthusiasts and learn about park management and conservation developments.

With a focus on promoting sustainable practices and enhancing our local parks, this summit will feature informative sessions led by industry experts. From interactive workshops to inspiring keynote speakers, you'll gain valuable insights and ideas to apply to your park projects. You'll receive a site tour, hear an update from Merry Lea leaders, and enjoy intentional-themed workshops with panelists on grant opportunities, marketing, and collaboration.

Whether you're a park board member, a park manager, or simply passionate about preserving our natural spaces, this summit is for you. Come with like-minded individuals to exchange ideas, network, and collaborate on improving our parks for future generations. Take advantage of this exciting free event! Register now to secure your Noble County Parks Board Fall Summit spot.

Register for free here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/noble-county-parks-board-fall-summit-tickets-703412925997>

About the Parks Board: The Noble County Parks and Recreation Board's Mission: Through cooperation with existing Parks and Recreation entities, inventory existing recreational opportunities and determine future needs to serve the unincorporated area of Noble County.

About the Event Host: Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College is a 1,189-acre nature sanctuary rich in biodiversity near Wolf Lake, Indiana. Environmental education — from PreK to graduate level — is the center of the work; community workshops and special events are also held on the campus.

About the Sponsor: This event was made possible by funding from the 2023 Noble County Tourism Grant from the Noble County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Please share detailed reports from your organization / outdoor assets before the meeting and by April 21, by contacting

Noble County Parks Board Secretary Grace Caswell at grace@visitnoble-county.com. Your organization's news and contact information will be featured in the Fall Summit Binder, given to all attendees at check-in.

Please bring 40 copies of any brochures or flyers you wish to share with attendees. Please reach out to Vice President Diann Scott for more details, or check out our recently updated website at www.noblecoparks.wixsite.com/website.

Diann Scott
Rome City

Books in question offer no nourishment

To the Editor:
"The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" by Sherman Alexie has generated controversy at East Noble school board meetings.

The board approved the book for inclusion in junior level English classes despite sexual references that may violate state obscenity laws related to youth.

Sadly, only one board member out of seven voted against inclusion.

Some in the community have leveled charges of book banning.

This is a typical leftist lie spread by the Biden administration and Democrat leadership.

Books are not banned and remain available for purchase if excluded from the curriculum due to inappropriate content. Those who use the word "banning" to describe exclusion from curriculum should be ashamed for perpetuating propagandistic lies.

I think three questions are important in an environment where activist educators are demanding the right to indoctrinate and sexualize children:

- Does the book have cultural value and challenge the student academically?
- Can the book be used to convey principles of harmful ideologies like Cultural Marxism (wokeness) and gender ideology?
- Can the book be used to initiate inappropriate classroom conversations about racial and sexual matters?

I have read the book. It contains coarse racial and sexual language, including use of racial slurs and references to masturbation and bestiality.

It is written at a comic book level of English. Time-tested classics would be more appropriate.

Most concerning to me, though, are sexual references that could be used to stimulate immodest sexual conversations.

The teacher requesting the book expressed contempt on social media for those who believe teachers should not communicate with youth on sexual matters.

Today's generation of LGBT activists aren't known for modesty or discretion.

Drag queen activities with children are occurring more frequently. Pride events with shocking, grotesque displays of public indecency are becoming commonplace.

Woke parents attend these events with their children, exposing them to the debauchery.

Both activists and parents have no sense of shame for leading youth astray.

Organizations like American Library Association (ALA) and teacher unions like National Educators Association (NEA) play a role in indoctrination and sexualization of youth.

ALA, led by Emily Drabinski, an LGBT activist, promotes inclusion of sexually graphic books in school and public libraries, as well as deplorable drag queen story hours.

NEA, led by Rebecca Pringle, a Cultural Marxist, works hand-in-glove with Biden's Department of Education to promote wokeness and gender ideology.

District teacher unions like East Noble Education Association (ENEA) are NEA affiliates with union presidents like Charlie Barber attending board meetings. I assume ENEA supports the same woke agenda as NEA.

Discussions of sexuality with youth deserve special modesty and should take place within the family or church environment, led by happily married couples, not public-school classrooms led by LGBT activists.

One reader, a former elementary school principal, praised the board's decision. He claimed the book will help youth make sense of their world.

Books like this are mud pies offering no nourishment. They don't provide substantial answers to ultimate questions like, what is man and his purpose?

Christianity supplies answers. Children are creations of God, whose purpose is to become worshipping, fruitful image-bearers of God within the context of the natural family.

The ideologies promoted by Cultural Marxists are demonic designs to deface the image of God in developing youth.

Personally, I don't think public education is redeemable. Contemporary public schools are built upon godless secularism, a foundation of sand, not God's word. When storms come, the house will collapse (Matt 7:24ff).

I recommend "America's Cultural Revolution: How the Left Captured Everything" by Christopher Rufo to understand Cultural Marxism and its infiltration of education.

Comments? Email me (christiannews-junkie@mediacombb.net).

Robert Sparkman
Rome City

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