

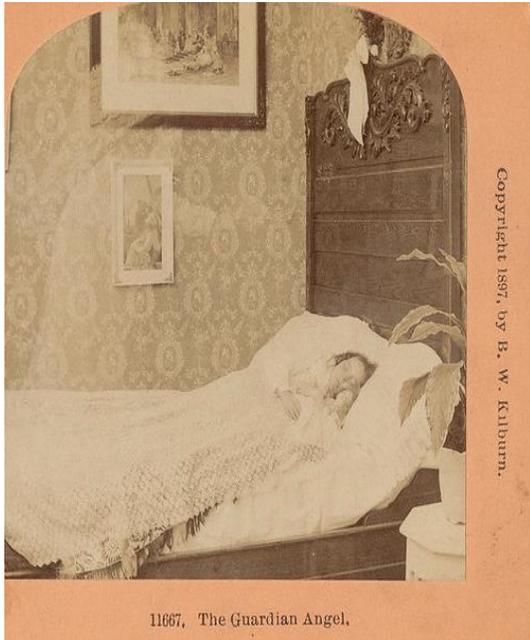
THE BLARNEY STONE

2021-2022 YEAR, VOL. 1

BISHOP MCNAMARA'S NEWS

OCTOBER 30, 2021

THE GUARDIAN ANGEL



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"The Guardian Angel" article written by Emma Acevedo

Whether it be going to a haunted house, watching scary movies, listening to Halloween music, or telling ghost stories, spooky season is in full swing. Most people tell fake stories of the boogie man, or the ghost that frolics down the stairs, but what about the true stories that send chills up the spine?

There is a twenty-year age gap between my father and my aunt, as he is the oldest of four. His experiences started long before my aunt was born, when he was about four or five. At the time, he and his mom lived in the ground floor unit of a townhouse. On the outside of this house was a staircase that ran up the side to a balcony belonging to the second-floor tenants. One afternoon, his grandma stopped by to visit and let herself in as she normally did.

Letting herself in, she came to the kitchen where she saw my dad sitting on the floor with a little boy about the same age. She recalls this boy being filthy. She went to the bedroom where his mom was folding laundry and asked her, "Who is that little boy playing with Alex? It looks like he is covered in dirt." My dad's mom looked at her confused and said, "What little boy?"

Walking out into the kitchen, my dad sat playing alone. His mom asked, "Alex, who was here with you?" My dad casually responded, "My friend, but he had to go home." And pointed towards the empty lot directly behind the house. His mom later discovered that the house, previously situated on that empty lot, had burned down years before.

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FAMILY FALL FUN

By Lucy Mast

Looking for a place to put you in the Halloween spirit that won't be too scary? Try Harvest Time in Lowell, Indiana. There is a pumpkin patch and rides for kids during the day, and at night a beautifully lit walkway with fog machines gives a spooky feel. The carved jack-o-lanterns fall under various themes of "under the sea", SpongeBob, dinosaurs, and Hocus Pocus. Apple cider and pumpkin donuts, as well as many different

flavors of hot chocolate, are sure to keep the family warm! Extremely family-friendly, Harvest Time is a fun place to go to guarantee getting in the Halloween spirit.

If you're looking for a night out in the city, Jack's Pumpkin Pop-Up is the place for you in Chicago, Illinois. Pose for sweet photos in front of aesthetic autumnal backgrounds, pick the perfect gourd at the pumpkin patch, play carnival games, stuff your faces at the food trucks, show off your axe throwing skills, and get lost in a corn maze.



Courtesy of Lucy Mast at Harvest Time in Lowell, IN.



<https://www.bishopmac.com/academics/classroompages/shinabarger>

Marching Irish Director Spotlight

Blarney Stone's Sydney Burnett and Walt Krause spoke with band director, Mrs. Shinabarger, to get the inside scoop on Bishop Mac's marching band.

1. When did you become the band director at Bishop McNamara?
2017.
2. What was the first instrument that you learned?
Percussion.
3. When did you start playing in a school band?
As a young kid in fifth grade!
4. Why should students join band?
It is a unique experience collaborating with people and teaches students how to play music independently and with a team.
5. What is the best part of playing in band?
The different styles of music encountered playing with the band always keeps things interesting.
6. What academic benefits are there for people who join?
Band is an easy A, and counting time helps with math. For those in Honors classes, it's a nice de-stressing break in the day.
7. What instrument would be the easiest for a new member?
Trumpet, Saxophone, and Baritone are easiest to pick up.
8. What is the band experience like?
Sharing your musical talent with other students and honing a great skill makes band so enjoyable and fun!

BOOK REVIEW: *AND THEN THERE WERE NONE*

By Sarah Hoehn

Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* is a very popular mystery novel first published in 1939. Centering around ten strangers who find themselves on an island as "weekend guests", only eight of them make it through the first night. The group realizes that every person has a dark hidden past and they all immediately become suspicious of one another.

The weekend progresses with murder after murder, plot twist after plot twist. It becomes quickly apparent that everyone is a suspect and everyone will die. This is a quick and comprehensive read, unable to be put down.

While the murders themselves are a bit dull, the plot is intriguing. I would recommend this book to early teens interested in classic mysteries.



"Agatha Christie" by Peter576. is licensed under CC BY 2.0

After that day, my dad continued to bring up his friend, telling his mom the boy's name was Star-tee and, one day, mentioning something about Star-tee raises the hair on the back of one's neck.

"First he was one, and then he was two, and then he was three, but he was never four."

A few days later, his mom began to feel the presence of the child standing at her hip each time she was washing the dishes or cooking. Late one night, my dad came out the TV room where his mom was. He had been asleep, but she was surprised to see him awake. He stood there in a daze and said nothing. She saw he was clutching a pair of his underwear in his hand.

"Did you have an accident?" She asked.

Dad said nothing, held his arms straight out in front of him, dropped the underwear, and bolted back to his room. Concerned, she went after him, only to find him fast asleep in his bed.

After this bizarre occurrence, she began putting him to bed in the living room where she took up a protective watch over him, even hanging a rosary in hopes of warding off any negative entities.

One night, she left the room briefly to get a glass of water, leaving my dad asleep on the couch. From the kitchen, she heard beads scattering. She ran back to the living room to find the beads of the rosary scattered all over the floor and my dad awake, telling her he had opened his eyes to see the rosary sliding steadily down the wall and the beads scattering once it touched the floor. They moved out of the house soon after that. My dad remembers this night, but nothing else of his experience there. He does, however, recall something truly bizarre that happened before relocating.

After he had watching the movie *Mary Poppins* for the first time, he was fascinated by the way Mary Poppins traveled so gracefully through the sky with her umbrella and decided he would like to see if he could do the same. He grabbed the umbrella and went outside to climb the staircase on the side of the house up to the second-floor balcony. Once he reached the balcony, he remembers a voice trying to talk him out of what he was about to do.

Dismissing the voice, he opened the umbrella and jumped from the balcony. Instead of falling fast and hard towards the ground, as one would expect, he floated through the air, like a feather, with the feeling of hands holding him under his arms before being gently placed on the

ground. He doesn't know who or what saved him, but looking back, he knows he should have been seriously hurt or worse.

This wouldn't be the last time his life was saved by the eerie, yet protective, force.

In his early twenties, my dad was riding a motorcycle down a winding country road when he lost control of the bike. The motorcycle skidded out from underneath him, grinding against the road with sparks flying. At the same time, he felt the familiar feeling of hands holding him under his arms.

Once again, he was placed gently on the ground. He stood there completely unharmed, and in disbelief, staring at the wrecked motorcycle. My dad is in his forties now and hasn't experienced anything supernatural for quite some time, but he believes something, or someone, followed him throughout his life.

We all have guardian angels. Have you encountered yours?

By Emma Acevedo, Seasonal Specialist



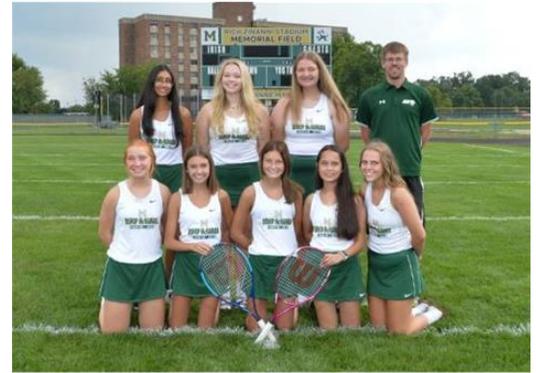
October 20, 2021, Hunter's Moon photographed by 9th grader, Hailey Neill.

Girls' Irish Tennis

The expectations for the 2021 tennis season were unclear. The team faced many obstacles from a dwindling lineup to lack of team experience. Despite improvements, the team completed the season with a 0-17 overall record. The lineup was comprised of 4 newcomers and all of the team members were sophomores. The youth of this team presented a challenge since most of the opposing teams had senior heavy lineups.

"The youth of our team affected everything," said tennis coach Austin Earsley, "Tennis is one of the hardest sports in high school for technique. When you have a team that is mostly first year players and one second year player, it is difficult to compete with teams who have been playing all 4 years or their whole life." Despite the outcome of this season, both the coach and players are optimistic for the next 2 years. This team was able to put up a fight in many matches, leading to more hope for next year's season.

"I'm optimistic about having the entire off-season to prepare with a young team that is dedicated to getting better," said coach Earsley. "Over the off season, we need to work on athleticism and footwork. On all areas of the court, we need quicker, choppier, more aggressive movement." The team is looking forward to what this team can do in their junior and senior years, as well as the performance of new players.



2021-2022 Girls' Tennis

Article by Sarah Berg

Girls' Volleyball

The Varsity Irish Volleyball team has had an impressive season with a winning record of 14-11. The roster for the Irish consists of Camille Kuntz, Mackenzie McCammon, Molly Fogel, Meagan Adcock, Ashlyn Mitchell, Jacqueline Allaway, Ana Darr, Lillie Nugent, Riley Mayer, Emma McCammon, Grace Purcell, Grace Edwards, Ava Brosseau, Olivia DeLuca, and Ava Pinski. The Senior Seven Squad including Jacqueline Allaway, Ashlyn Mitchell, Emma McCammon, Molly Fogel, Riley Mayer, Olivia DeLuca, and Meagan Adcock have all had a memorable last year in their Irish uniform.

As of October 21, 2021, Setter Emma McCammon has had 16 aces, 9 kills, 169 assists, and 39 digs. Libero, Olivia DeLuca, has had 9 aces, 3 kills, 7 assists, and 83 digs. Outside hitter, Aslyn Mitchell, has had a memorable season with 7 aces, 59 kills, 7 assists, and 104 digs. Middle hitter, Jacqueline Allaway, has had 15 aces, 144 kills, 6 blocks, 12 assists, and 69 digs. Setter, Meagan Adcock has had 2 aces, 9 assists, and 5 digs. Setter, Molly Fogel, has had 2 assists. Defensive Specialist, Riley Mayer, has had 5 digs. The starting lineup for the Irish Volleyball team include middle hitter Jacqueline Allaway, outside hitter Ashlyn Mitchell, setter Emma McCammon, setter Mackenzie McCammon, middle hitter Ana Darr, outside hitter Lillie Nugent, and libero Olivia DeLuca. Outside hitter, Lillie Nugent, has had 14 aces, 44 kills, 8 assists, and 78 digs in her sophomore season. Setter, Mackenzie McCammon has had 9 aces, 16 kills, 1 block, 78 assists, and 38 digs in her sophomore season. Middle hitter, Ana Darr has had 55 kills, 6 blocks, 2 assists, and 5 digs in her sophomore season. Right side hitter, Camille Kuntz has had 5 kills, 2 assists, and 15 digs in her junior season. The Irish are looking good as they head into their post-season competition. Best of luck to our seniors as they take on the next chapter of their lives! Go Irish!



2021-2022 Varsity Girls' Volleyball.

Article by Mallory Kelly