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FORCE OF NATURE

by Andrew Tallackson

As a young girl, Laura Panozzo's mother took her and her fraternal twin sister Marie to La Porte's St. Joseph Catholic Church, both for school and Mass. No doubt the siblings were consumed by the magnificent sanctuary, the walls adorned with breathtaking stained-glass windows, the symbol of the Crucifixion front and center.

However, it was the church vestibule's replica of the sculpture known as the *Pietà*, Italian for "The Pity," by Renaissance artist Michelangelo that enraptured her. The famous work conveys the body of Christ, draped over his mother's lap after the Crucifixion.

Panozzo was only a first-grader, but, she recalls, "I was mesmerized. It touched my life. I kept thinking about a mother holding her child, and my mom holding me.

"I would think of her life as a mother, and His as the living Son of God. It changed the way I looked at things. I studied the curves of his face. The shape of his hands. The volume of his feet. To know the story of it, and to see this life-size statue, it stopped me in my tracks."

As the memory of that day intensifies, the more animated Panozzo becomes. Her voice ebbs and flows, her hands rising and falling for emphasis. There is a fire in her eyes, a passion.

Indeed, passionate is an apt way to describe Panozzo. She has a way of sweeping you into her world, her enthusiasm so contagious, she persuades you that, yes, anything is possible.

Panozzo has emerged as a vital presence in the area's art scene. Her forte is fashioning reclaimed items into works of beauty, specifically wood. So



Laura Panozzo is photographed by *The Beacher's* James S. Conlin amid her own artwork displayed in her Long Beach home.

many opportunities abound for her these days, it is difficult to keep track of them all:

- "Colossal," the magnificent white swan she unveiled during the new Lubeznik Center for the Arts exhibit, "Birds and Bees."
- The grand opening of her new Uptown Arts Dis-

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trict studio on March 31.

- Becoming an advocate for Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.
- Cultivating enormous installation projects, featuring flocks of birds, for airports and transportation hubs.

And on the home front, a 16-month-old son, Leo, with her husband, State Rep. Scott Pelath. Leo joins the young man Panozzo refers to as “my rock, and my strength,” her son, Enzo, now a sixth-grader at Notre Dame Catholic School.

Panozzo spoke with *The Beacher* on a bright, sunny Saturday morning, in the comforts of the Long Beach home she and Scott purchased last year. The 100-year-old house, which Panozzo likened to an old Swedish chalet, is now adorned with gusts of her creative inspiration. Like the mantel piece that inspires reactions on literal *and* figurative levels. Some might notice the varying shades of color among the wood pieces used. Others might consider it an aerial view of a new location: a new journey.

Nearby, a bare white wall is home to roses from Scott and Laura’s wedding, interspersed among surviving reclaimed branches from her former studio, Earth Angel Eco Art, which was destroyed in a fire in 2013.

It is here, among images of rebirth amid setback, that Panozzo relaxes to share her story with *The Beacher*.

Born and raised in LaPorte, she recalls how exposure to *Pietà* ignited the creative spark in her.

“I had a real gift for color,” she said. “I would draw and color odd combinations. Purple, yellow, bright green. Somehow, they were beautiful in the way they were arranged.”

Close attention to detail, even the minutiae of life, became an obsession.

“My mom would be in the garden, and I would squeeze the dirt in my

hand,” she said. “I was mesmerized by everything in nature, in natural development.”

At LaPorte High School, though, art was not the focus. Dance, from choreography to pompoms, proved a creative outlet, so much so that when she graduated from LPH in 1993, she headed to Columbia College Chicago to study theater.

However, one day, 19 years of age and staring out the window of a CTA bus, she caught sight of a beautiful portrait in the window of Utrecht Art Supplies on Chicago’s South Michigan Avenue. She got off the bus for a closer look.

“It stopped my whole world,” she said. “All I could do was look at the portrait.”

And, it turns out, subsequently purchase a set of paints and canvas. Self-taught, Panozzo accepted the fact that drama was out of the picture.

“I was going to be an artist,” she said.

In 1995, she earned a full ride to The Art Institute of Chicago, first studying painting before switching to sculpture.

“I really loved it there,” she recalled. “I felt privileged to be there. I was at the best possible school I could be at.”

Sculptures, in fact, produced a rapturous sensation in Panozzo.

“I felt like the creator of Frankenstein,” she said, laughing. “It was like creating another being. I could move my hands and make another being.”

And, it inspired her to continue her studies abroad, first through a scholarship at the Studio



Laura’s mantel piece she created with reclaimed wood. Photos by James S. Conlin

Arts College International College of Art & Design in Florence, Italy. She only intended to stay for three months. It turned into a five-year experience, opening her first international studio — Studio Panozzo — with a well-received exhibit that yielded the finances she needed to thrive.

It was in Florence that she bloomed under the tutelage of a mentor who would become a lifelong friend. Lorenzo Pezzatini instilled in Panozzo three missions in life:

1. Embrace her Italian culture.
2. Stay on her own path, regardless of who she might find herself in competition with.
3. Love herself with the gifts she'd been given.

From there, Panozzo headed to Puerto Rico for four years, studying the art of Santos sculpture and wood carving while also teaching at *Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico*.

She returned to the United States in 2005.



Laura creates stunning birds fashioned from pieces of reclaimed wood.
Photo by James S. Conlin

In a way, her evolution as an eco-based artist, one inspired by sustainable objects found in the earth, brings her full circle, back to the love of nature that bloomed in her youth. For reclaimed wood, she often turns to rescue/restoration groups and beach clean-up crews that grant permission to unblock fallen woods causing jams in rivers and streams. Partners in these efforts range from NiSource to Northwest Indiana Paddling Association.

Hiking, by the way, was the impetus for exploring the creative possibilities of wood as art.

"The basic element of hiking, it's a spiritual journey in a way, to enjoy the beauty of Mother Nature," she said. "It's a journey of finding gifts. Five years ago, I started looking down instead of looking up. I found beautiful pieces in the sand that were like a gift.

"Any walk I take these days, there is something fantastic that blows me away."

Many of Panozzo's creations take the shape of birds: spectacular, ethereal phoenixes rising from the proverbial ashes.

The project that had the most profound effect on her involved a majestic bird — handpainted, with

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messages of hope inscribed on it — that benefitted the Lindsey O'Brien Kesling Wishing Tree Foundation. Panozzo donated her time to the project that benefitted the non-profit group, started by Dot Kesling after her daughter, Lindsey, who was passionate about the arts and children, died at 22 after accidental exposure to carbon monoxide poisoning.



Early attempts at a family portrait with Laura, her husband, Scott Pelath, Enzo and Leo proved a little tricky when Leo wasn't in the mood for photos. Later, *Beacher* photographer James S. Conlin coaxed a smile out of him.

The piece is now a permanent fixture at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. Panozzo periodically receives messages, photos from parents or youth who encounter it. The sentiment shared is the same, "This is my beacon of hope," and it humbles Panozzo. Inspires is more accurate. Her goal is to install large-scale birds at healing centers where, she puts it, "people need to be uplifted."

It was Enzo, by the way, at age 6 who inspired his

mother in terms of writing prayers, positive statements and quotes on the feathers of the birds she creates.

Enzo has nothing but awe, admiration and love for his mother.

When he was younger, he said, "I didn't even know what she did, and then I realized what amazing sculptures of art she made. I was so amazed, and sometimes I would just sit there in the studio and watch her build. It was so fascinating. I couldn't believe the beautiful things she made."

These days, family, indeed, is a constant well of inspiration for Panozzo. She's excited by her new studio, Tezzoro Design, which opens March 31 in the 600 block of Franklin Street, the heart of the city's Uptown Arts District. Tezzoro is inspired by *Tesoro*, which in Italian means "sweetheart" and "treasure." It is the nickname she and Scott have for each other. She changed the name to Tezzoro to reflect the two "z's" in her last name.

Their home, with Leo toddling about and Enzo entering his teen years, is filled with love, comfort and inspiration. Scott, in fact, grew up not far from the home he and Laura share. In fact, he attended Long Beach School.

And Panozzo?

She smiles. It is a smile of some-

one at peace.

"I'm headed," she said, "exactly where I want to go."



Laura helps celebrate the installation of her work at Riley Hospital.



Laura poses with "Colossal," the large swan included with the new Lubeznik Center for the Arts exhibit, "Birds and Bees."



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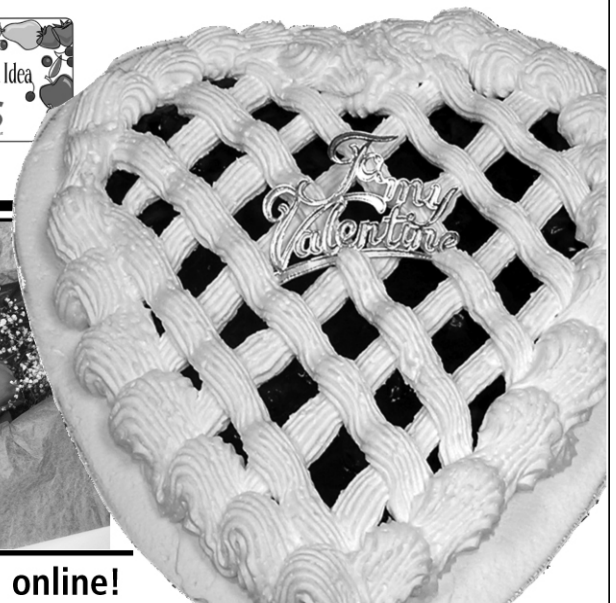
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Portraits in Black History

Editor's note — Each week in February, The Beacher will highlight an African American whose accomplishments may be lesser known, but are just as significant.



Alice Ball

Alice Augusta Ball was a woman of many firsts:

- A black chemist whose injectable oil extract was the best defense against leprosy until the 1940s.
- The first woman and first African American to earn a master's degree at the University of Hawaii.
- The University of Hawaii's first female chemistry professor.

Born in Seattle on July 24, 1892, her family was financially well-to-do, moving to Honolulu for one year before returning to Seattle. She earned degrees in pharmaceutical chemistry and pharmacy from the University of Washington. She and her pharmacy professor, in fact, published a 10-page article in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* — rare for a woman of any color. She died Dec. 31, 1916, at only 24, having fallen ill amid research.

The University of Hawaii honored Ball in 2000 with a plaque on campus, the same day Hawaii's lieutenant governor, Mazie Hirono, named Feb. 29 "Alice Ball Day." Last year, *Hawaii Magazine* cited her as one of the most influential women in Hawaiian history.

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Differences of Opinion Amid Good Art at the Brauer

"I really like that," a friend says as you look at artwork.

"Ugh! Really?," you reply.

How does that happen?

Among the various treasures now exhibited at Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art, one artist caused a similar, though unspoken exchange.



Yvonne Kendall's "Stream."

That artist is Yvonne Kendall, who creates installations. I looked at the works and found them confusing and poorly done. "Stream," for example, features red cloth (as streams) and boats made from hymnal pages. The placement of the streams and boats seems to have no rhythm nor aesthetics, just randomness, like band instruments warming up before the concert. Also, the boats show no craft, their shape and construction simplistic. The cloth has hems at the end, likely a meaningless happenstance. What might hems represent, since the work is about representation? A good question, then, for the viewer is, "Does that lack of aesthetics add to the meaning of the piece?"

Searching for a meaning, I reviewed what was there.

Red cloth — blood?

Empty boats — not sinking?

The installation did not come together for me. Having found no meaning, I now read the artist's statement. I found that she took Psalm pages from hymn books and made "works that emerged connected to this poetry and yearning. They became vessels, boats and bowls, clouds of thought, hands and feet."

I had encountered an artist with strong personal feelings as she was making the work. However, she did not use artistic Form (shape, color, placement, scale) to convey her thoughts and feelings. This frequently happens. A similar commentary could be made about each of Kendall's pieces, as in "Wash." The Form is not contributing at all to Meaning.



Yvonne Kendall's "Wash."

Yet, two who spoke at the opening called the works wonderful. Why? Because they were linked to Valparaiso University's connection to its overseas campus at Reutlingen. The hymnal pages connect

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Do these differing views mean it's all relative? It does not. What is important is to find the point of view(s) a person is using to look at the piece. From an aesthetic view, the pieces discussed were formless and confusing. From the view of friends and coreligionists, they are meaningful. Both viewpoints are valid. To know where someone "is coming from" is crucial in discussing Art.



Henning Eichinger's "Boats."

The other artist in this installation is Henning Eichinger. His oils are very good, from the standpoint of content and form. He artistically creates the problem of hyperactive dynamics of contempo-

rary living. The shapes are unsettling: the composition moves the eye. Yet, it seems the shapes and composition are not despairing, but have a sense of beauty and possibility of hope.

Nationally known artists also are shown in an exhibit from the Brauer's permanent collection. It is a treat to see famous artists up close and personal. It's a good idea to walk around the whole exhibit, then come back to ones that stick out in your mind. To add to the pleasure of seeing the works, observe the color, shapes, composition. All the "hidden" messages purposely used by the artist make the content more meaningful.

Among the famous artists highlighted are: Ansel Adams, John Audubon, George Bellows, Charles Burchfield, Chuck Close, Frederick Church, Jim Dine, Arthur Dove, Asher B. Durand, Elaine de Kooning, William Glackens, Childe Hassam, Al Held, Richard Hunt, Ellsworth Kelly, John Frederick Kensett, Walt Kuhn, Sol Lewitt, John Marin, Reginald Marsh, Joan Mitchell, Georgia O'Keeffe, George Rickey, John Sloan, Junius R. Sloan, Frank Stella, Joseph Stella, Alfred Stieglitz, Kara Walker, Andy Warhol and Neil Welliver. Also on view are fine local artists William Conger, Frank Dudley and Vera Klement.

In "The Wonderful World of Puppetry: Marionettes by Ralph Kipniss," artist and visionary Ralph Kipniss shows his delightful marionettes. His inventiveness and technical skill are a joy.

Also on view, courtesy of Beacher-area artist Tom Brand, is "The World's Foremost Wood Engraver: Thomas Bewick Prints." These wood engravings by the famed printmaker are so fine that magnifying glasses are provided so their stories can be relished.

So much to see, so many views to have. Bringing someone to discuss the works, identifying how different points of view affect responses is a great way to spend time. Even more interesting would be to switch viewpoints after looking at one piece and see what you think. Whether alone or in a group, noting what's really there, the Form, and how it helps or does not help express the meaning of the artwork is a real boost to enjoyment.

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• **Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Brad Bumgardner, birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society executive director, leads the program that is part of the monthly Indiana Dunes birding series. Meet at the Visitor Center and car pool to the birding spot. No experience is required. Take binoculars, and dress for the weather.

• **Outdoor Adventures Series: Mount Baldy Winter Hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10.**

Meet at the Mount Baldy parking lot off U.S. 12 for a ranger-led hike to the top of Mount Baldy. No reservation is required. The hike is planned regardless of weather conditions.

• **Stargazing on Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Kemil Beach parking area.**

Members of the Chicago Astronomical Society, Michiana Astronomical Society and Calumet Astronomical Society will have telescopes available. Dress for the weather, and take binoculars if having them. Call (219) 395-1882 for the time. The Kemil Beach parking lot is located at 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton.

• **Free movie showing, "Riding the Rails of History," from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The documentary focuses on the South Shore Railroad.

• **Outdoor Adventures Series: Snowshoe Hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Learn about nature in winter and how to explore its on snowshoes. Then, try snowshoes during a ranger-led hike through fields and woods surrounding the center. A traditional hike is planned if there is not enough snow. A limited number of snowshoes are available for free, or take a pair.

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 for more information.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:

• **Snowshoe Shuffle from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Nature Center.**

The free, naturalist-led snowshoe exercise hike offers a chance to learn the history and techniques of snowshoeing. Snowshoes will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. A winter hike is planned if there is not enough snow.

• **Subnivean Subjects from 2 to 2:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Nature Center.**

Learn more about Dunes' smallest mammals before heading outside in search of mice, moles and voles.

• **Shelf Ice Exploration from noon to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, at the beach pavilion.**

Explore shelf ice, winter beach formations and creek waterways from a safe view.

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Tuesday, February 27 • 4 p.m., 5 p.m. or 6 p.m.

La Porte Hospital's Heart & Vascular Building, First Floor
(across the street from main hospital), 901 Lincolnway, La Porte

To register for this free event, call 219-326-2309

or visit listentoyourlegs.eventbrite.com

A tour of La Porte Hospital's Cardiac Rehabilitation Center will follow the presentation.

La Porte Hospital



Affiliate of

Indiana University Health

Lubeznik Center for the Arts

The following programs are planned at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.:

• **"Living and Creating in the Dunes" from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8.**

The center and Save the Dunes will highlight native plant species and how they can be preserved.

Save the Dunes Program Coordinator Nathaneal Pilla will share resources to encourage native plant species, and avoid invasive species in landscaping and/or gardens. Artist and designer Melissa Washburn then will discuss prints she created while at the Calumet Artist Residency to honor the native environment's plants and pollinators. Prints are for sale, with proceeds benefiting Save the Dunes and Lubeznik Center. Washburn also will sign prints.

Light refreshments will be served at the event.

• **A free curator-led gallery talk from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10.**

Learn about the artwork and artists' intentions during an interactive tour of the "Birds & Bees" exhibit.

• **March 15 is the deadline for artists to apply for the 37th Lubeznik Arts Festival.**

The event, scheduled for Aug. 18-19, is held on the center grounds, connecting festivalgoers to gallery spaces, exhibits and programs.

A jury process will select 75 to 100 fine artists and crafters. Invited as well are regional galleries that represent contemporary art.

Visit tinyurl.com/yajg8a0x for more details.



Call (219) 874-4900, visit lubeznikcenter.org or email artinfo@lubeznikcenter.org for details.

Attention Beacher Readers: We Need Your Help!

For the past few months, someone has been putting *Beachers* in Long Beach-area mailboxes, which is illegal.

We have had a difficult time determining who is responsible, so we turn to you, our readers, for help. If you see anyone putting *Beachers* in mailboxes, any information you can provide us with is greatly appreciated, from a license plate number to the make, model and color of the vehicle.

Beachers are delivered Tuesday afternoon. We believe *Beachers* are being put in mailboxes Tuesday or Wednesday night. If you could check your mailbox Wednesday and Thursday morning to see if a *Beacher* is there, then let us know. Also, hold on to that edition. We will want to pick it up because it might help narrow down who is responsible.

Contact Editor Drew Tallackson at (219) 879-0088 or drew@thebeacher.com with information or for more details.



Member of the Medical Staff at La Porte Hospital

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Library Awarded Funds for Project

Indiana Humanities awarded a \$1,000 Community Read grant to Westchester Public Library to participate in a statewide read of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein."

More than 60 other communities will read the book as part of One State/One Story: "Frankenstein." Westchester will host at least three community programs tied to the book, including a discussion. It also will receive up to 50 books and assorted items (bookmarks, posters) to promote programs. The \$1,000 can be used for a variety of purposes, including to book speakers through a special "Frankenstein" speakers bureau.

Written by a teen Shelley in 1818, "Frankenstein" tells the story of a young scientist who creates a grotesque living creature through a scientific experiment and is horrified by what he makes.

For its first event, Westchester Public Library will host "One State/One Story: Frankenstein Community Read" with discussion leader and book enthusiast Dan Hatch from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at The Baugher Center, 100 Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Light refreshments will be served, and "Frankenstein" swag will be handed out.

Fifty copies of the book will be made available to community members who wish to participate in the effort. Patrons can pick up their copy from the Thomas or Hageman branches.

Matthew Weedman, Wabash College assistant professor of art, will present "It's Alive! Electricity, Cinema and Metaphor in Frankenstein" on April 28. Professor Steve's Amazing World of Science will kick off the Children's Summer Reading Program with "The Science of Frankenstein" on June 2. The young adult book club, the Pizza Pajama Book Club, will discuss the graphic novel version of "Frankenstein" on June 20 as part of WPL's teen summer reading programs.

Chesterton Middle School Art Teacher Taylor Tice will present a young-adult program, "Franken-Toys." Details will be announced later.



Chesterton Art Center

The following programs are planned at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.:

• **Dick Church will offer a six-week Beginning/Intermediate Watercolor Class starting from 10 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 16.**

Church will lead students through techniques. Supplies are not included. Church will discuss supplies with all beginners to start the class. The cost is \$95, with members receiving a \$20 discount.

• **A new five-week session of Monday Night Ceramics kicks off from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Feb. 19.**

Beginning students will develop fundamental wheel-throwing techniques, while returning students will refine techniques to create more complex forms.

Instructor Tom Cernius will perform short demonstrations while assisting students individually to improve throwing skills. Hand-building and sculpture also are encouraged. Students can try slab-building, pinch-pot hand-building and basic sculptural techniques, including figurine/small statue construction. All pieces will be glazed during the final class.

The cost is \$135, with members receiving a \$25 discount. The cost of clay is an additional \$15, payable to the instructor on the first day of class. All other supplies are included.



Call (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com to register or for more details.

Lunch With the League

La Porte County Commissioners Secretary Diane Gonzales will speak at Lunch With the League at noon Tuesday, Feb. 13, at Patrick's Grille, 4125 Franklin St.

The program is sponsored by The League of Women Voters of La Porte County. Gonzales will offer updates on current La Porte County projects and issues, and answer questions.

The public is invited, and reservations are not required. For non-members, a donation is requested. Attendees should arrive at 11:30 a.m. and buy lunch from the menu.

Visit LWVlaporte.org or email lwvlaporte@gmail.com for details.

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WHAT WOULD YOU LOVE TO DO IF YOU WERE NOT UNSTEADY ON YOUR FEET?

Dear Fellow NW Indiana Resident,

Imagine the thrill of going to your grandkids' ballgame, maybe baseball or soccer---and not have to worry about losing your balance.

And think of the look on the faces of your friends when you jitterbug or swing your way through that dancefloor.

Or how would you like to tend to that garden of yours and not have to wonder if you'll get dizzy when you bend over.

These things are possible and can come true.

You can get steadier on your feet ...and regain your balance confidence.

But you need to do something...

They say in any issue, in this case unsteadiness or dizziness, there are 3 ways to approach it.

The first way is the worst...IGNORE it.

Ignoring does not mean you are not vocal about it.

People tend to blame age...thinking that unsteadiness is normal as we get older.

They say they don't have time...and their balance is nothing to be concerned about.

However, deep inside, they know something is wrong.

The second way people approach a balance issue is to PATCH it.

Patching in its' worst form is giving up on the things we love to do.

I've met a lot of patients who have given up...

Walking...hiking...golfing...dancing...shopping...

And all the simple things in their daily life that they used to enjoy...all because they are unsteady.

If only people knew...

There is a best way to approach a balance, unsteadiness, or dizziness issue...

HANDLE it!

But how do you handle it?

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

FREE Balance and Dizziness Workshop

It starts with attending my FREE Balance and Dizziness Workshop.

During the workshop, I will discuss in detail:

- The 3 components of balance control that help keep you steady.
- How to know if each component is working properly the way it's supposed to (these are simple tests you can do on your own without any expensive equipment. The 3rd test is what people usually fail the most).
- Simple techniques to strengthen all 3 components (we will do them together during the workshop, one of them you would have never thought would make such a big difference).
- Top 3 things you can do to decrease your risk of falling (people who fail the tests and don't do anything about it are at 3x higher risk of falling)

So call my office now at 219-380-0809 in LaPorte and secure your spot for my Balance and Dizziness Workshop...

- Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists- LaPorte office **Tuesday February 13th from 5-6 PM** located at 1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B (across Route 2 from Walmart, in the same building as Hair Fitness).

This workshop is FREE but I am only taking 20 attendees due to space constraints.

Sincerely,



Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC
Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

P.S. As a bonus, all attendees will receive a copy of my most recently published report on the **Top 8 Secrets to Improve Balance and Prevent falling.**

P.P.S. Call 219-380-0809 in LaPorte now to secure your spot for my Balance and Dizziness Workshop on **Tuesday February 13th.**

Oscar Watch: Willem Dafoe in “The Florida Project”

by Andrew Tallackson

I had the good fortune a few weeks back of staying with my family at a Disney resort. A pampered experience, to be sure: wristbands that gain access to rides and meals, buses that ferry guests back and forth to desired destinations.

It was a fairly insulated vacation. No need to depart the Magic Kingdom with everything at your fingertips. Harsh realities, no doubt, existed in the fringe areas surrounding the park.

That is the world “The Florida Project” inhabits: society’s marginalized, living a threadbare existence. So real is the film, so natural are the performances, had Willem Dafoe not received top billing, it could have been mistaken for a documentary.

This is relentlessly grim, hold-no-punches filmmaking. There’s just one problem. Director/co-writer Sean Baker may quietly observe these lost souls, but he never gets to know them. Nor do we. We abhor more than admire them. The movie leaves you depressed and curiously unmoved, perplexed as to why Dafoe received an Oscar nomination.

As a film, “The Florida Project” is fairly shapeless. It does not have a beginning, middle and end. Instead, it follows 6-year-old Moonee (the remarkable Brooklynn Prince) and her friends amid summer vacation as they carve out their own “magic kingdom” near the fleabag motel where their families stay. Some days, they beg for money to buy ice cream. Other days, they set fire to furniture in abandoned buildings — whatever makes the most out of the day.

Bria Vinaite stars as Moonee’s mother, Halley, a former stripper who feverishly scrapes together money each week to pay rent: pandering to guests outside hotels, selling drugs and, eventually, prostitution. It is Vinaite’s first film, and there is no trace of self-conscious “acting.” This does not feel like a performance, but the real deal.

Halley, however, is not the plucky, likably resourceful mom we come to expect in movies. She’s

detestable: aggressive, violent, foul-mouthed. Baker, however, offers no insight into Halley, no background. We are simply to accept her as damaged goods, the by-product of a society that cast her aside, but the approach strips “The Florida Project” of any empathy for her. You feel for Moonee, whose inappropriate behavior is a

survival-mode defense mechanism. But beyond that, the final scene of “The Florida Project” rings hollow at best.

The motel where Halley and Moonee reside is a fascinating microcosm: transients, single mothers, society’s outcasts. Presiding over the madness is Dafoe’s Bobby Hicks, the motel manager who presents himself as all business to keep the proverbial ship from sinking, but at heart is a good man.

This is the most “normal” role of Dafoe’s career. The actor’s unconventional looks have him frequently cast as heavies and kooks. I suspect Dafoe secured a Best Supporting Actor nomination because he provides the one ray of hope in “The Florida

Project,” but what’s the story behind Bobby? How did he end up at this motel? Why does he show leniency to some tenants and not others? Again, the movie sheds no light on him so the character remains aloof.

In addition to the Oscar nod, Dafoe secured Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild and BAFTA nominations, along with some of the best reviews of his career. The gentleness of the performance is atypical for Dafoe, but this is not a career high for an actor who blazed across the screen in films like “Platoon” and “Shadow of the Vampire.”

“The Florida Project” exists as a brutal wakeup call about America today. On that level, I suppose it deserves to be seen. But Baker missed an opportunity to have the material hit home and hit home hard.

As it stands now, it’s a relentless bummer.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Bobby Hicks (Willem Dafoe) comes to the aid of young Moonee (Brooklynn Prince) in “The Florida Project.”

And the Nominees Are...

PICTURE

- ☐ "Call Me by Your Name"
- ☐ "Darkest Hour"
- ☐ "Dunkirk"
- ☐ "Get Out"
- ☐ "Lady Bird"
- ☐ "Phantom Thread"
- ☐ "The Post"
- ☐ "The Shape of Water"
- ☐ "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"

SCREENPLAY

- ☐ "The Big Sick"
- ☐ "Get Out"
- ☐ "Lady Bird"
- ☐ "The Shape of Water"
- ☐ "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"

ADAPTED

SCREENPLAY

- ☐ "Call Me by Your Name"
- ☐ "The Disaster Artist"
- ☐ "Logan"
- ☐ "Molly's Game"
- ☐ "Mudbound"

DIRECTOR

- ☐ "Dunkirk," Christopher Nolan
- ☐ "Get Out," Jordan Peele
- ☐ "Lady Bird," Greta Gerwig
- ☐ "Phantom Thread," Paul Thomas Anderson
- ☐ "The Shape of Water," Guillermo del Toro

ACTOR

- ☐ Timothée Chalamet, "Call Me by Your Name"
- ☐ Daniel Day-Lewis, "Phantom Thread"
- ☐ Daniel Kaluuya, "Get Out"
- ☐ Gary Oldman, "Darkest Hour"
- ☐ Denzel Washington, "Roman J. Israel, Esq."

ACTRESS

- ☐ Sally Hawkins, "The Shape of Water"
- ☐ Frances McDormand, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"
- ☐ Margot Robbie, "I, Tonya"
- ☐ Saoirse Ronan, "Lady Bird"
- ☐ Meryl Streep, "The Post"

SUPPORTING ACTOR

- ☐ Willem Dafoe, "The Florida Project"
- ☐ Woody Harrelson, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"
- ☐ Richard Jenkins, "The Shape of Water"
- ☐ Christopher Plummer, "All the Money in the World"
- ☐ Sam Rockwell, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- ☐ Mary J. Blige, "Mudbound"
- ☐ Allison Janney, "I, Tonya"
- ☐ Lesley Manville, "Phantom Thread"
- ☐ Laurie Metcalf, "Lady Bird"
- ☐ Octavia Spencer, "The Shape of Water"

Win a gift certificate to Fiddlehead, movie passes



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 fax to (219) 879-8070 or email to drew@thebeacher.com. The deadline is noon Monday, Feb. 26. Editor Andrew Tallackson's picks will appear in the March 1 edition, before the March 4 telecast. Those who beat his picks will be placed into a drawing to win a gift certificate to Fiddlehead and AMC movie passes. 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 15 edition.

Name: _____

City/Town: _____

Phone Number: _____

Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Knit Wits and Purls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursdays, Feb. 8, 15 and 22, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

The weekly meeting is open to the skilled and novices, with no registration required.

• **Music at the Museum from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

The Flashbacks will perform. Members are: Suzanne Keldsen, playing guitar, recorders and fiddle; Julietta Raby, playing fiddle, mandolin and guitar; Nancy Cairns on dulcimer and ukulele; Paul Mache playing guitar and banjo; and Marti Pizzini on autoharp, dulcimer and guitar.

• **Lego Club from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at the Thomas Library Children's Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Children build around a different theme using the library's Legos. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Duplo Club from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at Thomas Library's Children's Department.**

Geared towards preschoolers ages 2-5, registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Un-Valentine's Day for Teens from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Make anti-Valentines for friends, break a heart piñata, sample snacks and watch the unromantic movie "Power Rangers" (2017).

• **Intro to the Ukulele from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Learn basic chords, rhythm and ukulele history. Ukuleles will be provided, although participants can take their own and should indicate so during

registration. No experience is necessary, and space is limited. Register at the Thomas Branch Reference Department or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Bifocal Bookies at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, at Hageman Library.**



The focus is Julia Glass' "The Widower's Tale." Copies are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

• **Children's Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays through April 24 in the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children in grades 3 and older learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. They should take

a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Call (219) 926-7696 to register.

• **Bits & Bytes series, "5 Things You Can Do To Be More Secure," from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, and 1-3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, in the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department.**

Registration is required by visiting or calling the IT Department at (219) 926-7696, or registering at www.wpl.lib.in.us. Click on the Bits & Bytes link.

• **Tinker, Create, Invent and Have Fun! from 3:30 to 4 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12, at Hageman Library.**

The program revolves around science, design, engineering and art through hands-on, project-based work. Space is limited to 12 children, and registration is required by calling (219) 926-9080.

• **"Peaceful People" from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Feb. 27 at the Thomas Library children's department.**

Aimed at children 6 and older, and their caregivers, each session opens with a short exercise to become aware of breathing, followed by a book or two that stress empathy or kindness. Activities are designed to increase feelings of peace and well-being, including mandala construction, gratitude journaling and painting kindness rocks. Registration is required because space is limited. Call the Children's Department at (219) 926-7696 or visit the library.

• **Mad About Mysteries at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14, at Westchester Township Museum.**

Joan Costello will highlight Ann Purser's Ivy Beasley and Lois Mead mysteries. Light refreshments will be served.

• **Cupid's Crafternoon from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, at Hageman Library.**

Children 6-12 can create a candy heart wreath craft, play a game and enjoy a cupid snack. Space is limited, and registration is required by calling (219) 926-9080.

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Attention: Neck Pain Sufferers of La Porte County!**Neck Pain FREE Check Up Event Reveals How to Naturally Get Rid of Your Neck Pain Without Medications, Injections, or Surgery.**

Dear La Porte County Neighbor,

By request, we're hosting the Neck Pain FREE Check Up Event here at Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists:

- **LaPorte Office: Tuesday February 20th- 1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B (across Route 2 from Walmart)**

Neck Pain FREE Check Up All Day Event *Tuesday February 20*

During the event, you'll receive a 20-minute one-on-one appointment with one of our neck pain specialist physical therapists. You will also learn during your consult:

- How to determine the cause of your neck pain without an expensive MRI (Did you know that up to 85% of people over the age of 50 who have no symptoms of neck pain will show up with a bulging disc on an MRI? That's right...they have no symptoms and yet the MRI shows a bulging disc!)
- How to match the right treatment to the exact cause of your symptoms (this is where most patients get poor results... when the correct treatment is not matched to the correct cause).
- Simple self-help techniques that will help you handle your neck pain without medications, injections, or surgery including the newest revolutionary non-invasive technology available in the market today

The date and location of the free consultations are as follows:

- **LaPorte: Tuesday February 20. Call 219-380-0809.**

We have only 13 free consultation slots and we expect to fill those slots quickly so call ASAP!

Sincerely,



Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

P.P.S. Call 219-380-0809 in LaPorte now to secure your spot for our Neck Pain FREE Check Up All Day Event on Tuesday February 20.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Ice Fishing Tournaments

Two ice-fishing tournaments are scheduled this weekend in LaPorte.

The North American Ice Fishing Circuit Tournament is Feb. 9-11 on Pine and Stone lakes. An estimated \$14,000 in payout is planned. The event also includes free prizes, a free seminar and free kids ice camp. Attendees can watch Sunday's weigh-in.

Register at www.naifc.com or call (612) 308-4858 for more details.



First-place winners in the 2017 Maple City Classic.

Also, the Maple City Ice Fishing Classic is Saturday, Feb. 10. The contest includes a cash prize for first place by length in six categories: Pike, Bass, Bluegill/Red Ear, Crappie, Perch and Walleye. Registration is at Cummings Lodge on Stone Lake. The cost is \$20 per fisherman.

Call (219) 510-3193 or go to visitmichigancitylaporte.com for details.

Movie Extras Needed

Throwback Pictures needs extras for a sequence in an upcoming film, the shoot set for 3:30 to 9 p.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 18, at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich.

For the scene, Kalamazoo Philharmonia musicians will perform a Mozart piece, and a large audience is needed "dressed to the nines" in 1950s fashion (wardrobe/hair). For clothing, Goodwill and The Salvation Army are advised as places to buy vintage clothing, along with Michigan City's The Closet.

Those who attend should eat beforehand because no meals will be provided; however, snacks and light refreshments will be available.

Email kylemisak@gmail.com for more details.

Art & Love Ride

The Krasl Cupids Art & Love Ride, a free community bike ride, is at 11 a.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 11, at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

Venturing through St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, participants visit sculpture sites along the waterfront, followed by beer at The Livery, Benton Harbor.

The event will help test KAC's first bike route. Take a bike and helmet, and share feedback at the end. KAC will officially launch the route in the summer, with the inaugural fun ride set for Aug. 18.

Depending on the weather, the course is up to seven miles. Participants should be competent and cautious bicyclists.

Visit tinyurl.com/yblz32vy to register.

Lake Hills Student Art Show

Lake Hills STEM Magnet School students in kindergarten through sixth grade will present "Hidden Colors," an exhibit highlighting African Americans, at Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin St.

The gallery coordinator is Latreese Neal, an instructional assistant at Lake Hills.

Gallery hours are:

- Friday, Feb. 9, 4 to 6 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 10, noon to 2 p.m.
- Sunday, Feb. 11, 1 to 3 p.m.

There is no charge to view the exhibit.

Annual Valentine Tea

First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St., will present the 68th Annual Valentine Tea at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10.

Betty Staples will give devotions, with entertainment by Joe Stewart and Bev Griffith. Afterward is fellowship and refreshments in the church community room.

The community is invited.

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Program on Israeli Perspective

Karin Wasserman, the Israeli emissary to the St. Joseph Valley Jewish Federation in South Bend, will present two programs at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at Sinai Temple, 2800 Franklin St.



Wasserman will discuss "My Israeli Story" and "An Israeli Perspective on the Holocaust." After a 30-minute digital presentation, she will lead a question-and-answer session about the current situation in Israel.

Wasserman, born and raised in Haifa, is the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor. She served as an officer in the Israel Defense Forces, working in a program for at-risk youth.

Following her service, she worked in a pre-Army preparatory program for high-school students.

Call (574) 233-1164 or email israel@thejewishfed.org for details.

Orak Shrine Circus

The Orak Shrine Circus, produced by Carden International Circus of Missouri, performs at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 13-14, at LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Audiences can expect acts that feature elephants, camels and horses, plus performances by acrobats, trapeze artists and clowns. Children who arrive early can ride the animals and meet the performers.

The show benefits the Orak Shriners, which supports causes such as Shriners Hospitals for Children. Tickets, which range from \$9 to \$18, are available at tinyurl.com/ycumdv38

Sons of Norway Scandiana Lodge

Sons of Norway Scandiana Lodge will host an Iceland program/potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Bruce Johnson, LaPorte, will present his travels to Iceland through stories and photos. Call Darlene Henderson at (219) 221-6641 for more details.

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"The True Voice of Elvis"

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will present "The True Voice of Elvis" at 7:30 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 10, at Lake Michigan College's Grand Upton Hall, Benton Harbor, Mich.

Joining the orchestra is Doug Church. Highly regarded for his ability to recreate "The King," he has received numerous awards for his portrayal. Early in his career, he won 11 first-place trophies in four years of competitions, and won the first-place crown for "The World's Best Elvis Tribute Artist" in the Worldwide Elvis Impersonators contest in Memphis, Tenn. He also portrayed Elvis for seven years as a member of the famous Las Vegas tribute show "Legends in Concert." He has toured throughout the U.S. and overseas, and was inducted into the Elvis Tribute Artist Hall of Fame in 2013.

The concert lineup includes: "You Gave Me a Mountain," "Bridge Over Troubled Water," "My Way," "Suspicious Minds," "Love Me Tender" and "Can't Help Falling in Love."

The performance will offer a more casual atmosphere by allowing patrons to sit at tables, enjoy free sweets and a choice of refreshment from the cash bar. A limited seating dinner-and-concert package is available in conjunction with Plank's Tavern at the Inn at Harbor Shores.

Seating will be at tables of 10 on a first-come, first-served basis:

- Zone A: adult, \$35, full-time students, \$5.
- Zone B: adult, \$20, full-time students, \$5.

Contact the SMSO office at (269) 982-4030 or www.smso.org for tickets or more information.



Michigan City Public Library

The following programs are available at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.:

• **Paper Circuits at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, in the meeting room.**

Discover how circuits work to create a greeting card or other piece that light up. Registration is required. Call (219) 873-3045 and ask for Dave.

• **Duneland Stamp Club at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, in the meeting room.**

The club meets the second Thursday of each month. New members are invited.

• **Cocoa & Coloring at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, in the meeting room.**

The relaxing, adults-only activity includes light refreshments. Coloring sheets and colored pencils will be provided.

• **Art à la Carte: Valentine's Day Cards at 3:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12, in the meeting room.**

Make a Valentine's Day card, with materials provided. The child must be present to receive supplies.

• **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Mondays, Feb. 12 and 26, in the meeting room.**

The foreign-policy discussion program returns for its 20th season. Discussions this month are Waning of Pax Americana and Russia's Foreign Policy. Reading material is available at the circulation desk.

• **Angels Among Us: A Valentine Feeling at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, in the meeting room.**

Ange Benz leads the discussion on inspiring stories about the presence of angels in everyday lives.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tues, Feb. 13, 20 and 27, and 10 a.m. Wed, Feb. 14, 21 and 28.**

Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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



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Spelling Bee Winners



Krueger Middle School held its schoolwide spelling bee on Jan. 24. Pictured are the top three finishers: Kaylee Shank (from left), second place; Taylor Denvit, first place; and Breanna Arrowsmith, third place. Denvit will represent Krueger at the countywide spelling bee Feb. 13 at LaPorte's Kesling Middle School.



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

- IU Health LaPorte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, 7 a.m. to noon Friday, Feb. 9.
- Indian Trail Elementary School, 3214 S. Indiana 104, La Porte, 2 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12.
- First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La Porte, noon to 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12.
- South Central Junior-Senior High School, 9808 S. County Road 600 West, Union Mills, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14.

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 redcrossblood.org for more details.

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



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New Buffalo Streetscape Project

New Buffalo, in partnership with the New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority, is in the final phase of making improvements to the community's downtown area.

The work will result in the much-needed replacement of water and sewer lines, as well as a new streetscape.

New Buffalo DDA staff provided this information with answers to specific questions about the project:

Question: What amenities will be included and what will they look like, including street lights, gardens, refuse containers, public seating, bicycle racks, etc.?

Response: The final amenity package will include new decorative street lights, benches, trash receptacles, landscape beds, bicycle racks and public art. Information is available at regularly-scheduled DDA and Design and Visual Impact subcommittee meetings. Visit www.cityofnewbuffalo.org for meeting schedules.

Q: Why did the city decide on parallel parking on North Whittaker Street, how many parking spaces will be available in the Central Business District after Phase 2 is completed (compared with pre-project spaces) and, with the elimination of angle parking, where are spaces located?

R: The decision to convert to parallel parking on North Whittaker Street was based on discussions and feedback during numerous public meetings. Factors included safety, creation of a pedestrian-friendly downtown, developing a year-round CBD economy and the opportunity to create parking in adjacent areas. After Phase 2 is complete, the total net, on-street parking spaces in the CBD will be an increase of 34 spaces. Angel and pull-in spaces are still available on Thompson, Barton, Mechanic and Merchant streets, and in the new parking lot at North Barton and West Mechanic streets.

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Spirit of Leadership Award

Leadership La Porte County has bestowed the "Spirit of Leadership" award to Nate Loucks, State Street Community Church pastor and Pax Center president.

The honor was announced Jan. 31 at a breakfast meeting, held at Best Western Plus La Porte Hotel & Conference Center and attended by about 30 community members.



Dace Cunningham, Leadership LaPorte County board president, presents the award to Nate Loucks.

Lance Werner created the award in 2011, when he was president, to honor someone who embodies the true spirit of community leadership. Dion Campbell, Michigan City police officer and Michigan City High School resource officer, was the first recipient.

State Street opened in 2010, with a mission to reach young adults with a relevant, transparent and simple approach to worship. A food and clothing pantry, and weekly community meal, began to serve those in need. Soon after, a building became available down the road from the church and became the Pax Center. Latin for peace, the center furthered State Street's mission.

Today, combined efforts of the church and center have fed hundreds of hungry community members each week.

A father and husband, Loucks also serves as vice president of Family Advocates, a Northwest Indiana Food Council board member, a member of the Home Team of La Porte County, an advisory board member for Guiding all Kids (for Riley School and La Porte Community Schools) and vice president of the Singing Company of LaPorte County youth choir.

Call (219) 325-8223 or email info@leadershipla-portecounty.com for more information.

Young Professionals Night

The Greater LaPorte Chamber of Commerce and La Porte Jaycees will present Young Professionals Night from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, in the basement of Dick's Bar, 912 Lincolnway, La Porte.

The free casual networking event includes a discussion with Mary Foell and MaryJo Moncheski from Purdue Extension. Also planned is an activity to encourage discussion among attendees, as well as a cash bar and small Mardi Gras giveaways.

Registration is encouraged by visiting tinyurl.com/yaovq5my or calling (219) 362-3178.



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Violinist Joins Music School Staff

Beth Oeseburg, a veteran violinist and violin teacher, has joined the faculty of The School of American Music, Three Oaks, Mich.



Oeseburg will teach beginning, intermediate and advanced violin for children and adults. She is an artist-in-residence in St. Joseph Public Schools and gives private lessons through Benton Harbor's Citadel Dance and Music Center. She directs the Lake Michigan Youth Orchestra Concert Strings, and taught private violin and viola lessons as an adjunct instructor at Lake Michigan

College from 2010-2015. She also directed a mixed ensemble there for two years.

As a performer, Oeseburg is assistant concertmaster for Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra and a substitute violinist with South Bend Symphony. She has performed with symphonies in Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, Elkhart and LaPorte, where she was associate concertmaster for two years and concertmaster for two additional years.

She is a Western Michigan University graduate, with a bachelor's degree in violin performance.

Those interested in studying violin should contact Donna Mitchell at SAM by email at schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or by phone at (269) 409-1191.

Winter Ecology Family Overnight

Dunes Learning Center will host Winter Ecology Family Overnight from 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, to 10 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 18.

The event involves naturalists leading programs that include snowshoeing, stewardship, a night hike, astronomy skits, games and nature crafts.

The cost, which includes meals, is \$105 per person or \$350 for a full cabin with four participants. Visit tinyurl.com/ydgjml8k to register. Dunes Learning Center is located at 700 Howe Road, Chesterton.

Tiles & Talent

Leadership La Porte County will present "Tiles & Talent (None Necessary)" from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, at its LaPorte office, 809 Washington St., Suite B.

Leadership staff will provide six tiles and tools to design them with alcohol ink. The tiles can be used as coasters, wall hangings or displayed in a shadow box. Light snacks and beverages will be available.

The cost is \$25 per person. Advance registration is required at tinyurl.com/y6u7dmlk

Credit Union donates \$1,500



Members Advantage Credit Union donated \$1,500 to Michigan City's Salvation Army. The money will help further its mission, which includes helping feed nearly 800 local families. Pictured is MACU President Frank Beachnau (center), who presents the check to Salvation Army captains Johnny and Kerry Bartsch.

Children's Art Classes

Jennifer Martin will host children's art classes this month at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

The overall goal is to introduce children to various artists, their styles and techniques, with projects reflecting what they are learning. February highlights Marcel Duchamp, a painter, sculptor, chess player and writer whose work is associated with Cubism, conceptual art and Dada. Students will focus on the bicycle wheel Duchamp was known for, as well as painting and sculpture.

Classes meet weekly and are open to all ages and skill levels. Several mediums will be used, including drawing, painting, papier mache, mosaic, sculpture and collage.

The schedule is:

- Monday, 1-2 p.m., preschool, 4- to 5 year-olds.
- Monday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (beginner), 5- to 8-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 1-2 p.m., preschool, 3- to 4-year-olds.
- Tuesday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (intermediate), 6- to 9-year-olds.
- Wednesday, 11 a.m.-noon, preschool, 4-5 year-olds.
- Wednesday, 1-2:30 p.m., homeschool, 8- to 15-year-olds.
- Wednesday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (intermediate), 6- to 9-year-olds.
- Thursday, 3:30-5 p.m., after school (advanced), 8- to 12-year-olds.
- Thursday, 5:15-6:45 p.m., after school (advanced painting), 10- to 16-year-olds.

Tuition is \$90 per month for after-school and home-school students (the member rate is \$70), and \$75 for preschool students (the member rate is \$55). Supplies and a snack are included. Students must be registered and paid for before the start of each month. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com to register or more details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Feb. 8 — Music at the Museum, 2-3:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Feb. 8 — Paper Circuits, 4:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 8 — “Living and Creating in the Dunes,” 5:30-7 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Free. Info: lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Feb. 8-11 — “Twelve Angry Jurors,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thurs.-Sat./2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$15/\$10 Thursday. Reservations: www.FootlightPlayers.org, (219) 874-4035.

Feb. 9 — Open Mic Night with host Gateway Rugs, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Email Sandra@acorntheater.com to get on roster.

Feb. 9-11 — North American Ice Fishing Circuit Tournament, Pine/Stone lakes. Info: (219) 851-4401.

Feb. 10 — Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society, 8-10 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 10 — Curator-led gallery talk, 10-11 a.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Free. Info: lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Feb. 10 — Snowshoe Shuffle, 10-11 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 10 — 68th Annual Valentine Tea, 1 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

Feb. 10 — Outdoor Adventures Series: Mount Baldy Winter Hike, 1-3 p.m., Mount Baldy parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 10 — Un-Valentine’s Day for Teens, 1-4 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Feb. 10 — Subnivean Subjects, 2-2:45 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 10 — Stargazing, Kemil Beach parking area, 27 N. East State Park Road, Chesterton. Time: (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 10 — A Victorian Romance, 3-5:30 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Tickets: \$25. Reservations: avictorianromance.eventbrite.com

Feb. 11 — Cocoa & Coloring, 1:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 11 — Free movie showing, “Riding the Rails of History,” 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 11 — Shelf Ice Exploration, noon-12:30 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 12 — Art à la Carte: Valentine’s Day Cards, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 13 — Lunch With the League, noon, Patrick’s

Grille, 4125 Franklin St. Info: lwvlaporte@gmail.com, LWVlaporte.org

Feb. 13 — Bifocal Bookies, Julia Glass' "The Widower's Tale," 1 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

Feb. 13-14 — Orak Shrine Circus, 6:30 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Tickets: tinyurl.com/ycumdv38

Feb. 14 — **VALENTINE'S DAY.**

Feb. 14 — Mad About Mysteries, 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Through Feb. 24 — "Absorbing the Abstract: Student Works from LCA," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: lubeznikcenter.org

Through Feb. 27 — Jay Zerbe's "eCollage," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: lubeznikcenter.org

In the Region

Feb. 8-10 — "For Colored Girls who have Considered Suicide when the Rainbow is Enuf," 7 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$10. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Feb. 10 — Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra, "The True Voice of Elvis," 7:30 p.m. EST, Lake Michigan College's Grand Upton Hall, Benton Harbor, Mich. Info/tickets: www.smsso.org, (269) 982-4030.

Feb. 11 — The Krasl Cupids Art & Love Ride, 11 a.m. EST, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Free. Registration: tinyurl.com/yblz32vy

Through Feb. 25 — "Here and There: Intimate and Large Scale Views in Photography," Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Info: (574) 293-6660, www.MidwestMuseum.US

Through March 3 — "Sherwood Snyder: A Retrospective," Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org, (269) 983-3688.

Through May 7 — Paintings by Michael Rippey, Inn at Harbor Shores, St. Joseph, Mich. Info: www.harborshoreslife.com, www.innatharborshores.com

Support Groups

Mondays — Codependents Anonymous (CoDA), 6 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (219) 879-3817.

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer St., 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: https://oa.org, (219) 879-0300.

Wednesdays — Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers, 2 p.m., third Wednesday of each month, Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (888) 303-0180.

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meetings, 6-7 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (708) 927-5287.

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tions for employment. Apply within. No phone calls, please.****Housekeepers Wanted!**Must have housekeeping experience), proactive, self-starters for summer
rental season. Must work weekends (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) 10am-
4pm June-August. \$20-\$30/hr plus other potential bonuses!**Call (269) 588-9600 for interview appointment.**

Are you a teacher who would like to make extra money
May-September? Are you considering a job change?
Do you have a student returning from college in May?
Are you looking for employment for your reliable teen?
Well, Long Beach Country Club may be the perfect opportunity for you!
Many positions (some seasonal) to choose from!
Begin to train/work in March/April 2017.

Pool/Patio Supervisor
American Heart-Red Cross-trained Lifeguards
*Lunch/Dinner Dining Room & Patio Servers
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Prep Cook
Line Cook
Fry/Grill Cook
Busser
Food Runner
Dishwasher

*Front of the House Team Members receive individual
gratuity + hourly rate.

Must be dependable, a team player and demonstrate professional
behavior. We conduct previous employer verifications.

Shifts vary depending on clubhouse needs.

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----- WANT TO SWAP—HOUSES -----

IRELAND HOUSE SWAP: Looking for house swap late July/early August
2018 for 2-3 weeks near lake in IN or MI. We have large 4 BR house with
sea views in Ireland. Used to own in Long Beach.
Email donna.connolly@yahoo.com

----- WANT TO BUY -----

WANTED: I buy all types of antiques and collectibles, including toys,
advertising, military items and more. Call Matt at (219) 794-6500.

Wanted: baby grand piano as donation or reasonable cost to local
church. Call George Dobie at (219) 608-4719.

----- REAL ESTATE -----

REAL ESTATE INVESTING

Investment mixed-use building for sale in Michigan City. Owners past
retirement age; motivated to sell. 4 occupied units, signed leases, yearly
gross income \$30,000. (219) 879-2198 or text (219) 877-8177.

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Apartments for rent. Uptown Michigan City, 1/2BR, \$675/mo. and up.
Call (219) 898-8871.

**Dunescape Condo, 4th Floor, 2BR/2BA, available Nov.-May. \$1,100/
mo + utilities. Call/text Cari @ Merrion Realty @ (219) 898-5412.**

**Furnished 1BR apartment over garage, quiet wooded setting among
\$500K homes, granite, hardwood floors, shared pool, tennis, basket-
ball. Kitchenette. Utilities included. \$800, 1-yr lease, no smoking, no
pets. (312) 399-5341.**

UPSCALE LOFT FOR RENT: 1 huge bedroom with walk-in closet, W/D,
large deck, off-street parking, wood floors. Just steps from 11th Street
South Shore station. \$650/mo. + utilities. Call (219) 872-9111.

**Summer rental. Stop 37. 4BR/3BA, AC, WiFi/cable. 300 ft to beach
access. Contact jmebeachhouse@yahoo.com**

----- REAL ESTATE FOR SALE -----

CONDOMINIUM WITH UNIVERSAL APPEAL IN THE SHORES!
2BR/2.5BA/main-floor den, at 2210 Bayview Drive. \$224,500. Sale by
owner. Household items, furniture items available by appointment.
(219) 393-4609.

New SMSO Youth Ensemble

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will
have auditions for its new Lake Michigan Youth Or-
chestra program, "LMYO Winds,"
from 6 to 8:30 p.m. EST Monday,
Feb. 12, at Upton Middle School,
800 Maiden Lane, St. Joseph,
Mich.



Owens

The ensemble will feature wood-
wind, brass and percussion musi-
cians in grades 6-8 from Southwest
Michigan and Northwest Indiana.
The program is led by John Ow-
ens, Lake Michigan College music
program director.

The group will rehearse once
a week from 6 to 7:30 p.m. EST at Upton Middle
School starting Feb. 19. A spring concert is May 6
at St. Joseph (Mich.) High School Auditorium, 2521
Stadium Drive.

Visit tinyurl.com/y9d4xgol for more details.



Long Beach Women's Bowling

Jan. 30, 2018

TEAM STANDING

1. Queen Pins/Diagonal Divas
2. Wrecking Balls

WON LOST

12 4
11.5 4.5

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

1. Debra Smith
2. Margie Midkiff
3. Dottie Brinckman
3. Bina Gupta
4. Lenore Hadaway
5. Nancy Klausner
6. Sue Labovitz (series)
7. Diana Holt (series)
8. Cindy Beck (series)

SCORE

164
159
158
158
157
155
426
412
400

SPLITS

1. Polly Fletcher 5-10
2. Nancy Klausner 3-9-10

THREE STRIKES

Sue Labovitz



More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30
p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Munich by Robert Harris (hardcover, \$27.95 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

We all know World War II began with the invasion of Poland by Germany on Sept. 1, 1939. This book shows us events of Sept. 28, 1938, that gave Hitler the impetus to start his plans for world domination, even though no shots were fired that day.

In 1938, Germany was threatening to go to war against Czechoslovakia if it did not relinquish the Sudetenland, a long, narrow strip of land between Germany and Czechoslovakia. Sudetenland was given to Czechoslovakia at the end of World War I. Why was German control of the Sudetenland so critical to world peace now? If Hitler didn't get his way, then —

"Germany would attack Czechoslovakia. France would declare war on Germany. Britain would support France." And what would Russia's position be? Could Europe stand another world war just 20 years on the heels of "the war to end all wars"? France and England didn't want that.

Sept. 28, 1938, world leaders gathered in Munich, Germany, for an 11th-hour meeting to discuss the return of the Sudetenland to Germany. At this meeting were Hitler, Neville Chamberlain, prime minister of Great Britain, Edouard Daladier, prime minister of France, and Benito Mussolini, prime minister of Italy. Missing was a delegation from Czechoslovakia — they were in Munich, but confined by the Nazis to their hotel rooms. Apparently, Hitler didn't consider them necessary to the talks.

Meticulous research by Harris shows all the behind-the-scenes activity leading up to the trip to Munich. It's a fascinating look into the workings at No. 10 Downing Street. But outside, children were being fitted for gas masks, trenches were being dug in Green Park and sandbags lined Whitehall. Wish for peace, but prepare for war? Many Brits seemed overly confident with Chamberlain's ability to avoid a war while they cheered as his motorcade made its way to the airport. Winston Churchill was not so optimistic.

Enter two fictional characters: one English and one German who were friends at Oxford University some years earlier and play a role in the Munich talks. Each is now working in their respective government diplomatic corps. Hugh Legat is a private secretary to Chamberlain, while Paul Von Hartmann works in the German Foreign Ministry.

Legat has a wife and two children. He is a low-key figure, but one who has enough sense to keep eyes



and ears open. One night, an envelope is slipped under his door. It contains a speech Hitler made months earlier leaving no doubt he intends to go to war. Legat hasn't a clue as to who sent him the letter and turns it over to his boss. Perhaps that's why he is added to the list of men going to the conference at the last minute, but also because he is proficient in German and could translate conversations and written communications.

Von Hartmann is skeptical of Hitler. A nationalist, he fears Hitler's plans for the future and meets with other Germans to devise a scheme to stop him before he can start a war most Germans

don't want. He's a more interesting character, with a strong sense of country and a desire to be part of Hitler's takedown. Von Hartmann is based on real-life Hans Oster, a German general who was part of a plot to kill Hitler.

Legat is surprised to run into Von Hartmann in Munich, but the pair must be careful being seen together. Von Hartmann especially, since he is followed by an SS officer after they find out about his past friendship with Legat.

This is a mind-boggling story. The machinations of countries poised on the brink of war with a madman at the apex of it all. What about Chamberlain? Harris seems ambivalent about him, showing his naiveté at one moment and a sense of leadership at another. History has not treated Chamberlain well, but he was part of an earlier generation when honor and a man's word were everything. He would soon find out that principle did not apply to Hitler.

To take historical events within the contents of a novel works only if the author has done exhaustive research. Harris has done just that and given us a totally absorbing read. Highly recommended.

Publishers Weekly: "Harris succeeds in not only transforming a familiar historical event into a novel of suspense but in making the derided Chamberlain sympathetic."

Kirkus Reviews: "Engaging, informative, and quietly suspenseful."

The Times (UK), Best Historical Fiction of 2017: "An intelligent thriller...with exacting attention to historical detail. The novel's power lies in the conflict between our hindsight and the characters' all-too-believable hopes and fears."

Harris lives in England. He is the author of 11 other novels, with several adapted to film, most recently *The Ghost Writer*. His works have been translated into 37 languages.

Till next time, happy reading!


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www.mickygallasproperties.com**3733 Michiana Drive****\$849,000**

Welcome to 3733 Michiana Drive, the perfect balance of Michiana cottage and contemporary! This 4 bedroom, 4 bathroom home greets you from the moment you open the door. Natural light from the skylights and floor to ceiling windows showcase the secluded views of the surrounding landscape & gardens. Kitchen opens to the dining room with sliding glass doors to the screened in porch, the perfect place after a day at the beach. Stunning living room and charming family room, both with fireplaces and ready to entertain. 3 bedrooms on the main floor, 2 with Jack and Jill bathrooms for your guests. Master bedroom located on the upper level with built-ins, office nook, and an en suite bathroom. Rec room, laundry, bathroom, and ample storage on lower level. 2 car garage with extra room for bikes and beach toys. Home is perched at the top of Stop 37, just steps to Lake Michigan, and waiting just for you!

**4 Bed/4 Bath/3,539 sq.ft.**

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Let us help you find your beach.



302 Birch Tree Lane, Michigan City • \$114,000

This wonderful condo has updated kitchen, crown molding and tasteful neutral decor. Affordable living with many amenities! Enjoy the pool or trek on down to the beach! Association dues include heat, water and common-area maintenance.



3307 Calumet Trail, Duneland Beach • \$439,900

Living is easy in this generously proportioned 2-story residence on a double lot in desirable Duneland Beach. 4 spacious bedrooms, three bathrooms and a kitchen that flows to the eating area. The master bedroom is complete with walk-in closet and master bath. Large living room and rec room on main floor, finished basement. Wonderful screened-in porch overlooks expansive yard and deck. Perfect for a year-round family or as a summer retreat, this home is a 4-minute walk to the beach!



333 Lake Shore Drive, Sheridan Beach • \$220,000

Beautiful condo with lake views and walking distance to Lake Michigan! 2-bed, 2-bath unit with a beautiful kitchen, living room, dining area and den. Attached garage and storage is under unit. Wonderful viewing deck with pool and hot tub. Walking distance to Washington Park, zoo, marina, lighthouse, restaurants and more.



805 Birch Tree Lane, Michigan City • \$176,000

Best of both worlds! Enjoy low maintenance 3-bedroom 3-bath condo living within a beach community! Only one of four units this size. Wonderful amenities include garage, private patio and pool area. Beautiful common area. Association fee includes gas, trash, water, grass, snow removal and all of the pool maintenance.



202 N. Lake Ave. #East, Sheridan Beach • \$625,000

202 N. Lake Ave. #West, Sheridan Beach • \$525,000

Welcome to Dune House! Both East and West units overlook Lake Michigan and include 3 stories of quality workmanship with multiple decking and rooftop. These well-maintained 3-bedroom, 4-bath homes are ready for their new owner!



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