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A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

by Connie Kuzydym



Paddlers head down the east branch of the Little Calumet River during its official reopening.
All photos from the event by Paul Kermiel.

As winter shows little signs of easing its grip on the region, I hear the advice from an Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore park ranger. Each season brings different outdoor opportunities. Embrace them. Doing so helps the season feel not as long.

Especially winter.

Snow has brought serenity and beauty upon the area. The days are getting longer; more and more, we feel the sun's warmth on our faces. Punxsutawney Phil may have seen his shadow, but let's be excited as maple sugar time is just around the corner. Soon after, outdoors enthusiasts will drop kayaks

and canoes into area waters.

This year, paddlers will be delighted to have an additional waterway to traverse in Northwest Indiana. The east branch of the Little Calumet River officially reopened last fall after being non-navigable for three decades. A collaborative effort between Save the Dunes, Shirley Heinze Land Trust, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Student Conservation Association and Northwest Indiana Paddling Association improved access to a portion of the corridor. The river runs from Red Mill County Park just south of Michigan City to Portage, flowing through

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A River Runs

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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore sites such as Heron Rookery and Bailly Homestead, along with a number of towns, county parks and Shirley Heinze Land Trust nature preserves.

On a warm, sunny afternoon, amid a marquee event of the Outdoor Adventure Festival, representatives from the organizations and numerous paddlers attended the project's long-awaited ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Although the launch site at Calumet Road in Chesterton was rugged, numerous paddlers were not deterred from climbing into their kayaks and canoes. The excitement in the air was palpable.

IDNL Superintendent Paul Labovitz thanked the various organizations that supported the project.

"This has been decades in the making," Labovitz said. "This is very exciting to cut this ribbon to open up this new recreation facility in the region, where we have several miles of the Little Cal available for canoeing and kayaking...It takes a million partners to make something like this happen."

Once everyone was in the water, Labovitz cut the bright neon-green ribbon. Resounding applause and cheers ensued. The paddlers were off.

The east branch of the Little Calumet River project opened approximately an eight-mile stretch from Brummitt Road in Chesterton to Mnoké Prairie in the National Lakeshore.

Once a thriving active transportation route, the east branch was not

maintained for more than 30 years, leaving a significant amount of logjams and other debris. About a decade ago, the tide began to change, with interest in paddling on the upswing and a Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission comprehensive plan apparently stating a high potential for development existed.

The process for reopening the river is known as the Palmiter Method of modifying woody debris obstructions. Sections of logjams are physically removed while portions are left in place to help the river's ecology. A wide-enough stretch for paddlers to get through was made. The remaining tree debris is left to improve the habitat for fish by recontouring the river.

This provides another opportunity for locals and tourists to experience the beauty of the National Lakeshore. During the official grand opening, we caught up with Labovitz at the end of the paddle at Howe Road.

"It was an easy paddle, and there was nothing scary," he said. "It's hard to believe you're in the heart of where you're at. There's some big timber in there. It's amazing...saw some

sandpipers, fish jumping everywhere. I saw a big snapping turtle."

After his initial assessment, Labovitz, a positive thinker, made a few suggestions of how to improve the experience for paddlers, such as marking the roads on the river side of the bridges.

Going forward, paddled opportunities are in the works, along with taking self-guided trips down the river.

"My fixation here is, we are here to teach people



Save the Dunes representatives attending the event included Executive Director Natalie Johnson (right) and Program Manager Cathy Martin.



Paul Labovitz



Dan Plath



Paul Labovitz helps cut the ribbon during the ceremony.

how to play outside again,” Labovitz said. “We have the place, then we have the staff and the partners who can take the different pieces. Then, the public has to show up and say, ‘I’ve always wanted to learn how to fish, but I don’t know how to fish.’ I have people to teach you how to fish...”

“The other side of it is, the park should be an economic engine for the region,” Labovitz continued. “So, all those business opportunities that could come with this, this is quality of life for the region... we have between two and three million people who come here and spend money here, and it’s very easy to provide the infrastructure for those activities with the national park...it will make money for the collective us.”

When Labovitz refers to partners that helped

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These provided photos reveal how logjam removal opened up the east branch of the Little Calumet River.

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A River Runs

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with the project, he's speaking of the afore mentioned organizations, each with separate missions, but a common goal, that united to make the Little Calumet River east branch project a reality.

Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association began almost a decade ago with 60 members. According to Gina Darnell, NWIPA's Blueways Stewardship Committee chairwoman, members discussed where they could go to paddle at initial meetings. The answer was always the same — somewhere else — even though there were many resources in the area.

The initial project was opening Trail Creek for paddling. From there, the group's vision was instrumental in getting the ball rolling on reopening the Little Calumet River's east branch.

NWIPA's members are unique, as many are also natural-resource professionals.

"Not only do they work for the organizations who were trying to open more of the Little Calumet, but they serve on the various entities such as park boards, drainage boards," Darnell said. "It organically happened that those who paddle are in those organizations. We all had this common goal to open up the river."

NWIPA has provided more than 3,000 volunteer hours to the project. Their time has been spent inventorying the river, documenting its logjams by using GPS, physically helping clear some of the logjams and debris, talking to city and town officials and their boards, and helping obtain necessary permits.

NWIPA's vision for the Little Calumet is to make sure it remains open by helping with maintenance. Ultimately, members would like to see the Little Calumet opened from the Heron Rookery to Burns Harbor, which would make it a 16-mile stretch for paddling.

Shirley Heinze Land Trust, Northwest Indiana's first land trust, has made numerous land acquisitions during the past 37 years.

The opportunity arose in 2009 to protect land along the river corridor, allowing Shirley Heinze to make its first acquisition on Little Calumet River's east branch near Brummitt Elementary School. Then, the state designated the east branch as a bicentennial nature trust conservation area, making funding available so Shirley Heinze could acquire property within the river corridor.

"Our organization has really played a pretty important role in protecting land along the river corridor that creates places for the river to be accessed, and is also protecting important habitat along the corridor to allow it to

remain in a natural state..." Kris Krouse, Shirley Heinze Land Trust executive director, said.

Save the Dunes has been in existence for 65 years. It was one of the organizations that helped establish IDNL. As an organization, its focus has been sustaining and protecting dunes ecosystems in Lake, Porter and part of LaPorte counties. Its role in this collaborative effort was in convening the group of interested partners and spearheading a grant opportunity from the ChiCal River fund, which helped open a portion of the river.

Save the Dunes hopes people will see the Little Calumet as a new opportunity to experience the National Lakeshore and appreciate the gems within.

"We hope it will inspire people to become better stewards of the land," Natalie Johnson, Save the Dunes executive director, said. "We basically want people to use it, appreciate it and keep it protected."

The ultimate hope is that one day, the east branch becomes a nationally recognized waterway, with people coming from all corners of the world to see it.

To legally come on board the river project, the IDNL needed to complete a three-year environmental assessment since a decision was made in the 1980s to discontinue maintenance of the river within the lakeshore's boundaries. That's according to Dan Plath, the IDNL's chief of resource management and the NWIPA founder. The Student Conservation Association actively contributed to that project.

The National Lakeshore partnered with the aforementioned organizations on a larger funding piece, the ChiCal grant, which helped hire a contractor that would work with NWIPA to clear logjams.

The stars, indeed, aligned for all the partners.

"This project as a whole speaks to the power of what organizations can do when they work collectively together on something that is larger than one component or their own mission," Krouse said.



Visitors take advantage of paddling along the river's east branch.

More About the Project Partners

Through the spirit of collaboration, a unique and exciting experience culminated in a place for paddlers. This amazing natural resource in our own backyard should be on our bucket list of things to do when spring arrives.

This gift was realized by the unceasing efforts of those involved:

- **Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore** — the IDNL covers 15 miles of Lake Michigan's southern shores, with hiking trails, dunes, wetlands, prairies, rivers and forests. The Student Conservation Association engages young people to become the next generation of stewards of the environment, often through internships and research possibilities.
- **Northwest Indiana Paddlers Association** — Founded as a non-profit on Jan. 18, 2009, its website states the mission is to develop the region's paddling resources and opportunities, educate the public, provide environmental stewardship of the region's waterways and serve as a link between the region's paddlers. Its Blueways Stewardship Committee identifies waterways needing logjam removal, trash cleanup or other work so they are more accessible.
- **Save the Dunes** — The mission is to preserve, protect and restore the Indiana Dunes, and all natural resources in Northwest Indiana's Lake

Michigan Watershed. Other priorities include: protecting ecosystems from the negative impacts of human land use and behavior; improving watersheds that flow to the dunes and Lake Michigan; educating the public about environmental concerns; and reducing pollution by holding government agencies, businesses and residents accountable.

- **Shirley Heinze Land Trust** — A collaboration of volunteers, donors, professionals, business and industry, the trust preserves, protects and restores significant natural areas in Northwest Indiana. Educating and inspiring the public to explore the region's beauty is another primary goal.



Paddlers begin placing canoes and kayaks into the river.



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“Black Panther” is Sensational Entertainment

by Andrew Tallackson

Early in Ryan Coogler’s wildly entertaining “Black Panther,” the film’s eponymous hero, T’Challa (Chadwick Boseman), returns to his homeland of Wakanda to claim the title of king after his father’s death. During the coronation ceremony, a tribal leader challenges T’Challa to ritual combat, a battle to the death for the crown.

The sequence is like sensory overload. The pounding tribal rhythms and movements of the Wakandans. Ruth Carter’s eye-candy costumes. The cast, and not just the great Angela Bassett and Forest Whitaker, but also Lupita Nyong’o, Danai Gurira, Daniel Kaluuya and Letitia Wright. Coogler and crew haven’t sanitized Africa. They’ve *celebrated* it with a film that is as gutsy as it is pure movie magic.

Gotta hand it to the folks at Marvel. Just when it seems they’ve emptied out their bag of tricks, along comes a project that is like a shot of adrenaline. The secret, it seems, is in discovering fresh young talent. It worked with the comic buoyancy Taika Waititi lavished on “Thor: Ragnarok,” and it beautifully succeeds with what Coogler achieves in “Black Panther.”

That name not ring a bell? Coogler’s harrowing, fact-based “Fruitvale Station” was, in my opinion, the best film of 2013, but got lost in the rapturous afterglow of “12 Years a Slave.” Two years later, “Creed” swallowed whole three or four “Rocky” sequels before it. Now, with “Black Panther,” Coogler has created a movie that stands tall with the best in the Marvel franchise.

At its comic-book core, the movie involves a battle over vibranium, which has allowed Wakanda to create advanced technology, yet hide in plain sight, isolating themselves from the rest of the world. There are, of course, others who want the vibranium, including N’Jadaka, an American whose ties to Wakanda are hinted at during the opening se-

quence.

N’Jadaka is played by Coogler acting muse Michael B. Jordan, who has appeared in all of the director’s films. A remarkable talent, Jordan is mesmerizing here. To label him the “villain” is to do the character a disservice. N’Jadaka’s gripe with Wakanda is personal *and* political, the latter fueling his argument that if Wakanda has boasted advanced

technology for centuries, why hasn’t it gone to bat for fellow Africans across the globe, rising against their oppressors?

N’Jadaka, in essence, embodies the movie’s real “black panther,” in the context of the 1960s revolutionary group. T’Challa, in return, cannot entirely dismiss N’Jadaka, and Boseman is exceptionally skilled at conveying that turmoil, the conflict within.

“Black Panther” contains its share of action sequences, all staged by Coogler with lickety-split gusto, but what makes these scenes invigorating is how the women are a formidable presence. Gurira, having kicked ass for six seasons as Michonne on “The Walking Dead,” walks off with every scene she enters as T’Challa’s fearsome No. 2 in command. Nyong’o, the Oscar winner for “12 Years a

Slave,” can slink about in a sexy dress with the best of them, and defend herself like no other. Wright, as T’Challa’s sister, Shuri, is ripe with such good cheer, her smile, alone, is star wattage. And when Wakanda’s female warriors defend their country at all costs during the rousing finale, “Black Panther” is as much about gender empowerment in the Marvel universe as it is racial equality.

The final scenes of “Black Panther” arrive at a thoughtful close, not just in how it resolves the character of N’Jadaka, but also in Wakanda’s sense of duty on a global scale. In the process, it launches a new Marvel franchise that cries out for more. It’s sensational.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com



Chadwick Boseman (center), Lupita Nyong’o (left) and Danai Gurira star in “Black Panther.”

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Fernwood to Host Spring Garden Symposium

Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve will present its 2018 Spring Garden Symposium from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Saturday, March 3.

The daylong event is presented in partnership with *Chicagoland Gardening*, *Garden Design*, Stonehouse Nursery and Vite Greenhouses.

Guest speakers include:

- “It’s Not as Simple as Green Side Up” by Christy Webber, president of Christy Webber Landscapes and Christy Webber Farm & Garden in Chicago. She founded the company in 1989, incorporating in 1994 after she was told a “sole proprietor wasn’t going to cut it.” Revenue in 2003 topped \$7 million, and with the help of key staff, friends, consultants and a couple of acquisitions, the company has grown with its best year at \$45 million in sales.
- “Sustainable Gardens: Creating and Maintaining Gravel Gardens” by Jeff Epping, director of horticulture at Olbrich Botanical Gardens, Madison, Wis. He will reveal how the attraction has replaced lawns and traditional annual and perennial beds with sustainable gardens.
- “What’s Hot at the Chicago Botanic Garden” by Andrew Bunting, assistant director and director of plant collections. Just prior to relocating to the Midwest, Bunting was the curator at The Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College for 26 years.



Speakers include Christy Webber (clockwise from left), Jeff Epping, Andrew Bunting and Annamaria León

He has published more than 100 articles, and his home garden in Swarthmore, Pa., has been featured in *This Old House* magazine and *The Wall Street Journal*.

- “The Role of Greening in Creating Possibilities for Communities” by Annamaria León, Edible Landscapes director at Christy Webber Landscapes-Farm & Garden Center. She will emphasize how individual actions empowered an entire community literally from the ground up.



An early registration special through Feb. 25 offers tickets at \$90 (\$72 for members). Registration Feb. 26–March 1 is \$110 (\$88 for members). Lunch is by Fernwood Chef Tim Carrigan, with a guided tour of Fernwood planned. VIP symposium tickets include reserved seating and a private lunch with the speakers. Tickets are \$120 (\$96 for members).

Register at www.fernwoodbotanical.org or call (269) 695-6491. Fernwood is located at 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich.

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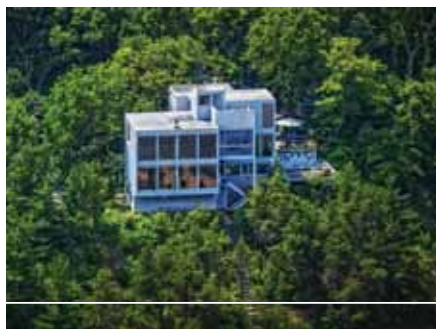
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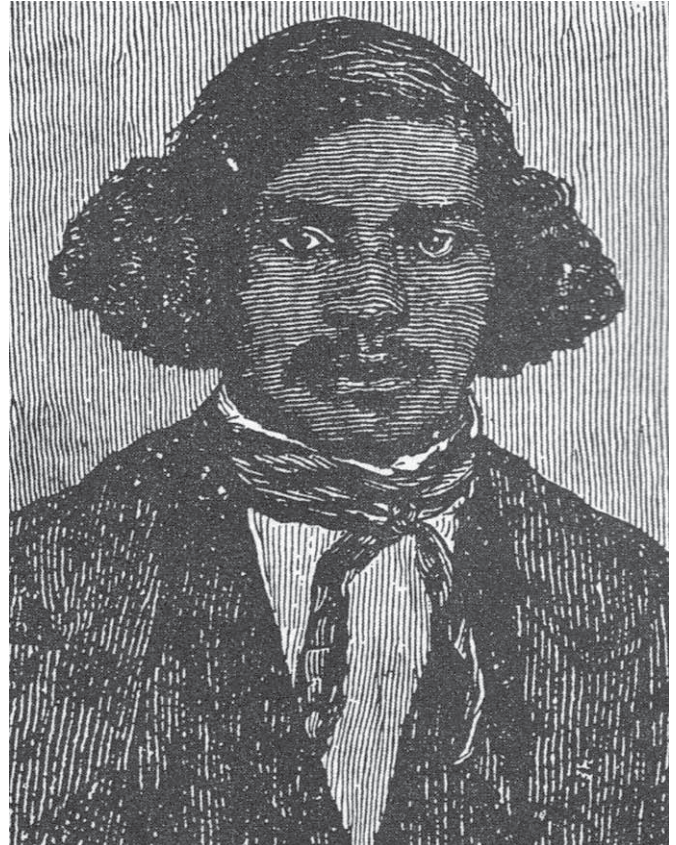


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Portraits in Black History

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.



Stephen Bishop

Anyone who has visited Mammoth Cave in Kentucky is familiar with the name Stephen Bishop. The mixed-race slave, born in 1821 and freed one year before he died, was one of the cave's lead explorers and guides.

Franklin Gorin, Bishop's slave owner, introduced him to the cave in 1838. He was the first person to cross what is referred to as the cave's bottomless pit. A map later drawn by him reveals 16 kilometers of cave passages, and it is estimated half were discovered by him. Bishop made attempts to highlight length and dimension, and used cross shading to indicate water.

After Bishop's death, Gorin wrote, "*Stephen was a self-educated man. He had a fine genius, a great fund of wit and humor, some little knowledge of Latin and Greek, and much knowledge of geology, but his great talent was a knowledge of man.*"

A headstone remains at Mammoth Cave that states, "Stephen Bishop, First Guide & Explorer of the Mammoth Cave. Died...in his 37 year."



2018 ICS Sweetheart Day!

Saturday, March 3rd from 10 AM—4 PM
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ICS general merchandise and lunch also available.

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LaLu Academic Decathlon Team



Pictured are (back row, from left) Laney Jensen and Eljay Wilcox. The middle row is Colin O'Rourke (from left), Olivia Dybing and Amy Wang. The front row is Molly Caplice (left) and Charlotte Visconsi.

The La Lumiere Academic Decathlon team earned third place in the state during the Indiana Academic Decathlon state competition Feb. 9-10 at Purdue University West Lafayette.

Academic Decathlons test student knowledge on a single theme as it pertains to 10 academic subjects. This year's theme was Africa. La Lumiere's seven competitors, Molly Caplice, Olivia Dybing, Laney Jensen, Colin O'Rourke, Charlotte Visconsi, Amy Wang and Eljay Wilcox, collectively earned the school third place, behind Reitz Memorial High School and Andrean High School.

The team also took home first in the Interview subject, with several students placing in the top three positions in their divisions or individual subjects. Sophomore Colin O'Rourke placed third in his division, while placing first in Interview, second in Art, second in Social Science and third in Math. Senior Olivia Dybing placed second in Math and third in Interview. Junior Laney Jensen placed second in Interview and third in Essay. Junior Eljay Wilcox placed second in Music and Math.

La Lumiere will compete in Online Nationals in April as a small school representative.

"Dance With Me" Program

Michigan City Human Rights Commission has partnered with Studio M and "Dance with Me," a creative movement class designed for people with disabilities.

The eight-week class meets at 5 p.m. Fridays at Studio M, 703 Pearl St. (behind Michigan City Police Department). The partnership was built with the disability community in mind, but is open to everyone.

To encourage dancer participation, the MCHRC and Studio M are offering a raffle where dancers can win a free eight-week session. To date, six dancers will be sponsored through support from the MCHRC, Living Way Church, Lighthouse Restaurant and Sophia's Restaurant.

"Dance with Me" starts Friday, March 2, and costs \$65 for the eight-week session. No experience is needed.

To enter the raffle, drop your name, phone number and email address into boxes at City Hall, Paladin, Barker Woods Enrichment Center, Lighthouse Restaurant, Al's Supermarkets, Barney's or Sophia's Restaurant. The MCHRC and Studio M will choose winners at random Monday, Feb. 26. Winners will be notified immediately.

Visit the Michigan City Human Rights Facebook Page for more information. Local businesses interested in sponsoring additional dancers should contact Joanne Tedesco at (573) 355-7855 or tedescofamily@outlook.com

Winter Tree Walk

Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest (formerly Taltree Arboretum) will host Winter Tree Walk from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24.

Gabis Arboretum Arborist Craig Gress will discuss how to identify trees in winter, and unique characteristics only seen this time of year. The class is hosted outdoors, so dress for the weather.

Gabis Arboretum is located at 71 N. County Road 500 West near Valparaiso. Call (219) 462-0025 for details.

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Cell 219-873-4085
jeffrey.remijas@gmail.com



4121 S. Franklin St.
219-874-2121

1026 N. Karwick Rd.
219-871-0001



Rick Remijas
GRI, CRS
Cell 773-908-1969
rremijas@hotmail.com



2903 Oriole Trail, Long Beach

More than well-maintained, this four-bedroom Long Beach home features a master bath and two other baths beautifully remodeled in 2013 with Grohe and Hansgrohe fixtures. The master is skylit with a separate ladies dressing table, double sink, step-in shower, whirlpool and heated floors. Kitchen has been updated with stainless appliances and granite countertops. Basement rec room, office and bath were remodeled in 2008. All on a flat .37 acre site (90' x 175'). Parking, garage and lush yard are accessed off Shady Oak Drive. Call Rick Remijas to view this home, now **\$489,000**



Hideaway Point

It's never too early to consider building on the lake. Wake up and enjoy the view of Lake Claire from your home in Hidden Shores. Call Jeff Remijas for a copy of the survey, and the covenants and restrictions for building in this area of fine homes. Long Beach address and taxes, Michigan City sewer and sanitation. Offered at **\$139,000**, with 139' frontage on Lake Claire.



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802 US Hwy. 20, East — 219-872-7251**College Goal Sunday**

College Goal Sunday, the free, financial-aid application assistance program, is at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, at Purdue University Northwest, Westville.

The program is in Room 265 of the Technology Building.

University financial-aid experts and service organizational specialists will assist prospective fall 2018 college students and their parents to accurately complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid for submission to the federal processor.

The form is required to be considered for federal and state grants, scholarships and student loans at most colleges, universities and vocational/technical schools nationwide. The deadline is April 15 to be eligible for Indiana financial aid.

Students 23 or younger should attend College Goal Sunday with parent(s) or guardian(s) and take their family's completed 2016 IRS 1040 tax return or a draft. Students who worked during 2016 also should take income information.

Students 24 or older may attend alone and take a completed 2016 IRS 1040 tax return/draft. Students and parents also are encouraged to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to obtain 2016 tax information.

Any student who attends College Goal Sunday and submits a completed evaluation form will be entered in a drawing for a scholarship.

Visit www.collegegoalsunday.org or call (800) 992-2076 for more details.

Paul Kemiell's Lakefront Photos on Beacher Facebook Page

by Andrew Tallackson

One thing I've learned after more than 30 years in newspapers is, certain photos do not translate well into black and white.

Take the art world, for instance. Color can be such an essential component, running a painter's vibrant watercolor piece in black and white suffers immeasurably.

Nature can be another challenge, especially in winter when contrasting stark blue skies above frozen white landscapes.

Since the new year began, *The Beacher's* Paul Kemiell has done a wonderful job capturing images along our lakefront. The sights range from shelf ice, to icicles, to striking sand formations.

So lovely are they, we decided to post them on our Facebook page, rather than in our print edition. Fifteen photos by Paul will appear on our page at noon Thursday, Feb. 22.

Visit "The Beacher Weekly Newspaper" on Facebook, and let us know what you think!

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FEB 22 - MAR 25

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Actors Myesha-Tiara, Cory Goodrich, Landree Fleming and Heidi Kettingring

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Tuesdays & Fridays, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.



La Porte Physician Network



Affiliate of
Indiana University Health

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

- **Science Saturday, Sugar Maple Research from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Learn about the lakeshore's involvement in a national maple tree research study that examines how climate change alters sap output from sugar maple trees.

- **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.

- **Free movie showing from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The documentary is "Lake Michigan in a Dugout Canoe."

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. 24.**

The free naturalist-led snowshoe exercise hike highlights 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.

- **Shipwreck Stories from 2 to 2:45 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24.**

Meet at the Nature Center for the interactive program on Lake Michigan shipwrecks.

- **Shelf Ice Exploration from noon to 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25.**

Meet a naturalist at the beach pavilion to safely explore the shelf ice, winter beach formations and creek waterways.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.



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"The Taming of the Shrew"

Actors From The London Stage will present three performances of "The Taming of the Shrew," Shakespeare's enduring, and controversial, battle of the sexes, at The University of Notre Dame's Washington Hall.

Dates are 7:30 p.m. EST Feb. 28 and March 1-2.



Members of Actors From The London Stage.

Comprised of just five actors, AFTLS combines innovative staging with props and simple costumes. Each actor shares responsibility for directing the play, and performs two or three major roles, as well as several minor ones.

Founded in 1975 by Sir Patrick Stewart and Homer "Murph" Swander, AFTLS tours the United States each spring and fall. The troupe consists of a rotating cast of classically-trained British actors from companies such as Shakespeare's Globe, the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Co.

Ticket costs vary. Visit tinyurl.com/ydd714wt for reservations.

Clean Air Awards

The Northwest Indiana Partners for Clean Air is accepting nominations for its annual Clean Air Awards.

Nominations can be submitted for any Northwest Indiana business, industry, local or county government, organization or individual who has voluntarily worked to protect air quality during the 2017 calendar year. Self-nominations are accepted.

The nomination form is available at tinyurl.com/yapqh7mc. The deadline is March 15.

Four awards will be presented, one in each of the following categories: business, municipal, industrial and bicycle. The bicycling award will recognize an individual or entity for promoting and/or participating in bicycling in Northwest Indiana.

The awards will be presented at the Northwest Indiana PCA's 2018 Luncheon on May 4.

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Is your shoulder pain due to a rotator cuff tear?

FREE ROTATOR CUFF AND SHOULDER PAIN WORKSHOP REVEALS HOW TO ACCELERATE HEALING USING NATURAL TECHNIQUES

Do you have shoulder pain with any of the following day-to-day activities?

- Reaching Overhead?
- Reaching into the Back Seat?
- Reaching Behind Your Back?
- While you Sleep?

Dear Fellow NW Indiana Resident,

If you answered yes to any of the questions above, you surely know that shoulder pain can be such a menace...

It can ruin a good night's sleep... and when you lack sleep, you get cranky.

It can change the way you put on your shirt...or for the ladies, your bra...because it's just too painful to do it the way you used to.

It can stop you from enjoying daily simple tasks...making you frustrated...forcing you to take more pain pills than you would care to admit.

And for golfers out there...it can ruin your game...getting scores you're too embarrassed to tell...your friends are probably wondering why you even care to play!

Is it your rotator cuff that's the culprit?

The rotator cuff is a group of four muscles that run from our shoulder blade into the top end of our bone in our arm. They help keep the ball end of our arm bone centered in the shoulder socket.

When healthy, the rotator cuff allows us to reach in all directions smoothly and without pain.

If you experience pain, weakness or difficulty during the tests mentioned here, it is highly likely that you are suffering from a rotator cuff tear.

1. This first test is called the Drop Arm Test. With your arm relaxed by your side, turn your arm out so your thumb faces directly to the side. Slowly raise your arm to the side, then slowly lower the arm. Test is positive if the arm suddenly drops or you experience severe pain on the way up or down.

2. The Lateral Jobe Test. In this test for the right shoulder, raise your right arm out to the side by lifting your right elbow to 90 degrees, with your hand hanging down, fingers pointed to the ground, your thumb pointing to your tummy. With your left hand, push down on the right arm just above the elbow. Test is positive if you experience pain or weakness.
3. The 3rd test is called Lift-Off Test. The hand of the affected arm is placed on the lower back. Now try lifting the hand off the back without straightening your elbow. Test is positive if you're unable to lift the hand off.

Now you may be asking...can a rotator cuff tear heal and pain subside without medications, injections, or surgery?

In most cases, yes...but it depends on but not limited to the following factors.

- What is the grade of the tear? There are 3 grades.
- Which of the 4 muscles of the rotator cuff is torn.
- How old is the tear.

FREE Rotator Cuff And Shoulder Pain Workshop Feb 27 and March 1

Due to overwhelming request from our fellow La Porte County residents, Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists will host our Rotator Cuff and Shoulder Pain Workshop in La Porte on the following date and location:

- Tuesday 5:00 PM Feb 27th, 2018 at our La Porte office (1405 E. Lincolnway, Suite B)
- Thursday 6:00 PM March 1st, 2018 at our Valparaiso office (3125 Calumet Ave., Suite 8)

Here's what you'll learn during the workshop:

- Know which rotator cuff muscle is affected and the grade of the tear
- Correct the cause of your pain and speed up the healing process
- Prevent your shoulder from getting worse, and avoid the single biggest mistake shoulder pain sufferers make

Due to the interactive nature of this workshop, there are only 20 spots available for this workshop. **To hold your spot, please call 219-380-0809 in La Porte or 219-202-2500 in Valparaiso.**

Sincerely,



Dr. Mike Pfeifer, PT, DPT, ATC

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

PS-Call 219-380-0809 in La Porte or 219-202-2500 in Valparaiso to hold your spot for the FREE Rotator Cuff and Shoulder Pain Workshop.

PPS- Due to the interactive nature of this workshop, there are only 20 spots available for this workshop.

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Oscar Watch — Best Original Song

by Andrew Tallackson

For a good chunk of the past three decades, Best Original Song has been the perpetual hit-or-miss category.

When the movie musical went into cardiac arrest by the early 1980s, it was clear audiences were now too cynical to embrace the idea of characters bursting into song. The genre, long a conqueror of the Best Picture field (“The Sound of Music,” “Oliver”), now lay dormant, the nominees a scattershot menu of whatever scored the most radio airplay.

Disney resuscitated the musical via animation, thanks in large part to Broadway veteran Alan Menken, who cranked out one Oscar-winning hit after another (“Under the Sea,” “Beauty and the Beast,” “A Whole New World,” “Colors of the Wind”).

Then, save for the occasional “Let it Go,” *nada...* until last year, when “La La Land,” the most divisive of Oscar contenders, reminded audiences it is OK to sample a little fantasy in our cinematic diets, that love and loss *can* express themselves through song. That may explain why this year’s slate of Best Original Song contenders is the heartiest, most exciting in years.

The nominees are:

- “Mighty River” from “Mudbound,” Mary J. Blige.
- “Mystery of Love” from “Call Me by Your Name,” Sufjan Stevens.
- “Remember Me” from “Coco,” Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Robert Lopez.
- “Stand Up for Something” from “Marshall,” Diane Warren, Common.
- “This Is Me” from “The Greatest Showman,” Benj Pasek, Justin Paul.

The clear forerunner is “This is Me,” from a movie musical that quietly became a stealth hit.

“The Greatest Showman,” loosely — and I mean *loosely* — based on P.T. Barnum, opened to mild box

office in December, then found an audience through word of mouth as a movie families could experience together. To date, it has grossed more than \$315 worldwide.



Above: Keala Settle in “This is Me.”
Below: Mary J. Blige in “Mudbound.”



The movie is like a full Broadway musical transplanted to the screen. There isn’t much depth to the characters, and many of the songs feel like pre-packaged “High School Musical” tunes. But “This is Me,” largely belted out by Keala Settle as Lettie Lutz, the bearded lady, has become the movie’s anthem, a stirring metaphor for any oppressed group that refuses to be relegated to the shadows. Settle is the movie’s heart, her voice a powerful tool that gives the lyrics their soul.

Would I be disappointed if it won? No. It probably deserves the trophy. However, a soft spot exists for me with Blige’s “Mighty River.” Not familiar with it? Go to YouTube and search for “Mary J. Blige - “Mighty River” (Lyric Video, Mudbound OST)” and take a listen.

Based on Hillary Jordan’s novel, “Mudbound” center on two families — one white, one black — that struggle in post-World War II Mississippi, not just with racism, but also PTSD. It is fitting that Blige, the “Mudbound” nominee for Best Supporting Actress, co-wrote the song. It feels like

an extension of her character. It is a hymn to love’s triumph over hate, and there is tremendous pain and, most of all, hope in Blige’s voice. The performer is one of our generation’s greats, her song haunting you long after hearing it for the first time.

Blige likely won’t take home the Best Supporting Actress trophy. She’s surrounded by too many heavy-hitters: Allison Janney, Laurie Metcalf and Octavia Spencer. But she could be the upset for Best Original Song.

No complaints from me.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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. Thursday, Feb. 22, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

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

• **Bits & Bytes series, "Super Passwords," from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, in the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

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.

• **Rainbow Loom on Friday, Feb. 23, at Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children in grades 3-6 create rainbow loom bracelets. Looms and rubber bands are supplied, but participants can take their own. Supplies are limited. Advanced loomers attend from 5 to 5:30 p.m. and beginner loomers from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Saturday Morning Children's Movie: "Frosty The Snowman" at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Thomas Branch Children's Department.**

Attendees can take a pillow or stuffed animal. Free popcorn will be available.

• **Teen Movie Night: "Wonder" at 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, in The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The movie is Rated PG, with free popcorn available.

• **The Unnamed Guild of Gamers from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Events will include a fifth edition "Dungeons & Dragons" campaign, as well as "Legendary," "Munchkin," "Ultimate Werewolf," "Settlers of Catan" and "Pandemic."



"Wonder."

• **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.

• **"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.

• **Rom-Com Trivia Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Teams of one to four people can vie for a prize, testing their knowledge on films such as "Breakfast at Tiffany's," "Princess Bride," "Pretty Woman," "Silver Linings Playbook" and "Easy A." Refreshments will be served.

• **Minecraft Meet-up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required and must be done in person. The WPL Gaming Policy and Rules of Conduct must be signed upon registration as well. Parents are welcome to attend, but required for youth 10 and younger.

• **"Guardians of the Galaxy Party" from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, at the Thomas Branch Children's Department.**

Children 8-12 will play galactic games, crafts and dance-offs. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.



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Is that pain in your heel or bottom of your foot due to PLANTAR FASCIITIS?

Here's an easy 20 seconds self-test to find out

Does your heel or bottom of your foot hurt:

- with the first few steps out of bed in the morning? Worse as the day progresses?
- when walking after prolonged sitting?
- when climbing stairs or standing on your toes?
- after standing for long periods?

Dear Fellow NW Indiana Resident,

Heel and foot pain is no joke. It can be debilitating...

You begin to dread getting out of bed in the morning...not a great way to start your day.

You get frustrated...disappointed, sometimes even angry at yourself for not being able to do the things you love to do...like shopping, leisure walking, or just simply keeping up with your kids or grandkids.

FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop **Tuesday March 6th and Thursday March 8th**

Due to popular request from patients, and to get our NW Indiana neighbors ready for summer, Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists will host a FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop on the following dates and locations:

- Tuesday March 6, 2018 at 5:00 PM at our La Porte office (1405 E. Lincolnway, Suite B- next to All Star Auto)
- Thursday March 8, 2018 at 6:00 PM at our Valparaiso office (3125 Calumet Ave., Suite 8- next to the YMCA)

Here's what you will learn at the workshop:

- The top 2 most common causes of heel and foot pain
- Single biggest #1 mistake heel and foot pain sufferers make resulting in a condition that necessitates surgery
- How you can heal naturally without medications, injections, or surgery
- Do-it-yourself techniques that will make you feeling better immediately after the workshop

This event is limited to 20 attendees only due to the interactive nature of this workshop. **To hold your spot, please call 219-380-0809 in La Porte or 219-202-2500 in Valpo.**

Sincerely,



Dr. Mike Pfeifer, PT, DPT, ATC

PS-Call 219-380-0809 in La Porte or 219-202-2500 in Valpo to hold your spot for the FREE Heel and Foot Pain Workshop on Tuesday March 6 in La Porte and on Thursday March 8 in Valparaiso.

PS- Limited to 20 spots only at each location.



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- Window Treatments... Closet Systems...



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Get our price... Before you BUY!!!

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 replace water and sewer lines, and create a new streetscape.



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

Q: What will the landscape and amenities look like when the project is completed?

A: Renderings of the amenities and landscaping depicting what the completed project will look like are available at City Hall. Specific amenities, such as the proposed bench seating, are pictured here.

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**Thursday,
March 1**

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Speakeasy at The Spa
333 N. Mineral Springs Rd
Porter, IN

Kerry: (219) 229-2537
Robin: (847) 710-1242

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Michigan City Public Library

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

• **The first Spelling in the City contest at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23, in the library meeting room.**

Third- through fifth-graders are invited to participate. Prizes go to the top three places. Stop by Youth Services or call (219) 873-3045 to register, obtain the rules and word list, and more details.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 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.

Comic Book Convention

The South Bend Comic Book Convention is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 24, at Comfort Suites, 52933 U.S. 933 (Cleveland and U.S. 31).

Dealers will have comics from the golden age to the present, along with collectibles. They also will buy comics. Call Alan at (309) 657-1599 or visit www.epguides.com/comics for details.


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Kindergarten (and Pre-K) Roundup Time!

*If your child will be 5 (or 3)
by August 1st, it's time to enroll!*

**Wednesday, February 28
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
at all elementary schools!**



Coolspring – 9121 W. 300 North – 873-2073
Edgewood – 502 Boyd Circle – 873-2079
Joy – 1600 E Coolspring Avenue – 873-2090
Knapp – 321 Bolka Avenue – 873-2096
Lake Hills – 201 Ferguson Road – 873-2105
Marsh – 401 E Homer Street – 873-2102
Pine – 1660 County Line Road – 873-2114
Springfield – 3054 West 800 North – 873-2117



PreK programs offered by Imagination Station and the La Porte County YMCA also enrolling for fall! For information visit: www.EducateMC.net/preK

Not sure which school your child would attend? Call 873-2127 for assistance.

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Visit EducateMC.net or
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 for an application!
Deadline: March 29

Michigan City Art League

Michigan City Art League has unveiled its spring session of classes.

Offerings are from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays in the Faith City school at Faith City Assembly of God Church, 1314 S. Woodland Ave.

The schedule is:

- March 6 and 13 — Susan Rosso, "Landscape Painting with Acrylics." Take a 12x16 canvas, quality tube acrylic paints, brushes and general supplies. The subject will be provided, or take one.
- March 20 and 27 — Lynn Mitchels, "Mixed Media," oil pastel and watercolor resist.
- April 3 — Bill Cavalier, "Watercolor 1-2-3." Paint a landscape with a 1-pass, 2 pass, 3+pass method. A reference photo is provided, or take one.
- April 10 — Cavalier, "Watercolor Portraiture Made Easy." Learn a simple system using tracing paper.
- April 17 and 24 — Rosso, "From Paper to a Painting." Prepare for class by accumulating scraps of color from magazines, plain and patterned, small quotes and other sources.
- May 1 and 8 — Laura Krentz, "Scratching the Surface." Explore techniques in scratchboard drawing.
- May 15 — Cheryl Dudek, "Using Alcohol Ink on Yupo Paper."
- May 22 — "Member Highlight: Sam Stroud." From her experience as a middle-school art teacher and practicing artist, Stroud will share her knowledge of abstract art, and hints on repurposing used frames.

Annual membership dues are \$25. The semester class fee is \$35 for 12 weeks. Membership and class fees may be mailed to: Michigan City Art League, P.O. Box 9720, Michigan City IN 46360, or paid the day of the class. Arrive by 6:15 p.m. because spots fill quickly. Contact Bunny Dimke at (219) 879-2198 or (219) 877-8177 (text) for details.

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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



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Boating Safety Class

A boating safety class is from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at Michigan City Yacht Club, 12 1/2 On the Lake.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary conducts the course. Participants learn:

- General information about power and sail vessels, including personal watercraft such as Jet Skis or kayaks.
- Information to make boating safer and more comfortable.
- Laws and regulations that impact any recreational boaters, no matter how small a vessel.

The \$40 cost includes lunch catered by Bartlett's Fish Camp Restaurant. Registration is required because seating is limited. Participants receive a certificate of completion if successfully passing the open-book exam taken the day of the class. Some insurers look favorably on earning the USCG Certificate of Completion.

Visit tinyurl.com/yazdnpn7 to register.

Free Butterfly Monitoring Workshop

A free training workshop for prospective volunteer monitors of local butterfly populations is from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Meadowbrook Conservation Center, 109 W. County Road 700 North, Valparaiso.

Henry Drake of The Nature Conservancy's Indiana Chapter will show participants how to identify butterflies, their life cycles and collecting data on Northwest Indiana butterfly populations for the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network. Those wishing only to learn about the program are welcome.

Space is limited, so early registration is advised. Call Shirley Heinze Land Trust at (219) 242-8558 or email volunteer@heinzetrust.org to register or for more details.

Mayor's Night Out

Michigan City Mayor Ron Meer will host his first Mayor's Night Out from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, at Edgewood Elementary School's gymnasium, 502 Boyd Circle.

The event invites residents to a town hall-type meeting so they can speak with Meer and city officials about services, projects, budgets and any other topic. One-on-one discussions are on a first-come, first-served basis. For any topic that requires further discussion or followup, printed forms will be at each table with contact information.

Contact Abigale Thayer at athayer@emichigan-city.com or (219) 873-1400, Ext. 2003, for details.

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PEO Welcomes New Member



Former Barker Middle School teacher and sports coach Ree Labaj was initiated by PEO Chapter DF at a recent meeting. Labaj was born and raised in Warsaw, Ind., attended Manchester University and subsequently moved to Michigan City in 1970, where she began her career. PEO supports educational goals of women through scholarships. Pictured are Chapter President Tammy Sage (left), Labaj and member Connie Crama.

Arboretum Name Change Official

Purdue University Northwest is now officially operating the 300-plus-acre arboretum near Valparaiso long known as Taltree Arboretum & Gardens.

The gift was made to the university from the Taltree Foundation's board and Damien and Rita Gabis. The Purdue University Board of Trustees approved the renaming to Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest on Feb. 9. All legal and real estate transactions were completed Jan. 31.

PNW will continue to operate the property as an arboretum for public, educational, conservation and recreational use. No immediate changes in programs or facilities are planned.



Keon

The gift to the university, announced in December, is valued at approximately \$12 million. It is the largest donation in the history of the PNW campuses to date.

Purdue Northwest Chancellor Thomas Keon said the arboretum will enhance educational, research and academic programming offered to PNW students and the community.

Examples might include:

- Biology faculty conducting research on distinct habitats.
- Engineering and technology design teams working with arboretum staff to enhance visitor experiences.
- Hospitality and tourism management students assisting with event management and service delivery for the many events and community functions hosted at the site.
- English, humanities and other faculty and students collaborating to produce and perform theatrical productions on the arboretum grounds.

Visit tinyurl.com/y7g36jlf for details.

Porter County Volunteer Fair

United Way of Porter County and Neighbors' Educational Opportunities will present the second Porter County Volunteer Fair from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22.

More than 15 Northwest Indiana nonprofits will discuss their volunteer needs and community impact. Participants include Boy Scouts of America, Food Bank of Northwest Indiana, Housing Opportunities, Project Neighbors, Opportunity Enterprises, Shirley Heinz Land Trust and United Way Regional Volunteer Center.

The free event is held at Neighbors' Education Opportunities, 5201 U.S. 6, Portage. Visit united-waypc.org for details.

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<http://www.thebeacher.com/>

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LaLu Science Olympiad Team

La Lumiere School sent two teams to the Indiana Science Olympiad regional competition Feb. 10 at Goshen College, competing against 11 teams from seven northern Indiana schools.

La Lumiere's two teams, called Blue and White, won 26 medals at regionals, with the White team finishing sixth overall. The Blue team placed first overall to qualify for the Indiana Science Olympiad State Finals on March 1 at Indiana University-Bloomington.



The La Lumiere Science Olympiad teams pose with their medals after the regional competition.

Science Olympiad tests students' abilities in Earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, engineering and problem solving. There are 23 events, including: Experimental Design; Mousetrap Vehicle; Forensics; Hovercraft; Disease Detectives; and Remote Sensing.

This is La Lumiere's 26th consecutive appearance at the Science Olympiad state competition.

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Michigan City office location

Monday Musicale

Vocalists take center stage during a Monday Musicale open meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

Candace Archer will chair the program "Brought to You by the Letters O, P, Q & R," as the group makes its way through the musical alphabet. Joining Archer are Kathy Chase, Anthony Holt, Kathi Jones, Laura Meyer and Carrie Zerbe.

The program includes selections by Puccini, tunes from Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of the Opera," the 1950s pop standard "Que Sera Sera," Mozart's "Queen of the Night's Aria" from "The Magic Flute," songs popularized by Patti Page and selections from Gershwin's folk opera, "Porgy and Bess."

Barb and Stan Holdcraft, the hosting committee, will serve refreshments. The public is invited. Donations to the club's scholarship fund are appreciated.

Contact Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for details.

Community Spell Bowl

Teams are sought for READ La Porte County's Community Spell Bowl, which is Thursday, March 28, at the LaPorte Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 181 W. McClung Road.

Doors open at 6 p.m., with the event starting at 6:30 p.m. The Spirit Award will be presented to the table with the most spirited table decorations/team representing their business or organization.

Teams can have up to four members. The cost is \$50 for non-profits and \$100 for all other businesses. March 22 is the registration deadline. Visit tinyurl.com/y6voy65e for details.

HannaFest 2018

HannaFest organizers seek vendors to sell arts, crafts and food in the town park Aug. 11.

This is the 29th annual town festival that includes a car show, parade, music, kids' and family activities, food, street dances and a town-wide garage sale. Booths, which are approximately 12x12, are \$15 (electricity booths and food vendors cost \$25).

Hanna is located off U.S. 30 between Valparaiso and Plymouth. The festival is sponsored by the Hanna Lions Club. Contact Heather Stevens at (219) 851-8401 or heatherjstevens2012@gmail.com for reservations or more details.

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Art Barn Classes, Workshops

Valparaiso's Art Barn School of Art has announced its lineup of classes and summer workshops.

Included are programs for adults and children, as well as the 25th anniversary of the organization's annual juried art show.

Weekly classes for adults consist of watercolor instruction, an all-media class for all levels, open studio times and a life drawing session. Children's classes are held weekly, and homeschooled children can join special classes on Mondays.



The Art Barn School of Art.

Summer workshops include multi-day events in watercolor, plein air painting and an all-media class. Workshops begin at 9 a.m. each morning and include lunch. Students are instructed by artists who travel from various parts of the U.S. and are well-known in their respective mediums.

For children, summer includes three weeks of kids' camps in June and July.

Summer adult workshops are:

- Watercolor with Ken Hosmer, April 30-May 3.
- Simplifying the Outdoor Scene, A Plein Air Workshop, with Mark VanderVenne, June 8-10.
- Watercolor with Ratindra Das, June 11-14.
- Release Your Art Inhibitions with Lee Ligocki, July 17-18.
- Fresh & Expressive Watercolor with Tom Francesconi, Aug. 1-3.
- Watercolor Simplified with Pat Weaver, Aug. 20-23.

Visit artbarnschool.org or the Art Barn on Facebook for more details.



Long Beach Women's Bowling

Feb. 13, 2018

TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Diagonal Divas	19	5
2. Queen Pins/Lucky Lefties	16	8
3. Wrecking Balls	14.5	9.5
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE	
1. June Salmon	172	
2. Polly Fletcher	163	
3. Sue Luegers	161	
4. Cindy Beck	158	
5. Barb McCorkel	156	
5. Kathy Osborne	156	
6. Tammy Nelmar	151	
7. Ann Bogart	150	
8. Peggy King (series)	431	
9. Mary Lou McFadden (series)	401	
SPLITS		
1. Sue Woodland	3-10	
2. Peggy King	3-10	
THREE STRIKES		
June Salmon, Kathy Osborne, Ellie Parkerson		



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



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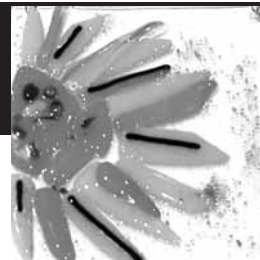
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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Feb. 23 — Spelling in the City contest, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

Feb. 23 — Dawn Beyer & Mike Fleenor with special guest Peter Nye, 7 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25, \$35 for show & meet-greet @ 5 p.m. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

Feb. 24 — Hamfest, 7 a.m.-1 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St.

Feb. 24 — Saturday Morning Children's Movie: "Frosty The Snowman," 10:30 a.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Feb. 24 — Science Saturday: Sugar Maple Research, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 24 — Shipwreck Stories, 2-2:45 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 24 — Teen Movie Night: "Wonder," 3 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Feb. 25 — Shelf Ice Exploration, noon-1 p.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 25 — Free movie showing, "Lake Michigan in a Dugout Canoe," 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 26 — Monday Musicale open meeting, 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Info: (219) 874-3754, (219) 362-1421.

Feb. 27 — Rom-Com Trivia Night, 7-8:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Feb. 28 — "Guardians of the Galaxy Party," 6-7 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana 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

Through April 29 — Photography exhibit, "David Larson: 50 Years of Photography in the Indiana Dunes," Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

In the Region

Feb. 24 — South Bend Comic Book Convention, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EST, Comfort Suites, 52933 U.S. 933 (Cleveland and U.S. 31). Info: (309) 657-1599.

Feb. 24 — Winter Tree Walk, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest (formerly Taltree Arboretum), 71 N. County Road 500 West near Valparaiso. Info: (219) 462-0025.

Feb. 28-March 3 — Actors From The London

Stage, "The Taming of the Shrew," 7:30 p.m. EST, The University of Notre Dame's Washington Hall. Tickets/reservations: tinyurl.com/ydd714wt

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.



American Red Cross

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

- Marquette High School, 306 W. 10th St., noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22.
- Franciscan St. Anthony Health-Michigan City, 301 W. Homer St., 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23.
- Coolspring Elementary School, 9121 W. County Road 300 North, 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 26. Students who recruit one presenting donor receive a Red Cross medal while supplies last.
- A.K. Smith Career Center, 817 Lafayette St., 7:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27.
- Michigan City Fire Training Center, 2510 E. Michigan Blvd., 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018. Those who donate can receive a T-shirt.

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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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.****FOR SALE**

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The Girlfriend Sale presents A Designer Clothing and Jewelry Sale
Event, Sat. Feb. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and Sun., Feb. 25, Noon-4 p.m.
View and shop 2018's newest designer items from your favorite boutiques. An amazing collection of the very best in style and design. Attention to detail, luscious fabrics, rich textures and quality craftsmanship have created pieces that will be your favorite go-to items now and for years to come. AND...to top off your wardrobe, a special handpicked selection of stunning artisan crafted jewelry, handbags and accessories. Of course, all items are sweetly discounted. Come play for the day and discover a beautiful new you. Check out the Girlfriend Sale Facebook page for a sneak peak photo preview of the sale. Photos will be available the week before the sale.

The Long Beach Community Center
2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach, IN

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

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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.

RENTALS INDIANA

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, basketball. 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

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Buildable site in Michiana Shores: 5 corner lots (200x130).
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La Porte County Parks



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

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Feb. 26, March 12 and 19, and April 2, 16 and 30 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first.

The schedule is:

- March 7 — Hard Working Animals.
- March 21 — Did You Call Me?
- April 11 — When It Rains It Pours.
- April 25 — Fantastic Fish.

Senior Lifestyles

Join the free 55+ Club, a social club designed for adults 55 and older to learn and explore various types of nature. Free coffee is served to participants.

The group meets from 9 to 10 a.m. at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Call at least one week in advance to register. The schedule is:

- March 7 — Fraud and scam presentation from LaPorte County Sheriff Department, and "Hearing Loss and Dizziness: What You Need to Know," Family Nurse Practitioner Chris Maddox.
- April 4 — "The Art of Aging: Treatment Options," Licensed Esthetician Stacy Bernhardt.
- May 2 — "Recycling, Composting, Soil Health," Sacha Gee-Burns of LaPorte County Solid Waste District.

Spa Day at the Park

The event is from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 10, at Red Mill County Park's Pat Smith Hall.

The first 50 present receive a goodie bag. A variety of booths will highlight services such as aromatherapy, makeup, chair massages, natural beauty care products and jewelry.

No pre-registration is required.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Vintage: A Novel by David Baker (paperback, \$16 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

"Every meal tells a story. When you cook for someone, you are communicating more directly than you can through any other means. You could make love, whisper in ears, taste skin, exchange pleasure, but that is only a moment of transient sensation."

Different. If I had to give this book just one word, it would be — different. Embodying wine, music, mystery and epicurean delights, all wrapped up in 306 pages, the subject matter is exciting and mouth-watering! It didn't receive a lot of fanfare when it was published almost two years ago, despite good reviews, but the book had me at Page 1, and that's why I'm passing it on to you. Here's why...

Bruno Tannenbaum is no super hero. Not by a long shot. He's married to Anne, with two daughters: Claire the teenager and Carmen the younger daughter. However, Bruno is sleeping on the couch at his mother's house. Here's why...

Twenty years ago, right out of college, Bruno wrote a novel that sold well. Ten years later he wrote a collection of essays called "Twenty Recipes for Love." It was a big hit. *"It wasn't just the epicures who bought it...It had a gimmick: it would help you mend relationships or seduce your neighbor through food."*

For some years, Bruno's been writing a food column for *The Chicago Sun-Times*. But now, Bruno is let go through downsizing. His agent has been bugging him for another book for some 10 years — but, no surprise, Bruno always has an excuse. But now that he's lost his only money-making gig, writing a new book has become a necessity...and he's going to have to face Anne and the girls about losing his job.

During the nearly 20 years he and Anne have been married, Bruno has spent his money traveling all over Europe, ostensibly researching his next book, but in reality, drinking a lot of wine, eating a lot of gourmet food and spending a lot of nights with a lot of ladies. Yeah, he's a bit of a ne'er-do-well, but everyone agrees Bruno is a fantastic cook and a connoisseur of fine wine...if he could just get his act together. He's a likable guy still recognized on the street by many for that collection of essays on food and love.

Bruno knows he needs to settle down with a 9-5 job, but can't get the thought out of his head of re-

demption through another bestselling book. Sure enough, a visit with a Russian restaurateur leads to a conversation about some missing French wine from World War II, which sets him off and running. Here's why...

This vintage wine is a holy grail for wine connoisseurs. The search for it, and hopefully, the finding of it, along with a new book, would make his comeback complete.

Bruno is soon winging his way to Europe. First stop, the Burgundy region of France and a trip to the winery of Sylvie Trevallier, granddaughter of the man who made the missing vintage. She sends him on to find the family of the Nazi who supposedly took all their wine during the German occupation in 1943. That lead sends him through Germany and Poland and on to Russia. Along the way, he meets people who help him, who feed him, invite him to a wedding, even follow him. Oh yes, Bruno is finally aware that someone else is looking for the 1943 Trevallier wine cache. Now, the chase is really on... but does Bruno ever think he might find answers in a Russian prison? That makes for an interesting encounter.

Many food-preparation hints and pairings from around the world make this an all-around enjoyable read. I couldn't hate Bruno despite his laissez faire attitude.

As he explains his family life growing up, we learn his mother was Catholic, his father a Jew, and they generally avoided religion. *"They worshipped instead through food. He'd inherited the religion of the table and felt that God dwelt there..."*

Does Bruno find the wine? Ah, that's for you to find out. Here's why...

By the end of the book, Bruno realizes he can never be a great man, but perhaps a better one. And all things considered, isn't that a lot for one man to accomplish?

This story is delicious, especially with a nice glass of Pinot Noir. After all —

In vino veritas!

Portland Tribune: "An un-snobby wine thriller [and] an excellent pairing with just about any book club."

Chicago Review of Books: "A funny, danger-filled, romantic read filled with enough delicious food descriptions to make even the most well-fed reader hungry."

Library Journal (starred review): "A feast for all readers, with a warning only to those on a diet!"

Baker holds a Master of Fine Arts from Columbia College Chicago and is the director of "American Wine Story." Website: davidalexanderbaker.com

Till next time, happy reading!



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11.72 Acres

\$119,000

**510 Eastwood Road**

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\$89,000

**Rue Du Lac**

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**1931 N Wozniak Road**

1.00 Acre

\$50,000

**Springland Ave - 94-96**

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\$10,000 (each)



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You'll Fall In Love With These Properties!



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 • \$575,000

Welcome to Dune House! East unit overlook Lake Michigan and include 3 stories of quality workmanship with multiple decking and rooftop. This well-maintained 3-bedroom, 4-bath home is ready for their new owner!



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