



Volume 34, Number 3 Thursday, January 25, 2018

One for the Record Books

by William Halliar

Editor's note — This is the last in a two-part series.



The sign for Stop 29 along Lake Shore Drive is barely visible above the mountains of snow.

The year has barely begun, and already Old Man Winter has been hard at work, blanketing us in a beautiful cottony comforter of white. Blizzard conditions are compounded by the bitter cold that envelopes us whenever we venture out, freezing our breath almost as quickly as it leaves our bodies.

We in Northwest Indiana must realize that winter weather can be fierce, the challenges frightful. We live and thrive here because we are hearty folk. In some ways, these great storms are challenges we look forward to; besides, without these blizzards to

look back upon, what would we have to talk about in the balmy summer months?

It is the memorable storms of our past that give us a sense of pride for having survived them. We can view them as difficult challenges, or as the great adventures they are.

Everyone, it seems, who has grown up in Northwest Indiana has a story to tell, and this year marks the 40th anniversary of the 1978 blizzard. The tale that emerged from it are many.

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Youngsters pose with massive icicles they discovered.

The Sunday, Jan. 1, 1978, edition of *The South Bend Tribune* reported the previous winter, 1976-1977, was the worst ever, with total snowfall measured at 125" for the entire season. The newspaper's staff could not have known that by the end of January 1978, the people of LaPorte County would experience what *The Herald-Argus* reported as the "Killer Blizzard of 1978," named so because 75 people died as a result of it nationwide.

That was the year Jimmy Carter was 39th U.S. president. Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds set a record with 3,000 Major Leagues hits. The Susan B. Anthony Dollar was first minted. A bill was signed making legal home brewing of beer.

The snowstorm of 1978 made itself known Jan. 23-27. It was one for the record books, dumping a total of 28" of snow on the county, for a total of 58"



The work begins to clear the city of the endless sea of white.



A vehicle buried in snow by the former Memorial Hospital.

for the month. A three-month record for November, December and January ended with a snowfall of 102" for 1978 — a record that still stands.

United Press International reported on Jan. 27 that "The great blizzard of 1978 has departed the Midwest and bitter cold covered the area, but it will be weeks before the region recovers and years before memories of the storm fade."



Plows attempt to clear the roads from the mountains of snow left during the 1978 blizzard.

And the stories of that January from 40 years ago are still being told around kitchen tables and in front of cozy fires.

Joseph Batchelder, a Hudson Lake resident at the time of the storm, wrote an account that can be found among records at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum. He writes of the snow, "The depth is 4 to 6 feet with drifts up to 15 to 20 feet high."

Michigan City resident Nancy Drewes recalls her experiences. She and her husband, Jack, had 1-year-old twins, Trevor and Jason. One of her

neighbors, whose name she never knew, arrived riding a snowmobile and went door to door checking on folks, making sure they had supplies needed to wait out the storm. It took more than a week for Jack to dig their car out and get it on the road. They thought they would "never get out!"



Jack and Nancy Drewes.
Photo by William Halliar

The Drewes' home was near Interstate 94, and Nancy remembers watching the traffic during the storm as it began to move slower and slower, finally coming to a halt — the constant roar of the expressway falling silent in the blowing

snow. Hundreds of people were stranded in their cars. Many walked through waist-deep snow over guardrails and up embankments to the Drewes' home to make phone calls for assistance.

Bill Landing shared a collection of newspaper clippings from 1978 that helped with researching this article. He was in high school at the time and remembers, as any teenager would, that he was glad to have the time off of school. His fondest memories are of having to walk everywhere, the white-out conditions, and that many people were able to get around on snowmobiles. Bill also laughs as he retells falling into a snowdrift.

Kim McCoy related an interesting story.

She was pregnant in January 1978 with her first child. Her doctor was anxious to induce labor since he was leaving on vacation as soon as her child was born. Odd, but true.

Baby Ryan was finally born at 6:45 p.m. Jan. 18,

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Kim McCoy holds newborn son Ryan amid the mountains of snow.

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

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but because of jaundice, he had to remain in the hospital. Kim was allowed to stay with him. Her room was semi-private, and the woman with whom she shared the room snored so badly, Kim decided to go home nights and return during daylight hours to be with her son. Her sister, Lorna, picked her up from the hospital and drove her home in blowing snow.

Meanwhile, Kim's husband, Ken, who worked at a local steel mill, was finishing his shift when the snow began to fall. He had to stay a second shift. His relief team could not make it in because of drifting snow on the roads. Ken ended up spending 2 1/2 days at the mill, working 16 hours on and eight 8 hours off, sleeping on hard, cold benches and eating the ever diminishing food supply from vending machines.

On Jan. 23, the great blizzard struck with a vengeance, and everyone was stranded where they found themselves at the time. No vehicles could negotiate the streets. Kim remembers she and Lorna were stuck in the house together. Her brother, Brad Moenkhaus, and brother-in-law, Tom Bassett, walked through ever-deepening drifts to make sure the ladies were safe.

While Ken worked and slept on wooden benches in the mill, Kim, Lorna, Brad and Tom played cards, warm and cozy at the McCoy home. Kim remembers the boys made a few trips on foot to a local market for food supplies and, most importantly, beer.

Finally, by Jan. 28, the roads were cleared enough to allow Kim and Ken to bring Ryan home, 10 days after his birth.



The Battles family, amid the massive mountains of snow at their home, located at Stop 30 in Long Beach.

Beverly Battles and her husband, Jerry, planned for months to take a trip to Hawaii. They intended to fly out of Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on Saturday, Jan. 28. The trouble was, their Long Beach home was snowed in. They could not get out of the front door.

In addition, the banks were closed because of the storm, so there was no money to be had for the trip. Credit cards were not as common as they are now. Beverly's mother was supposed to watch the teen-aged children and the house while they were away, but she could not make it either.

By Jan. 27, they gave up. How could they possibly make the trip? A neighbor, Nancy McGeady said, "You have to go." She knew how long the Battles planned for this vacation.

Nancy had plenty of money socked away in her house, so she lent it to them. The Battles' children, who were in a hurry to get their parents out of the house, had to dig a tunnel from the front door of their home to the street. Beverly and Jerry had to drag their luggage through the tunnel to load it in the car.

The drive to Chicago took many hours, but they arrived in time for their flight, only to discover it would be delayed for 14 hours! Eventually, their flight took off, making a stop in St. Louis, where Beverly remembers a whole group that had been waiting in a bar for 14



Belle Plaine Trail in Long Beach, plowed so motorists could make it through the neighborhood.

hours stumbled onto the plane.

On the lighter side, the vacation in Hawaii was memorable and enjoyable.

In the Battles' absence, their teen children were left unsupervised since Beverly's mother could not make it. Beverly smiles, saying she is sure the Battles' home was "Party Central" for Long Beach teens during the time they were gone. A friendly neighbor stopped by the house every evening at 11 p.m. to "borrow a cup of sugar" just to make sure all was well.

Of all of the stories, whether amusing or filled with hardship, one main thread is the neighborliness of people of our communities, and the willingness to aid neighbors, even strangers, who find themselves in need.

Nancy Drewes smiles when remembering the big storm of 1978.

"Joy comes from helping each other," she said.

Now, what stories will the winter of 2018 leave in our memories?

Special Thanks

Many of the photos that appear with this story arrive courtesy of local archivist Mike Fleming, who has offered tremendous support to *The Beacher* over the years. Thanks to Mike for all his help!



Former Beacher Owner Jerry Montgomery, in a photo taken by his wife, Sally, as he attempts to clear a path at their Long Beach home.

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One More Tale

Shelly Yanke, barber extraordinaire, related an interesting tale as her clipper buzzed and glided over my graying locks, working tonsorial magic. She told me her story as I sat back and relaxed, almost nodding off, in an old-fashioned barber chair.

Shelly was 3 in 1977 when a major January blizzard spread over LaPorte County, dropping a large quantity of snow, blocking roads and making driving impossible. She was too young to recall the events of the day, but her grandmother told the story to her and saved a newspaper clipping that forever memorialized the incident.

Amid the stormy night, Shelly developed a high fever managed only by a certain medicine prescribed by her doctor. The problem was that Shelly's grandmother, Mary Allen, who lived on Clover Lane in Trail Creek, was snowed in and could not get to a

drug store.

A bit desperate because of her granddaughter's sickness, Allen called the sheriff's department, which relayed a message to Trail Creek police. Officer Eugene "Skip" Pierce braved the storm and icy roads to pick up the prescription from a local drug-gist. He was able to bring it as far as Pahs Road and

Clover Lane, where Allen's husband, Bill, walked to meet him. He did not know the name of the officer who braved the wind and drifts to help his granddaughter in this time of need.

Shelly was administered the medicine and the fever abated. Soon, she was up and running around the house like the happy 3-year-old that she was.

The Allens were touched by this act of selflessness, wanting to thank the officer, so they contacted a local newspaper, which learned the officer's name and published an article identifying him and giving him thanks for his effort.

Shelly remains thankful for this act of kindness that kept her from a much more serious illness.



Shelly Yanke holds the newspaper clipping that tells the story of how one police officer came to her family's aid during the 1977 storm.



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Margot Robbie stars as disgraced figure skater Tonya Harding in “I, Tonya.”

“I, Tonya” is the Cinematic Equivalent of a Train Wreck

by Andrew Tallackson

The whole Tonya Harding-Nancy Kerrigan debacle remains such a colossal train wreck, an absurd symbol of the American dream gone wrong, it is only fitting “I, Tonya” reduces the events to the equivalent of a Christopher Guest mockumentary.

Guest, the sly and dry genius behind “Waiting for Guffman,” “Best in Show” and “A Mighty Wind,” spins faux comic documentaries populated by desperate, yet sincere ne’er-do-wells who rise and fall in their quest for success.

Harding’s story is a rare case where truth was more peculiar than fiction. You could not have assembled a more insane cast of characters, and director Craig Gillespie knows it. Structured around fake interviews, and characters breaking the imaginary “fourth wall,” speaking directly to the camera, “I, Tonya” is a rags-to-riches-to-rags-again saga envisioned as a foul-mouthed redneck nightmare.

Honestly, there is nothing like it. Margot Robbie, as Tonya, Sebastian Stan, as lover-turned husband-turned jealous/protective ex Jeff Gillooly, and Allison Janney as Tonya’s monstrous mother LaVona, and “mother” is used in the most generous of terms, are a sight to behold. These are not smart, likable people. The actors, however, are so fearless, all you can do is sit back with jaw poised to drop.

Gillespie, whose “Lars and the Real Girl” (2007) remains one of my favorite films, depicts Tonya as never having stood a chance. The reason? LaVona. Janney, apparently modeling her performance after tigers that eat their young, treats LaVona as a driven, chain-smoking brute, verbally and physically abusive toward Tonya so, later in the life, the same treatment she receives from Gillooly is one of life’s givens.

Thing is, Tonya can throw a punch, too. Whether she likes it or not, she is her mother’s daughter, and it is that crassness that alienates her from ice-skating judges who thumb their noses at her. To them, she is white trash in gaudy costumes. Robbie, an actress of rare bravery, creates in Tonya an emotional and physical tsunami who flattens everyone in her wake. A woman with legitimate ice-skating talent whose rare vulnerable moments, like when she states her case before disapproving judges, bely a refusal to own up to poor choices. Just when you feel for her, her behavior betrays that sympathy.

Gillooly, a dim bulb who uses violence as an outlet for his own frustrations, draws out of Stan his best work. Let’s face it: playing Bucky Barnes in the “Captain America” saga does this guy no favors. He’s a sour bore. But here, he’s explosive, Gillooly’s fits of rage exceedingly terrifying.

Bobby Cannavale turns up as a “Hard Copy” producer who describes the “incident” — the attack on rival skater Nancy Kerrigan — as orchestrated by a gang of “boobs.” Gillespie doesn’t stage the assault and ensuing media circus as broad laughs, but instead lets the atrocious reality of it unfold as a dark comedy of errors.

Does “I, Tonya” succeed as entertainment? Train wreck, again, is more apt. Had Gillespie taken a more serious approach, the film might have been bleak and depressing. Then again, how can you have Tonya’s overweight, imbecilic bodyguard tell investigators he was trained by special forces and not find it curiously amusing?

I mean, seriously...

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

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WinterFest is Back With Slate of Family Events

The annual WinterFest, organized by La Porte Park and Recreation Department, returns with many popular events and a couple of new twists.

The events kick off with ice sculpture demonstrations, presented by Downtown La Porte and local businesses and organizations, at 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, at Plaza 618. The theme is "Celebrate LaPorte."

Family ceramics is from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 27, on the lower level of LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Participants can paint seasonal gifts such as snowmen, Valentine's Day boxes and figurines, and Easter eggs. The \$6 cost includes paints and brushes, but not the bisque item for decorating. All children must have a parent or guardian present.

The "Snowball Softball" adult coed tournament returns to Lions Field at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, and is planned regardless of the weather.

Breakfast with the Birds, sponsored by La Porte County Parks, is from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Sample breakfast treats while watching birds at the bird-feeding station. No pre-registration is required. The program is open to all ages, but children must be accompanied by an adult.

DeCamp's Band of Brothers Foundation will present the inaugural Polar Plunge at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, in Stone Lake. Participants are asked

to raise \$100 to benefit Clarke Park's renovation. Participants can warm up afterward with refreshments, including hot chocolate, by the fire at Cummings Lodge.

Certified instructor Becca Masters will teach a free Barre Class from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 27, in the Civic's lower level (use the Plain Street ramp). The program is free; however, donations will be accepted to support the park department's Youth Scholarship Program.



Family ceramics returns as part of WinterFest. File photo by Bob Wellinski

Susan Taylor will lead "Strengthen By Stretching," a free, gentle, safe, low-impact workout from 1 to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, in the Civic's lower level (use the Plain Street ramp). Donations will be accepted to support the park department's Youth Scholarship Program.

A Community Snow Angel event, which aims to see how many people can make snow

angels simultaneously, is at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, behind Cummings Lodge.

Stone Lake Beach is the site of Family Beach Day from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27. Take a beach pail and shovel to build a "sand" castle, participate in a volleyball game, tug-of-war, Frisbee golf, limbo and "parachute" game (a beach ball with blanket). Hot chocolate will be available at the beach house.

Free horse-drawn carriage rides are from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, in Soldiers Memorial Park. After a trot through the park, hot chocolate will be available by the fireplace at Cummings Lodge.

A wheel throwing pottery demonstration by local artist Alayna Bublitz is from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, in the Civic's ceramics room (enter through the ramp on Plain Street). The event includes time for individuals to sit at a wheel.

Call (219) 326-9600 or visit www.cityoflaporte.com/450/WinterFest for more details, including updates involving weather-related cancellations.

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Friday at Noon is the deadline for the following week's issue. (219) 879-0088



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Members Advantage Credit Union is offering college scholarships to qualifying high school seniors and students in their first or second year in college.

The scholarships are:

- The \$1,000 Gail Walker Memorial Scholarship in memory of the former board member's years of service. It is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior, college freshman or sophomore with academic achievement.
- The annual \$1,000 Leona Bruno Scholarship in memory of the first MACU manager. It goes to a graduating high school senior with scholastic achievement.
- \$500 Learn to Earn Scholarships for two college students working at least 20 hours per week.

The deadline is Feb. 12. Call (219) 874-6943 or (877) 874-6943, or visit tinyurl.com/y79vlabe for details.

Hoosier Star Auditions

Auditions are set for La Porte County Symphony Orchestra's 13th annual Hoosier Star, a benefit-competition open to amateur singers of all musical styles and age groups from throughout Indiana.

Auditions are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 24, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at La Porte Little Theatre, 218 A St.



Jarynn Sampson, the Hoosier Star 2017 youth winner.
Photo by Bob Wellinski

Contestants are divided into two age groups: youth 17 and younger, and adults 18 and older at the time of auditions. Ten finalists — five in each age group — advance from there. Duet performers will be considered one finalist per each duet group. The 10 finalists perform with the LCSO, conducted by Philip Bauman on Saturday, Sept. 8, at La-Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. The audience chooses the two winners in each age division. First and second place in the Youth Division receive \$500 and \$250, respectively. First and second place in the Adult Division receive \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

Registration forms are available at HoosierSTAR.com. Contestants are encouraged to pre-register for a guaranteed time slot. The audition fee is \$20 per person or duet. If a competitor would like to audition as a soloist and a duet, he/she must submit two separate audition forms, including separate fees. Audition applications must be postmarked by March 16 to receive a guaranteed time slot. Walk-ins are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis during the audition dates.

No group performances may enter, and both competitors in a duet must be from the same age division. For auditions, applicants may provide their own accompanist, use a CD with no lead vocals, supply a digital mp3 capable device or sing a cappella.

Call (219) 362-9020 or email HoosierSTAR2018@gmail.com for more details.



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Michigan City Public Library Announces Remodeling Plans

Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St., is planning a \$1.6 million, three-year remodel project that will add a Makerspace, new meeting-room space and enhanced computer availability.

The project's first phase begins in February and should conclude by August. The cost is spread over three years and financed with saved and existing resources. No

bond issue or capital-project funds will be used.

Phase I will begin in the Youth Services Department and include audio-visual and periodical updates. The creation of a Makerspace in Youth Services is included. It will be a STEAM-based collaborative work space for children and teens. Here, they will create DIY projects, invent new ones, work with electronics and robotics, and share ideas.

Youth Services also will get a new public-service desk, improved shelving, an expanded BabyTalk area with activity tables, a puppet theater and new, colorful chairs and tables. The teen area will have improved AV shelving, and meeting and lounge tables with electrical and data availability.

Also planned is new audio-visual and periodical displays, new lobby furniture, and data and electrical enhancements.



A rendering of some of the library improvements.

Phase II is scheduled for 2019. It includes creating private and enclosed study rooms with electrical and data enhancements, and a private study room designed for up to 10 people with electrical and data updates. The Reference Department will get a new and expanded

computer lab, new public-service desk, new staff offices and a new Indiana Room for local history and genealogy.

Phase III concludes the project in 2020. The circulation department will get a new public-service counter, improved shelving in the lobby area, new furniture and a redesigned main entrance. All areas of the library will be recarpeted.

The architect is Product Architecture + Design and the construction manager is Larson-Danielson Construction Co. During construction, some areas will be closed and inaccessible to the public. The library, however, plans to be open during the project. Visit www.mclib.org and social media for updates.

Chamber Seeks Artist Submissions

The Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce is accepting submissions for a permanent sculptural piece to celebrate its 2018 centennial.

Amateur and professional artists, and artist teams, that specialize in projects involving large metal, glass and sand (or a combination thereof) are encouraged to participate.

The chosen artist receives a stipend of up to \$7,000 to realize his/her work. The submission deadline for proposals is Feb. 16. Artists must live in the Northwest Indiana region.

The accepted work will be on display at a busy intersection heading toward the lakefront.

Those interested should contact the chamber at (219) 874-6389 or info@mcachamber.com

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Valentine's Day at Barker Mansion

Local musicians Steve Champagne, David Lahm and Mary Rapier will present "A Victorian Romance" from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.

The concert helps celebrate the 125th wedding anniversary of Katherine and John Barker, who owned the Midwest's largest freight-car factory. Katherine was Barker's second wife, as he lost his first love and three infant children to illness.

Katherine was a schoolteacher at nearby Barker Hall, and John sat on the school board. The couple married on Valentine's Day in 1893. On this day, Katherine went from being a teacher and the daughter of Irish immigrants to the wife of a millionaire.

The concert will mirror events held at the mansion during the Barkers' heyday in Michigan City. Considered the premier social hosts in town, they were known for elaborate parties.

The Feb. 10 event features self-guided mansion tours, live music, a sweets table with Katherine and John's anniversary cake, live actors depicting the Barkers on their wedding day and a champagne toast. Tickets for the 21 and older event cost \$25 and are available at avictorianromance.eventbrite.com



Katherine Barker is photographed in a wedding reception dress on Valentine's Day 1893.

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The Top 3 Common Causes of Lower Back Pain and Sciatica

Dear Fellow NW Indiana Resident,

Back pain and sciatica can be one of the most frustrating problems to deal with...leading to pain killers, expensive MRIs, multiple injections, and even surgery.

What's worse is that many times these costly procedures do not lead to being pain free...or even less pain OR relief...leading to frustration...feeling like life is passing you by...and depression.

BUT from experience of helping over 2000 patients with back pain and sciatica heal naturally without medications, injections, or surgery...I can share that in every case the person got back to normal because the CAUSE of their back pain and sciatica was addressed correctly.

So what causes back pain and sciatica?

From my experience, there are 3 most common causes we see at Orthopedic and Balance Therapy:

Cause #1: Stenosis, Arthritis, DDD (Degenerative Disc Disease)

Pain with standing and walking? Less pain when you sit down? 50 or more candles on your next birthday cake?

If you answered Yes to these 3 questions, then there's a 99% chance the cause of your back pain or sciatica is stenosis, arthritis or DDD.

Sufferers with this cause may also have lower back stiffness when they first get out of bed in the morning...and may need to "move around" for 15 minutes...or get a hot shower before they loosen up.

They usually have trouble being on their feet for long times...and need to "sit down for a minute" to get relief.

This is the person who needs to lean forward on the grocery cart to make it through the store.

Cause #2: Herniated Discs or Pinched Nerves

Sufferers with herniated discs are usually younger...40 years of age or younger...and have sharp pain down the back of their leg when they bend forward or lift.

As a general rule, the further down the leg they have pain, numbness or tingling...the more pressure they're putting on their nerve.

They have pain bending forward...and usually relief bending backwards or standing.

Cause #3:

This third cause is the most commonly missed cause of back pain and sciatica because it does not show up easily on an X-ray or MRI.

Sufferers of this cause usually have pain with changing positions such as getting in and out of a car...or rolling in bed...or getting in and out of bed.

Sitting or driving is usually a problem...and one leg can feel "heavier" than the other.

Sufferers with this cause can even experience groin pain and trouble controlling their bladder (even at a young age).

Why knowing the cause of your back pain or sciatica is important...

When you know the cause of your back pain and sciatica, then it's much easier to do the right treatment to get back to normal...and heal naturally.

However, finding the exact CAUSE of your lower back pain and sciatica can be tricky...because some back pain and sciatica sufferers can have more than 1 CAUSE!

Free Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop

Here's what you will learn at the workshop:

- What cause #3 is...this is the most sneaky cause of lower back pain and sciatica.
- How to determine the cause of your lower back pain without an expensive MRI (Did you know that up to 85% of people over the age of 50 who have no symptoms of back pain or sciatica 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).
- Why this one popular "quick fix" treatment is doing you more harm than good...in the process lowering your chances for permanent relief from your symptoms.

So call my office now at 219-380-0809 in La Porte or 219-386-4488 in Valparaiso and secure your spot for my Lower Back pain and Sciatica Workshop...

- La Porte office **Tuesday February 6th from 5-6 PM** located at 1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B (next to All Star Auto across Route 2 from Walmart).
- Valparaiso office **Thursday February 8th from 6:00 to 7:00 PM** located at 3125 Calumet Ave. Suite 8 (next to the YMCA).

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

Sincerely,



Arlan Alburo
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 10 Most Burning Questions For Sciatica**.

P.P.S. Call my office now at 219-380-0809 in La Porte or 219-386-4488 in Valparaiso and secure your spot for my Lower Back pain and Sciatica Workshop...

Religion Amid Silk Stockings

Editor's note — This article was submitted by Bailey Roberts, a heritage interpreter at Barker Mansion.

The Gilded Age.

A period in American history between the 1870s and early 1900s. It was a time of great material progression. Industry was becoming a powerful force in society, dominating towns and cities across civilized America, even right here in Michigan City with the Haskell & Barker Freight Car Co., as well as Chicago's Pullman company.

But while the material world was rapidly progressing, social life was amid great upheaval. Large waves of immigrants came to the great United States in search of work, many arriving in Michigan City for factory jobs. Women, aware of their social standings, began the fight for suffrage. Even children were at the center of this upheaval as child labor became a contentious matter.

That is why this period was coined "the Gilded Age," for it was a book by Mark Twain, The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today, that this period took its name. Specifically, it was because America's corrupt system was masked by the gilded beauty of industry and material progress.

Michigan City was not devoid of such tensions. Along Washington Street, large ornate homes such as Barker Mansion dominated the landscape in front of the billowing smokestacks of Haskell & Barker. This area became known as the Silk Stocking District — the street on which Michigan City's wealthy landowners thrived.

But it was here, among these wealthy landowners, that the fate of Michigan City's population was decided. They were the ones who hired and brought in the many immigrants from across the globe. Traveling with these ambitious young laborers were their many gods and stories, eager to take root in a new city. Mr. Barker's own factory indirectly contributed to the melting pot of religious and spiritual life in Michigan City.

The Civil War, of course, was a tumultuous time in American history, yet it also saw the origins of a rapidly growing Jewish community. Mostly from

Germany and eastern Europe, these new settlers established themselves and worshipping in rented warehouses before finally becoming a large, flourishing congregation in 1907. The Jewish community would continue to grow, and the Sinai Temple we know today on Franklin Street would not be dedicated until 1953.

For the Christian community, the story begins in 1849 in an old warehouse-turned chapel called

St. Ambrose — the first Catholic church in Michigan City. It opened to accommodate the large influx of Irish-Catholic immigrants. Mass would be celebrated by a priest who traveled all the way from South Bend. Nine years later, in 1858, a second church was constructed to accommodate the large German population and was named St. Mary's Church.

The Gilded Age saw a continuation of this large wave of immigration. While the Irish and German communities

grew larger in Michigan City, both churches could not support their growing parishes. Thus, under the same priestly leadership, two churches became one with the opening of St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception in 1867. The land used for this new church was once an old Catholic cemetery. The bodies were exhumed and moved to Calvary Cemetery, which was attached to Greenwood Cemetery. And that same first building was incorporated into this new one. The large, ornate stained-glass windows were added at this time.

St. Mary's had grown so extensively, it became the center of Catholic life in Michigan City. But what about the other religious communities?

A prime example would be Michigan City's famous family, the Barkers. John Barker Sr. came to Michigan City from Massachusetts in 1836 with nothing but his name and some money. Being the youngest of 11 children and of five sons meant he needed to make a living for himself. He settled here in Michigan City, which was your average frontier town. Barker Sr. descended from a long line of English Puritans, so he was bringing his faith here as



This undated photo is from Sinai Temple's past.



The 1858 groundbreaking for Trinity Episcopal Church.

well. When he had a son, another John Barker we will refer to as Mr. Barker, he had to share the faith. Mr. Barker eventually took over the factory, becoming president of his father's empire. But with his wealth, Mr. Barker contributed much to Michigan City's spiritual community.

Kitty corner from Barker Mansion along Seventh and Franklin streets (the Silk Stocking District), Mr. Barker helped build Michigan City's first YMCA, which was a powerful tool in spreading the gospel. It acted as a place where interfaith dialogue between many different denominations could take place. It also provided activities, shelter and an overall safe harbor for Michigan City youth. His money also went to building Trinity Episcopal Church, which was strategically placed in the city's geographical center. He even had a room in his own mansion that was used to house the Episcopal bishop when on important duties within the area.

Later, Mrs. Barker funded the Bishop's Mansion attached to the church. It also was his factory, a symbol of what great spiritual leaders saw as a threat to religion, that brought in the faiths of Michigan City. Just as the German and Irish Catholics worshipped at St. Mary's, the Polish immigrants established themselves at St. Stan's, and even immigrants from the Ottoman Empire established the first Islamic Center in Michigan City. Mr. Barker used his material empire to create a melting pot of faiths in Michigan City. Even the Barker household was a melting pot of faiths. Mr. Barker was an Episcopalian, but his wife, Katherine Fitzgerald Barker, was an Irish Catholic.

Katherine Fitzgerald came to Michigan City after answering an advertisement for teachers for hire. Mr. Barker had just built a school called Barker Hall, attached to Trinity Episcopal, after his wife and three children died. Katherine Fitzgerald, born in New Hampshire of Irish immigrant parents, fell

in love with Mr. Barker. They got married within two years, an Episcopalian and Catholic making a home and family together.

During her marriage, Mrs. Barker was not very active in the Catholic church, based on mansion archival records. It is theorized she kept her beliefs private and in the home. During this time, Catholics were not well-liked within the community. Irish Catholics were the most targeted and hated. So, Mrs. Barker's faith, married to a wealthy Episcopal man, would be seen as incompatible with her husband. She seemed more involved with the Episcopal community for this reason. For instance, in 1908, Mr. and Mrs. Barker went to London with the Episcopal Bishop of the Indiana Diocese.

But with the birth of a daughter, Catherine, the Catholic faith was picked up again. In 1907, Catherine was baptized at 11 in St. Anne's parish in New Hampshire. A year later in 1908, Catherine held her first communion in St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception, right at the end of the magnificent Silk Stocking District.

As Catherine grew older, the more she became involved in the Catholic church and their causes. She gave large donations to the Catholic church and donated furniture to St. Mary's, such as the Bishop's chair we see today. In 1927, she donated the Katherine Barker Memorial Altar. The limestone altar was dedicated to her mother, where it stands proudly in a parish Mrs. Barker would have loved to attend.

The Gilded Age of America was marked by a turbulent period of material progression and corruption, but most of all, the importance of faith in the community. The lives of Michigan City's factory workers and wealthy elite were sculpted from the blending of immigrant communities, marriages and social outlets.

Religion from all corners of the globe thrived in the Silk Stocking District.

Chesterton Art Center

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

• **Trent Albert will showcase his photography, "Places and Peoples, Here and There," in February, with a free opening reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4.**

Albert recently returned from Sierra Leone, where he traveled with a group of 15 Indiana United Methodists in support of Operation Classroom and its new initiatives at Taiama Enterprise Academy. Travelers also consisted of four Methodist pastors, three retired educators, two retired nurses, a nurse, an electrician, an automotive specialist, an Operation Classroom administrator and a returning Sierra Leonean.

The group went from Indianapolis to Freetown, Sierra Leone, and eventually to Taiama, where it transformed a secondary school modified to focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, agriculture and math) with the support of the local paramount chiefs.

Albert's goal was to capture the ambition and spirit of the Sierra Leone people. Operation Class-

room will use the photos to promote the project and organization. More information about Operation Classroom can be found at operationclassroom.org.

Albert not only will include images from his Sierra Leone trip, but also from Nepal (where he traveled with the See Change Foundation), and Guatemala (where he traveled in support of Mission Guatemala). The Indiana Dunes and other local sites will be included in the exhibit.

• **Suzie Rosso will teach Color Mixing Made Easy from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 1-15.**

Students will make a reference board of color samples to easily find what to mix at a glance. They

can use nearly any 2-D medium, including colored pencil, pastel, watercolor, oil and acrylic.

The cost is \$65, with members receiving a \$20 discount. Students must register and pay at least 24 hours before class starts. The size limit is 10 people so each student has individual attention. Beginners are welcome. Students are responsible for taking supplies in whatever medium preferred.

• **Leslie Cefali will offer a two-part Origami Snowflakes and Hot Tea Workshop from noon to 4 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 11 and 18.**

Students will fold a variety of delicate snowflakes from squares, rectangles, even a hexagon. Paper and tea will be provided. Each student should take a pair of scissors, his/her favorite glue, a festive mug and sweetener.

The cost is \$75, with members receiving a \$20 discount.



Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com for more details.



Trent Albert captures images during his latest trip.

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Make The Beacher Your Community Connection!

Show by Local Artist at LCA

Local artist Jay Zerbe will showcase his digital collages, constructed in Photoshop using elements from his paintings and drawings, in "eCollage," which runs Jan. 31-Feb. 27 at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

The show is in the Area Artists Association gallery, with an opening reception from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 2 in conjunction with LCA's "Birds & Bees" exhibition opening. The exhibits will be covered in greater detail by *Beacher* art critic Robert Stanley in an upcoming edition.

"eCollage" follows a recent showing of Zerbe's work, "Kindred Spirits," a six-artist exhibit at the Painting Center in New York City on Nov. 30-Dec. 23. The same group of six artists previously held the exhibit in 2016 at the Greenville (S.C.) Center for Creative Arts. "eCollage" will be on display simultaneously at Art Palm Springs with McNabb Martin Fine Art on Feb. 15-19.

LCA visitors may recognize Zerbe's work, which was on exhibit in LCA's Hyndman Gallery in "Abstruse Daydreaming" with Meredith Setser in 2016.

As well as making art, Zerbe instructs "Abstract Painting I" and "Abstract Painting II," which are staple offerings in LCA's in-house class lineup, where students discover abstract painting techniques particular to mixed media and acrylic paint. Students also cover historical information, examples of contemporary abstract painting and an introduction to color theory. Those interested can enroll for the spring 2018 sessions at lubeznikcenter.org or by calling (219) 874-4900.

Zerbe's students' work will be highlighted in "Absorbing the Abstract: Student Works from LCA" on Jan. 29-Feb. 24 in the NIPSCO Art Education Studio. Artists include: Judith Holtz, Katryna Galge Jeffrey, Irene Hirt, Stacy Gagle, Tim Rodeghier, Kim Androlowicz, Tom Francia, Kevin Zurik, Judy Kasniunas, Susan Snell and Charyl McComas.

Visit lubeznikcenter.org for more details.



Zerbe



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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Knit Wits and Purls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 25, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

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

• **Rainbow Loom from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26, at Thomas Library Children's Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Those whose bracelet-building skills are advanced will meet from 5 to 5:30 p.m., while all levels are welcome from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Looms and rubber bands are supplied, but participants can take their own. Supplies are limited. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.



• **Children's Movie: "Cars 3" at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, in the Thomas Branch Children's Department.**

The movie is Rated G. Attendees can take a pillow or stuffed animal. Popcorn will be provided.

• **History of Mineral Springs Race Track Presentation from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Museum Curator Serena Ard will highlight the

story of Porter's short-lived race track.

• **The Unnamed Guild of Gamers from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, 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."

• **Intro to the Ukulele from 2 to 3 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 28, and Feb. 4 and 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.

• **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, Intro to Computers & Windows, from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, 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.

• **"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.

• **Commercials and Advertisements Trivia Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Westchester Township History Museum.**

Contestants test their knowledge on commercials from the 1980s through 2000s. Teams of 1-4 people can vie for a prize. Refreshments will be served.

• **Iron Chef Junior Evening from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Children 8-12 will create dishes from a supply of ingredients. Registration is required at the Children's Department or by calling (219) 926-7696.

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Barker Middle School Holds STEM Fair

Barker Middle School students are engaged in a STEM Fair project through science class that has them advancing through rounds and being interviewed by community judges.

Barker is an Indiana Department of Education STEM-certified middle school, the focus being science, technology, engineering and math. Top projects advance to Round 2, where the judges are retired science teachers from Barker and Chesterton middle schools. They are: Greg Kearney, Grover Medley, Nino Pecoraro and Bruce Starek.

Forty-seven projects advanced to Round 2. Elite projects are encouraged to participate in the Regional Science & Engineering Fair at Valparaiso University on Feb. 24.

Barker science teachers are Maria Surma, Jill Grabowski and Val Mecklenburg. The STEM Fair coordinator is Curriculum Coach Amy Hamann. Round 2 results are:

Biological Division (8 projects)

- Third Place, "Plant vs. Aspirin," Amellia Moss.
- Second Place, "How Do Fears Change with Age," Maycie Wallen-Chavez.
- First Place, "Preserving Strawberries," Kyra Krachinski.



Pictured are (back row, from left) Eric Wroblewski, Brianna Johnson, Kyra Krachinski, Maycie Wallen-Chavez and Amellia Moss. The front row is (from left) Thalia Karallas, Riley Steinhiser, Rylee Cabanaw, Jermaine Carter, Kyle Yackus and Taylor Skibinski.

Chemical Division

(16 projects)

- Third Place, "Acid Fruit," Rylee Cabanaw.
- Second Place, "Suck It Up," Riley Steinhiser.
- First Place, "How Does Temperature Affect Dissolving," Thalia Karallas.

Physical Division

(23 projects)

- Third Place, "Tee Off," Taylor Skibinski.
- Second Place, "Lifty Load," Kyle Yackus.

- First Place, "What Weight Works," Jermaine Carter.

Creative Research Award

- Chemical Division, "Egg-Cellent Solution!," Brianna Johnson.

Grand Champion

- Biological Division, "Till or No Till," Eric Wroblewski.



American Red Cross

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

- Conservation Club House, 1 Mill Pond Road, Union Mills, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28.
- Ivy Tech Community College, 3714 Franklin St., Michigan City, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29.

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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JROTC Earns Awards at Military Drill Competition

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps overcame the absences of experienced cadets to earn awards at a military drill competition Jan. 13 at East Aurora (Ill.) High School.



Sgt. Thomas Mizer (from left) and gunnery sergeants Haley Williams, Danny Walker and Griffin Williams display trophies earned at the East Aurora High School military drill competition.

Due to a snowstorm, some cadets could not make it to MCHS for the trip. Still, the Color Guard finished second, the Armed Basic Platoon came in fourth and the Armed Exhibition Platoon earned a fifth-place finish out of 19 schools. The Color Guard was commanded by Cadet Gunnery Sgt. Griffin Williams and both platoons by Cadet 1st Lt. Tyler Stockley.

"Some of our first-year cadets really stepped up to replace the experienced cadets who were absent," the senior Marine instructor, Maj. Tom McGrath, said. "For them to compete in a meet with so many good schools and earn awards is really a testament to the hard work they have put into practice since September.

Some of the drill-team cadets transitioned into cyber warriors by competing in the third round of Cyber Patriot on Friday, Jan. 19.

Cyber Patriot is the national cyber competition for high school students who act as a cyber-security manager for a corporation, defending and counter attacking against an attack on the corporation's information system.

Results from the event were not available at press time.

The drill team traveled to the middle schools Jan. 17 for presentations to eighth-grade classes prior to them scheduling freshman-year high school courses. The drill team also was to provide Color Guards for three basketball games.

Also, the cadets took advantage of having school on the federal holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and studied the civil rights leader.



Private 1st Class Nate Hatch (from left), Cpl. Jessica Wilhelm and Sgt. Damian Albisu discuss the positive influence of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the country.

Specifically, they analyzed King's "I Have A Dream" speech, comparing and contrasting the nation in 1963 to the present.

"Dr. King used the conditions for blacks in 1963, not to rile up the crowd, but to give our country's leaders a sense of urgency to fix discrimination," Cadet Cpl. Jessica Wilhelm said.

Cadet Sgt. Damian Albisu was impressed with King's use of imagery to drive his points home.

"His analogy of some of our country's leaders at that time to writing a check with insufficient funds to denying blacks the same opportunities as whites gave me a better understanding of the struggles that blacks faced back then," Albisu said.

McGrath said the study of King was in line with the JROTC curriculum.

"This is a leadership course, not a prep for the military course," he said. "Dr. King was one of the great leaders in our nation's history."

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Long Beach Women's Bowling

Jan. 16, 2018

TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Diagonal Divas	8	0
2. Blue Shoes	7	1
3. Queen Pins/Lady Strikers	6	2

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. June Salmon	179
2. Lenore Hadaway	178
3. Cindy Beck	167
4. Dottie Brinckman	166
5. Tammy Nelmar	160
6. Margie Midkiff/Barb Macudzinski	158
7. Debra Smith	157
8. Carrie Alexander	155
9. Peggy King (series)	431
10. Ginny Hogan (series)	411
11. Dale Maher (series)	408
12. Nancy Kubath (series)	407

SPLITS

1. Sue Woodland	3-10
2. June Salmon	1-3-6-8
3. Kathy Angelo	5-10
4. Mary Lou McFadden/Ginny Hogan	5-6-10

THREE STRIKES

Cindy Beck, Lenore Hadaway, Dottie Brinckman



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

Michigan City Public Library

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

• **Ozobots at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 29, in the meeting room.**

Program Ozobot robots using color codes and block-based coding with the Ozoblockly app. Advance registration is required. Register at the Youth Services desk. Call Dave at (219) 873-3045 for more information.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31.**

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

• **Volunteers Needed for VITA Tax Program.**

Volunteers are needed at least one day a week during the tax season (February-April) for the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. The IRS provides some training, and volunteers must pass the VITA test through the intermediate level. Testing and training are online.

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



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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• **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, "Shifting Sands: On the Path to Sustainability" from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The documentary explores the region's struggle to protect globally rare habitat alongside steel mills, and the recent success stories of collaboration.



□
The National Park Service wants to increase the camping fee at Dunewood Campground this spring.

The increase will offset a rise in personnel and other costs associated with operating, maintaining and collecting fees for the campground.

The proposed increase will boost a campsite cost from \$18 to \$25 per night. That cost is well within the range of \$22 to \$35 charged at comparable public- and private-sector campgrounds in Indiana, Michigan and Illinois.

This is the National Lakeshore's first increase in fees since 2013. Comments can be sent to: INDU_Communications@nps.gov or by writing to the superintendent, 1100 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter, IN 46304.

An open house on the fees is from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter.

□
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore needs short-term housing for the summer's seasonal workforce of park rangers, guides, maintenance workers and research aides.

Summer employees often have difficulty finding suitable short-term housing. Most are college students or people just starting careers and with limited budgets. Many apartments will not lease or rent for fewer than six months or a year, and summer employees typically work fewer than that starting in May. Most employees will need temporary (two to six months) housing, preferably furnished apartments or rooms with cooking privileges.

Those interested in receiving referrals should contact Administrative Support Assistant Florida Harris at (219) 395-8585, Ext. 1772.

□
The trail to the Mount Baldy beach, closed for several weeks after storm waves washed out a portion of it, has reopened.

The waves left a dangerous, 50-foot dropoff. Park crews have completed a rerouted trail and reopened the area. Visitors should use caution when hiking the trail and beach area. The dune and shoreline are in a constant state of change from weather and changing lake levels. Obey all markers and warning signs along the half-mile trail to the beach.

The dune, itself, remains closed for public safety and dune protection. While visitors can no longer climb the dune on their own, they can attend ranger-led programs that safely guide them to the top.

□
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore seeks one food-service vendor to serve visitors in the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion concessions area.

A minimum requirement is that the vendor operates from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday through Sunday, Memorial Day through Labor Day. However, the vendor can operate on additional days or for longer hours.

Federal regulations require any individuals or groups selling food or other items in a national park to obtain a Commercial Use Authorization permit, which will be issued specifically for that location for the 2018 calendar year. Completed applications for a permit must include a \$65 payment to cover the costs of processing the request and a proposed list of menu items with prices. The information is due no later than Feb. 2. Selected vendors must pay 3 percent of their gross receipts minus the \$65 application fee at the end of the season. Additionally, vendors selling food must comply with county and federal health regulations, and will have responsibilities in guest-generated garbage cleanup.

Also sought are food trucks or other self-contained food-service vendors at West Beach, Porter Beach and Kemil Beach throughout the 2018 beach season. The same Commercial Use Authorization process is used to operate through the season.

Park staff will select food service vendors based on an applicants' ability to meet specific criteria and the desire to provide visitors with a variety of offerings. Call Amber Siewin at (219) 395-1859 or email amber_siewin@nps.gov for more details.

□
The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

Genealogical Society



The 2018 officers and board for the La Porte County Genealogical Society are (from left): Fern Eddy Schultz, genealogist-historian; Lester Chadwick, vice president; Ron Hyer, president; Larry Carlson, treasurer; and Cynthia Blicher, secretary. The next meeting is at 7 p.m. Feb. 13 at La Porte City Parks and Recreation Department, 250 Pine Lake Ave.

Spring Career Expo

Employers looking to recruit prospective interns or employees are invited to the Purdue University Northwest Spring Career Expo on Friday, Feb. 16.

The event is from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Great Hall in the James B. Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex.

Expo organizers expect attendance of more than 250 job candidates. Admission is free to individuals looking for full-time and part-time employment opportunities, as well as internships.

Limited spaces are available for businesses. Registration is open until Friday, Feb. 2, and may be completed at tinyurl.com/ybcgp2en

PNW alumni and students are encouraged to attend and pre-register for VIP entry by logging onto their Handshake account at www.HirePNWPride.com. PNW students should take their university ID. Business-professional attire is recommended. Individuals also should take multiple copies of his/her resume.

Call the PNW Career Center at (219) 989-2600 for more details.



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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 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:

Question: Describe what streetlight was selected.

Response: Sternberg Chateau LED on a single pole in urban silver matte.

Question: Why was this light selected?

Response: The recommendation to the DDA Board and City Council was to approve the Single Head Top of Pole Chateau Fixture because it provided enough light to allow a single fixture, different sizes, sconce and bollard applications. It also fulfilled the desired goals of LED, durability, low long-term maintenance costs, light bulb diffusion, ambient light, made in the USA, reputable manufacturer and dimmable light controls for initial settings.

Due to the fixture being single head, as opposed to two fixtures per pole, the cost savings compared to the originally specified light are estimated to be almost \$100,000 for 27 installations. We hope this will allow for a broader application of the lights, and an affordable solution for future projects to replace or add more municipal lighting.

The light's design was determined by many, but not all, designers and the DDA board to reflect our community's maritime heritage. The craftsman style, combined with the lantern look, is a nod to lighthouses, lighted buoys and much of the architecture in our community. The simple, clean fixture and pole will allow maximum views down Whittaker Street of Lake Michigan, and keep the focus on storefronts and buildings in our community.

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New Nature Preserve

The Natural Resources Commission has approved Calumet Prairie Nature Preserve in Lake County as a new state-designated site protected by the Nature Preserves Act.

The preserve is located within Lake Station, in the northeast portion of Lake County. Measuring about 119 acres, it lies within the Northwestern Morainal Natural Region. Owned and managed by the Department of Natural Resources Division of Nature Preserves, it contains the largest sedge meadow and wet prairie natural community complex in Indiana, and provides habitat for associated rare plants and animals.

The NRC is an autonomous board that addresses topics pertaining to the DNR.

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Fridays at Footlight

The open-mic venue "Fridays at Footlight" returns at 7 p.m. Jan. 27 at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St.

Admission is free, with a \$2 fee for entertainers. The theme is "Sparkle the New Year in with a New Song." Programs typically feature original music and well-known songs and tales. The décor is "glitz and glitter," with a special raffle planned.

Footlight members will provide refreshments for a small donation. No reservations are needed to view the show. Those interested in performing should call (219) 874-4035, visit www.Footlight-Players.org or call event chairman Joe Blanchard at (219) 741-4417.

Civil War Days Fundraiser

A Three Oaks Civil War Days fundraiser luncheon is from 1 to 4 p.m. EST Sunday, Jan. 28, at Three Oaks American Legion, 204 W. Linden St.

Sponsored by the Civil War Days Committee, the lunch will include crock pot soups, stews and chilli with corn bread, desserts, coffee and water. The Legion bar will be open. Live music and a 50/50 raffle are planned.

The requested donation, paid at the door, is \$5 per person and \$1 for each extra bowl.

Email cwinthreеоaks@yahoo.com for details.

CAYA Bowl-a-Thon

Family Advocates will host its Bowl-a-thon to support the Court Appointed Special Advocate program from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Casey's Lanes, 610 Colfax St., LaPorte.

Each bowler is asked to raise or pay a minimum \$25 donation (if registered in advance) or \$30 at the door. That amount pays for three games, shoes and a raffle ticket.

Visit tinyurl.com/ybp4vwo8 to register or for more details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Jan. 26 — WinterFest: ice sculpture demonstrations, 4 p.m., Plaza 618, La Porte. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 26, Feb. 2 — Indiana Historical Society traveling exhibit, "The Great War: From Ration Lines to the Front Lines," 5-7 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Free-will offering. Info: www.barkermansion.com

Jan. 27 — WinterFest: family ceramics, 9 a.m.-noon, LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Cost: \$6. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 27 — WinterFest: "Snowball Softball" adult coed tournament, 9 a.m., Lions Field, LaPorte. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 27 — Breakfast with the Birds, 9:30-11 a.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Free. Info: (219) 325-8315.

Jan. 27 — WinterFest: DeCamp's Band of Brothers Foundation inaugural Polar Plunge, 10 a.m., Stone Lake, LaPorte. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 27 — Children's Movie: "Cars 3," 10:30 a.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Jan. 27 — WinterFest: Community Snow Angel event, 1 p.m., behind Cummings Lodge, LaPorte. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 27 — Family Advocates Bowl-a-Thon, 1-4 p.m., Casey's Lanes, 610 Colfax St., LaPorte. Registration/info: tinyurl.com/ybp4vwo8

Jan. 27 — WinterFest: Family Beach Day, 1:30-3 p.m., Stone Lake Beach, LaPorte. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 27 — History of Mineral Springs Race Track Presentation, 2-3 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Jan. 27 — Open-mic venue, "Fridays at Footlight," 7 p.m., Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Admission: free, performers/\$2. Signup: (219) 874-4035, (219) 741-4417, www.FootlightPlayers.org

Jan. 28 — Snowshoe Hike, 1-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 28 — WinterFest: free horse-drawn carriage rides, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Soldiers Memorial Park, LaPorte. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 28 — Three Oaks Civil War Days fundraiser luncheon, 1-4 p.m. EST, Three Oaks American Legion, 204 W. Linden St. Requested donation: \$5/\$1 each extra bowl. Info: cwinthreeoaks@yahoo.com

Jan. 28 — Free Movie Showing, "Shifting Sands: On the Path to Sustainability," 2-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 28 — WinterFest: wheel-throwing pottery demonstration, 2-3 p.m., LaPorte Civic Auditorium ceramics room, 1001 Ridge St. Info: (219) 326-9600.

Jan. 29 — Ozobots, 4:30 p.m., Michigan City

Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 29-Feb. 24 — “Absorbing the Abstract: Student Works from LCA,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: lubeznikcenter.org

Jan. 30 — Commercials and Advertisements Trivia Night, 7-8:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Jan. 31 — Iron Chef Junior Evening, 6-7 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Registration: (219) 926-7696.

Jan. 31-Feb. 27 — Jay Zerbe’s “eCollage,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: lubeznikcenter.org

In the Region

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.

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.



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

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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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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.

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.

Seeking investment property to buy: apartments, vacation, commercial, storage (no raw land). Providing loans against real estate. Call (929) 314-4618

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.

Stop 2 monthly rental Sept. 15-May 15. Fully furnished luxury 2BR/1BA. \$1,000/mo. (929) 314-4618 or www.mcbeachrental.com for pictures/testimonials

RENTALS MICHIGAN

For rent: Partially furn. 1BR non-smoking apt. in quiet building. Downtown New Buffalo, walk to beach & shops. Rent incl. gas, elec., water & trash. Sec. dep. req. No pets. Yearly lease. \$750/mo. Call (312) 925-0753.

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.

Michigan City Rifle Club

Michigan City Rifle Club, 4801 U.S. 20, will host an eight-hour NRA Basic Handgun Shooting Course at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17.

The class introduces students to the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for safely owning and using a handgun. Instruction in firing handguns is included. Students receive a packet with several brochures and guides.

The \$175 fee includes light refreshments and lunch. Class size is limited, and preregistration with deposit is required. Students need to provide a firearm and 200 rounds of ammunition.

Email swenson600@comcast.net or call (219) 879-8400, Ext. 1, for details.

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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. Jan. 29, Feb. 12 and 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.

Breakfast with the Birds

Enjoy breakfast treats while watching birds at the bird-feeding station from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

The free program is open to all ages. Registration is not required. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tea Party

Take a favorite cup and enjoy tea or lemonade with the animals from 10 to 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

The program, which includes a storyteller, continental breakfast, arts and crafts, is aimed at children 4 and older accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$15 per couple and \$5 for each additional child.

Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first.

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:

- Feb. 7 — Turtle Talk.
- Feb. 21 — Hello Down There.
- March 7 — Hard Working Animals.
- March 21 — Did You Call Me?
- April 11 — When It Rains It Pours.
- April 25 — Fantastic Fish.

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Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Pulse by Felix Francis (hardcover, \$27 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

Horse racing. The sport of kings. And gamblers, bookmakers and dreamers.

This murder-mystery takes us into the world of British horse racing through the eyes of a female doctor whose part-time job is to tend to the jockeys at the steeplechase races — the very dangerous race that takes horse and rider around a course of jumping fences, hedges and water obstacles at breakneck speed.

Dr. Chris Rankin normally works the emergency room at Cheltenham Hospital near her home. The past year has not been her best. Oh, she's a good doctor, but not a good patient. Chris suffers from panic attacks, depression and possibly anorexia. Now, after too many doctors giving too much medicine and hours of therapy with a psychiatrist, Chris is hanging on by a thread.

Husband Grant and twin teenage sons, Oliver and Toby, have coped with her symptoms, but don't understand her condition and what she is going through.

One weekend at the hospital ER, the ambulance brings in an unconscious man. They say he was found in the mens' room at the racetrack. Chris barely has time for a quick assessment when she is called away to help attend to a pair involved in a motorcycle accident.

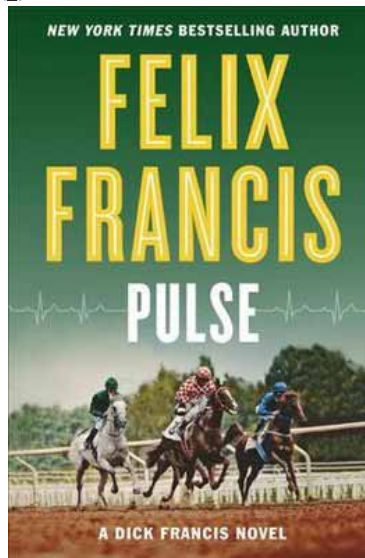
The man from the racetrack dies. He has no identification on him, but the toxicology report shows he had a massive dose of cocaine in his system. No sign of a needle mark, but a whiskey bottle found in the trash can has his fingerprints and a residue of cocaine in it. Suicide or murder? Hard to assess, but since he was in a bathroom stall with the door locked from the inside, the police lean toward suicide.

Chris feels responsible for his death — depression and a lot of meds will do that — and vows to find out more about the man, and at least notify his family of his demise.

So there are two storylines running parallel to each other: Who is the O.D. victim and what is his story, and Chris' daily struggle with her own mind and body. Perhaps the two have more in common than we think...

About a year ago, Chris was diagnosed with onset menopause at 40. She was devastated. She and her husband wanted one more child — perhaps a girl. Now, that isn't to happen.

We hear Chris' pain as she narrates the story: "During the year I had been referred to two different



gynecologists, an endocrinologist and, in desperation, a psychiatrist. I also had so many blood tests that the veins in my arms were like pincushions."

"...I believed I knew the workings and failings of the human body pretty thoroughly, but I had little idea what was happening to my own."

And now, she develops anorexia, losing too much weight, but unable to stop the voice in her head telling her she is fat.

Over her husband's disapproval, Chris can't get the dead man out of her head. She continues to call the police for updates, which aren't forthcoming, and finally starts an investigation of her own.

Persistence pays off as Chris starts uncovering one piece of information after another. Problem is, she can't put it all together, and both the police and her family are beginning to tire of her wild speculations.

She has conversations with three jockeys who were riding the day the man died. At least one of them shows recognition from the photo of him she has, but won't admit it. Not long after, she is crossing the busy road at the racetrack and is pushed into the path of an oncoming bus. Thankfully, she is not seriously hurt. Of course, no one believes she was pushed. Then, her son's bike is stolen and shows up on their doorstep smashed. A phone call to her says next time it will be the son, not the bike.

Oh, Chris! What have you gotten yourself into? Especially since she realizes no one — family or police — will believe her. The finale brings a jolt of adrenaline to your system as questions will be answered...but will it be too late?

The portrayal of Chris' illness is an eye-opener. I have never read a book that shows so completely the private hell someone like Chris goes through on a daily basis.

All in all, a most satisfying, as well as intriguing, read.

Booklist (starred review): "[Felix Francis] has filled the family stable with more winners, including this one...wonderfully evocative...riveting throughout. Exciting at every turn."

Francis is the son of deceased author Dick Francis, whose series of murder-mysteries centered around the British race tracks. Felix has taken over where his father left off, continuing his father's legacy of well-paced mysteries in a unique setting. He lives in England. Website: felixfrancis.com. FB: [felixfranciswriter](https://www.facebook.com/felixfranciswriter)

Till next time, happy reading!



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2519 Glendale Way



\$499,000

NEW LISTING! Just 3 houses away from beautiful Lake Michigan beaches sits this four bedroom home with completely renovated bathrooms. In the past year improvements also include new electrical panel and updated electricity, attic insulation, lovely bamboo flooring in the master bedroom, new high end washer/dryer moved to the second floor for convenience. Three (3) nest thermostats to be sure the house is the perfect temperature when you arrive. New light fixtures and ceiling fans throughout the house, some new doors and new refrigerator. The whole house has been newly painted and is ready for a new owner. Huge basement, half finished for playroom and extra sleeping room. Two car garage plus storage and parking for at least 8 cars. Screened porch overlooks private patio. Close to Community Center, park, & tennis courts!



4 Bed/4 Bath/3,100 sq.ft.



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302 Birch Tree Lane, Michigan City • \$119,000

Sell your lawnmower and move right in! 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. The floorplan encompasses four spacious bedrooms with plenty of storage, 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 with above ground pool. Perfect for a year-round family or as a summer retreat, this home is a 4-minute walk to the beach!



202 N. Lake Ave #EW • \$1,076,000

Family compound? Rental property? You decide! Both units for sale separately, as well as the entire building. 202 N. Lake Ave. is a well-maintained beach compound with 2 separate townhomes: 202 East and 202 West. Each unit has 4 floors, private rooftops and views of Lake Michigan. West unit has 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and east unit has 3 bedrooms, 4 baths. Each has parking for 4 (8 total spaces)!



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 are 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.



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