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# The Enduring Human Spirit

by Kayla Weiss

From an early age, Monica Lorimer knew she wanted to help people. That fervor never dimmed, especially after completing her residency at Loyola University Chicago. Medical mission work had considerable appeal.

Life, however, has a way of putting certain ambitions on hold. Over the years, Lorimer focused on her career as a surgeon, and the family she and husband Matt Troy, also a surgeon, raised in Long Beach. So when the opportunity arose late last year to join forces with the Syrian American Medical Society, Lorimer realized she could make a difference. In the process, she learned there is nothing more inspiring than the human spirit.

Take, for instance, a deaf patient brought to her by his cousin. Medical care required four-way translation so they could speak.

Nonetheless, Lorimer said, "They were some of the warmest people I have met. They didn't have much of anything, but they were so kind and invited me into their home, and I ended up spending Thanksgiving with them. Their giving spirit is phenomenal.

"To see what the Syrian people — all the refugees, and the doctors who risked their lives and well-being to help us and the Syrian people — have gone through, and to still see them smiling and standing tall, it's truly an incredible thing."

Lorimer recently talked with *The Beacher* about the experience.

But first, a little bit about Lorimer herself.

A Chicago-area native, she graduated from Uni-



Dr. Monica Lorimer interacts with children during her mission trip through Syrian American Medical Society.

versity of Illinois College of Medicine Chicago in 1989, then attended Loyola for her residency. It was there she met Troy, who also is from Chicago. Together, they took their first jobs in Minnesota, later moving to Michigan City when an opportunity arose to work at what is now known as Franciscan St. Anthony Health-Michigan City.

"Matt had a summer home here, and when the opportunity at St. Anthony's arose, we jumped at the chance," she said. "It's such a beautiful area, and we thought it would be a great place to live and raise our family."

Later, Lorimer had the chance to work in Chicago again while her husband stayed in Michigan City. Until recently, she worked at Mount Sinai, an inner-city hospital that treated those living in the

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## Human Spirit Continued from Page 1

most poverty-stricken areas of the city.

Now the mother of five teens, Lorimer found it was time to take a step back from full-time surgeon duties and pursue work that allows her to go between five to 10 days a month to other areas where a surgeon is needed.

"Now that I have taken a step back, I found that I had time to do something that I have always wanted to do: mission work," she said. "For the first time in my life, I have been able to do what I wanted to do since residency. Since the plight of the Syrian refugees came to the forefront in 2014, I have wanted to go and help in some way. Finally, I have the chance to do so."

The ongoing Syrian civil war has drawn an increasing amount of humanitarian efforts over the past four years as more human-rights violations and deaths are reported. Many groups have focused on the refugee crisis.

"Before I went to work at Mount Sinai, one of my colleagues was a Syrian American and was such a lovely, warm, good person," Lorimer said. "He was very involved with the Syrian American Medical Society when the war broke out, and he was just devastated by what was happening, and he would leave weekly to try to lobby the powers that be at the United Nations or in Washington to do something."

"As a result of working with him, I became more aware of the problems in Syria than I normally would be," she continued. "It opened my eyes to it all."

Founded in 1998, SAMS is a non-profit organization that provides medical work, medical missions

and medical education and training in Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Greece. Originally founded as a peer group for Syrian Americans to interact and gain peer support, it has evolved into a non-profit providing medical care to those in need in and from Syria.

"For a while, SAMS was doing most of their care and volunteer work in-country," Lorimer said. "However, volunteers can't go into Syria for the time being because the regime targets health-care workers as a way to demoralize the Syrian population."

SAMS still supports thousands of Syrian refugees who have found shelter in neighboring countries and provides medical care. Through volunteers, SAMS orchestrates medical missions, providing refugees with free health care.

The cost of these missions and the subsequent care is expensive. The Jordanian government and hospitals have to grant permission before anyone can arrive. SAMS also has to pay to use the hospitals, from operating rooms to equipment.

The mission on which Lorimer embarked cost \$50,000.

"Our parish at Notre Dame was incredibly generous in allowing me to speak at church about the mission and our goals," she said. "A special collection was taken and, through the kindness of our fellow parishioners, we were able to raise \$5,000."

"If you want to make a difference, giving your support to organizations that are truly helping and making a difference is a great step, and SAMS is one of those organizations."

Each mission through SAMS has a different focus, from ophthalmology and ears/nose/throat to general and cardiac surgery.

The mission of which Lorimer participated in-



A Minnesota pediatrician, and fellow volunteer, brightens around the Syrian children.



Monica is photographed with some of her patients.

cluded the first round of OB-GYN and general surgeons. Over the course of five to six days, she and the team were able to complete 35 general surgeries. One of the things SAMS did during the mission was to bring a couple of the Syrian doctors over the border into Jordan to be with the volunteers. They were from a region of Syria called Daara, where the uprising originally started. The population has dropped from 2 million to a mere 500,000. Before the uprising, there were about 3,000 doctors in the area. Now, only about 100 remain, including medical students and people in training. Wanted by the regime, there are only five surgeons left in the area, three of which were snuck across the Jordanian border at night to help the mission workers.

"They are incredibly committed to the people of Syria and their homeland, ready to stand to the death. It was incredibly humbling to be in their presence," Lorimer said.

"Overall, this was an incredible experience, and one I will keep with me forever."

(Visit [www.sams-usa.net](http://www.sams-usa.net) for more information on Syrian American Medical Society.)



Monica Lorimer stands with three Syrian surgeons who came across the boarder to help the volunteers.

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## Brainy “Annihilation” Grows On You

by Andrew Tallackson



Oscar-winner Natalie Portman stars as a biologist investigating a strange phenomenon in “Annihilation.”

“Annihilation” is a film you appreciate afterward, when you’re no longer held hostage by the lethargic pace.

That’s because the movie, based on the first in Jeff VanderMeer’s “Southern Reach Trilogy,” is the work of Alex Garland, the rarest of science-fiction storytellers who prefers brain candy to making things go boom. Consider what he’s either written or directed: “28 Days Later” (2003), “Never Let Me Go” (2011) and the Oscar-winning “Ex Machina” (2015). He is not concerned with whether there *are* monsters, aliens or robots. He likes to explore *why* they might exist. That existentialism is not everyone’s cup of tea, but it makes for challenging cinema.

Any review of “Annihilation” is tricky. Reveal too much, and the secrets come tumbling out. Suffice it to say, an unknown object struck a lighthouse in a national park three years earlier. It is protected by a translucent barrier called “The Shimmer.” Several groups, all male, have ventured into it. None have returned.

Until now.

Seems that Kane (Oscar Isaac), husband of Lena (Oscar-winner Natalie Portman), a biologist/professor, is back, one year after entering “The Shimmer,” but with no memory of the experience. Lena is recruited by a doctor (reliably eccentric Jennifer Jason Leigh) who has assembled an all-female team, including a tough-talking EMT (Gina Rodriguez, light years away from “Jane the Virgin”) and a reticent physicist (Tessa Thompson, of “Thor: Ragnarok”).

What awaits in “The Shimmer”? Not the funhouse of horrors the movie’s trailer suggests. Time, real-

ity and perception have been mutated. Garland, as director, bathes the images in a muted palette that resembles the rainbow colors of a prism. There are physical threats, but the real hurdle, as the team ventures inward, is that the journey takes a bruising psychological toll.

Garland is an ideas man, a storyteller who uses science-fiction as a mirror for society to gaze at itself. With “Annihilation,” he is less concerned with how quickly we learn what hides in “The Shimmer,” but more the idea of it, and what it does to visitors. How a pressure-cooker scenario frays the edges of sanity to unleash the madness within.

Garland takes his time, and you appreciate that he respects the intellect of his audience. But, it would be a lie if I said the approach does not test your patience. “Annihilation,” once the team enters “The Shimmer,” is sluggish to the “why bother” breaking point. The movie loses track of its pace, stripping itself of any urgency.

So is it worth it, then, to stay seated? All is revealed by the closing scenes, and Portman and Isaac are exceptionally good at keeping you guessing. Their final scene says everything we need to know about what went down in “The Shimmer.”

“Annihilation” is not as satisfying as Garland’s “Ex Machina,” nor does it exist on the same emotional level as 2016’s time-twisting “Arrival.” But Garland has cooked up enough ideas to make the idea of a sequel intriguing. Now, armed with the truth about “The Shimmer,” where it’s steering these characters is a journey worth considering.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

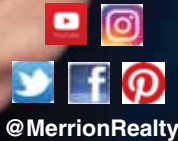


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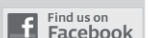


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## Home & Lifestyle Expo Emphasizes Local Options

by Andrew Tallackson

When someone builds a home, it's not just one entity involved. Depending on the scope of the venture, anywhere from 15 to 20 subcontractors fulfill an assortment of duties.

That's where Builders Association of LaPorte County comes in, as the bridge between local construction industry professionals. Not only does the association include manufacturers and suppliers, but also accountants, engineers, architects, computer services and mortgage bankers.

Anyone somehow linked to the housing industry in LaPorte County.

Letting people know about these businesses is the driving force behind the association's free, annual Home & Lifestyle Expo.

"These are the people you want to come and talk to," Cindy Dangler, the association's executive officer, said. "Sometimes, you just don't know who to call. This is an opportunity where maybe you find three or four people who have what you need, and you can compare them, see what each has to offer."

"And, they all work in the LaPorte County area."

This year's event is Saturday and Sunday, March 3-4, at Blue Chip Casino. Times are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Businesses participating in the Home & Lifestyle Expo all work in the LaPorte County area.

Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Last year, Dangler said, about 2,500 people attended the two-day expo that lets people speak with industry professionals on everything from home building and remodeling to maintenance and gardening. Specialties include heating and cooling, kitchens, bath, doors, floors, sun rooms, patios and yards.

Held in the hotel portion of Blue Chip, Dangler said the expo is family friendly. A special

promotion includes the chance to win a \$1,000 shopping spree to participating vendors.

The long-term benefit of attending the expo, Dangler said, is meeting vendors whose services extend beyond the home-building phase.

"As a homeowner, you will use them the entire time you own your house," she said. "You will need to do maintenance and repairs. You will need to remodel."

"So, our expo showcases all the different people in our association who can work with you on that."



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## Dunes Summer Theatre Unveils 2018 Season

Dunes Summer Theatre has launched its new website, including its extended 2018 summer season and new "Jackson Series"—special shows and concerts between performance dates.

"This summer, we're hosting local musicians, guest plays and the works of local artists between shows so our audiences can enjoy entertainment every weekend at the theater,"

Dunes Artistic Director Jeffrey Baumgartner said.

The "Jackson Series" kicks off with the musical "The Last 5 Years" on April 27-29, with Jeff Otto returning as musical director. Performances are at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

The regular summer season begins with "Greater Tuna," a satire about life in Texas. The two-man show will see the return of actor Andy Ricci ("I Hate Hamlet," "The Mousetrap") as he teams up with Baumgartner. The pair play multiple characters and undergo quick costume changes. Shows are May 4-6 and 11-13. Times are 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays.

Next up is "The Spitfire Grill," a musical directed by Steve Scott, producer at Chicago's Goodman Theatre who oversaw more than 200 productions there. The play runs May 25-27 and June 1-3 and 8-10.

Following "Spitfire Grill" is "Noises Off," a farcical comedy directed by Baumgartner on June 22-24, June 29-July 1 and July 6-8.

Leigh Selting, chair of the University of Wyoming theater department, returns to direct two plays, including the "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," which runs July 20-22 and 27-29 and Aug. 3-5. Selting then will direct "Wait Until Dark," which runs Aug. 17-19, 24-26 and 31, and Sept. 1-2.

Dunes also will produce "Charlotte's Web" for young audiences. Performed by adult actors, it will



run at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Aug. 3-4 and 10-11. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Tickets are included in the season subscription.


Completing the season is "After Paul McCartney," written by local playwright David Hoppe and directed by John Greene, chairman of Columbia College's graduate theater program.

"Jackson Series Performances" include evening concerts by Spanish and classical guitarist Peter Aglinskas, and a concert by Johnny V., who will sing classics from Neil Young, Tom Petty and other iconic musicians. A concert version of "Man of La Mancha" will be presented one evening only, along with the local production "Sacred Sands," which tells of those who saved the Dunes from developers and corporate interests. Closing the series is the John Lennon tribute band Dear John.

Rounding out the summer is "The First Brush of Fall," an event that attracts painters from the region to compete for cash prizes. Artists will spread out across Michigan City to paint iconic buildings and landscapes, then offer their works for sale to the public. Artists can register for the event, sponsored by Horizon Bank and the Indiana Plein Air Artists Association, at [www.dunesartsfoundation.org/boxoffice](http://www.dunesartsfoundation.org/boxoffice).

Season tickets, individual shows and tickets to the "Jackson Series Performances" are available at [www.dunesartsfoundation.org/boxoffice](http://www.dunesartsfoundation.org/boxoffice). Seniors 65 and older and student tickets cost \$15. General admission tickets are \$18. All "Jackson Series Performances" are \$20. The season ticket includes one "Jackson Series" of the ticketholders' choice.

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## INTERESTING TIMES REAL ESTATE

The number of people choosing the house they eventually buy on the Internet has increased from 8% in 2001 to 51% in 2016. Then, it dropped back to 49% for 2017. This puzzled me, until I talked to my daughter who is trying to buy a house in Colorado where the inventory literally does not exist.

In her small town (I believe 20,000) of Louisville, the listing starts as much as 60 days before it hits the MLS for public viewing. So, the way people find out about new listings is "word of mouth." Neighbors tell each other the house is for sale. The listing agent tells her friends and maybe a couple of other agents. Houses are selling for as much as 10% over the listing price before the house is ever exposed to the open market.

"Fear of Loss has always been a greater motivator than hope of gain" goes back to Napoleon Hill. In other words, if you can persuade someone that s/he might not get something, s/he will pay more. The basis of an auction.

The common belief has been that putting your house on the open market will get the greatest number of bids and, therefore, the best price. Hiding your house or sharing it only with a few people, by definition, narrows the pool and thus lowers the price. So why do agents not put the house on the open market?

Here is my very biased opinion. The listing agent is more likely to get a "double dip" if buyers do not want to miss the deal. Buyers will contact the listing agent to make sure they get their offer heard. A small group of agents can gain control of a market if they are always in the know.

My interpretation is that the "pre-MLS listing" helps the agents, but sure does not market the property to the widest market to get the best price.

The "Gunderson Beach Rights Case" just came out. Modification of the Michigan approach. My first read is that it ends with the court "punting" to the legislature/executive regarding certain public rights. But there are public rights on the edge of the water. Walking for sure, and possibly much more depending.

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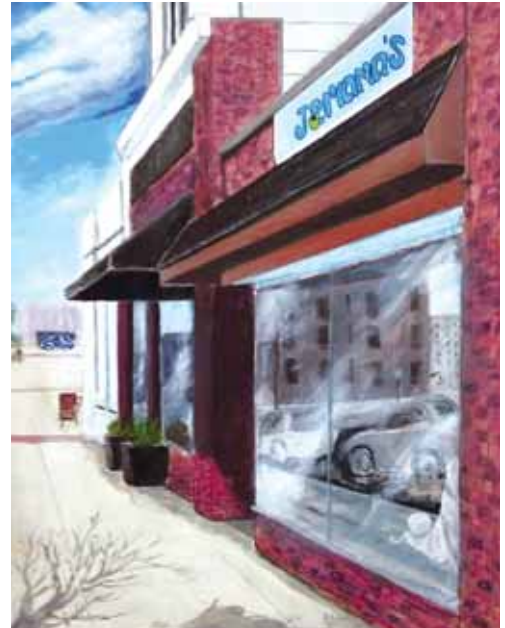
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## New Tourism Bureau Art Exhibit

New works by Michiana Shores artist Frank Di Giacomo are on display at Visit Michigan City La-Porte tourism bureau.

Di Giacomo is a member of Michigan City Art League, Chesterton Art Center and Southern Shore Art Association.

"Painting has always been a wonderful experience for me because I like traveling and seeing places, then trying to capture them in my creative mind and



A sample of Frank Di Giacomo's work.

bring those places to people in a way that no one has ever seen," he said in a press release.

Di Giacomo was born in Ozone Park, N.Y., and lived there for six years. His family moved to Fall River, Ma., then to Michigan City, where he attended Elston junior and senior high schools. He worked as a design engineer and part time as a commercial artist for John Greene Advertising Agency. Some of his ad work was featured in *Arts and Framing* and other trade magazines.

The tourism bureau is located in the former Marquette Mall. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Southern Shore Art Exhibit

Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., will present "Masters' Art Reimagined" through March 31, with an opening reception during First Friday Art Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. March 2.

Artists will present interpretations in the style of their favorite paintings. Van Gogh's "Starry Night" may have a lighthouse, Mona Lisa may have a frown or a Jackson Pollock may be monotone. Works are in oils, acrylics, watercolors, sculpture, photography, jewelry and wearable art.

During the reception, visitors interested in becoming members can pay a \$20 fee, a rate that lasts only until June 30.

Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Visit [www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com](http://www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com) or the SSAA Facebook page for more details.

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## Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss! at 4 p.m. Friday, March 2.**

Activities for children are planned.

- **Free Gentle Flow Yoga at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 3.**

Certified yoga instructor Lauralee Sikorski emphasizes deep breathing and releasing stress. Take a mat and wear comfortable attire, and come on an empty stomach.



- **Academy Award Film Tribute: "Wings" at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 4.**

"Wings" was the first film to win the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1929. This year also marks the centenary of the U.S. entering World War I. The movie stars Clara Bow and Gary Cooper in one of his first screen appearances. It also features a new score by Dan Schaaf, who unveiled it at Vicker Theatre's Sound of Silents Film Festival.

- **Story Time on the Road at 11 a.m. Monday, March 5, at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.**

The library's Story Time Crew will present its free program for children up to age 5 accompanied by an adult.

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



### 2018 ICS Sweetheart Day!

**Saturday, March 3rd from 10 AM—4 PM**  
Valparaiso Moose Lodge, 108 Indiana Ave, Valparaiso, IN

**Join us for our Annual Sweetheart Day event and  
vote for your favorite Sweetheart Candidate!**

Visit the booths of the 8 teams and find great items for sale, raffles and more! Purchases count as votes (\$1 = 1 vote) and the team with most votes is named this year's Sweetheart. (See Facebook ([www.facebook.com/INCatSociety](http://www.facebook.com/INCatSociety)) and our website ([www.catssociety.org](http://www.catssociety.org)) for pictures and more information).

ICS general merchandise and lunch also available.

The proceeds of this event directly benefit ALL the cats and kittens of ICS.

Bring this ad to the sale and receive a raffle ticket for one of the great raffle prizes!

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## PNW Brain Awareness Day Event

Purdue University Northwest will host a special Brain Awareness Day event, "The Artful Tour of the Brain," from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, in the Library-Student-Faculty building, Gallery 144.

The event is free and open to children and families. Refreshments and giveaways are planned.

Hands-on demonstrations include a real human brain for viewing. Experience optical illusions, tricking the taste buds and the feelings of phantom limbs. Visitors also can explore a giant "brainarium," stepping inside it to learn about different parts of the brain. Brainarium tours are every 30 minutes, while the other exhibits are ongoing. Brain-related artwork will be featured all week.

The event also includes newly acquired art from the PNW collection.

Laura Jacobson, a Palo Alto-based artist, will feature "Our Cosmic Brain," several works recently exhibited at New York University's Langone Medical Center. In part, the display features a complete set of MRIs of her brain taken in 2011, which suggested new terrain for the artist.

Lee Tracy's work also is based on a set of MRIs that she, herself, had. The artist gathered 35 images from a series of MRIs and assembled "Negative to Positive" in 2014, inscribing optimistic thoughts and personal reflections, assembling them in light box installations. Several will be exhibited.

Contact Judy Jacobi, assistant vice chancellor of University Art Collection & Special Programs, at (219) 785-5593 for more details.

## CAC Membership Drive

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., will host a membership drive titled "March Membership Madness," with an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 3.

Prospective members, current members and curious guests can tour the building, sample treats, win prizes, meet teachers and learn about the center.

Memberships begin at \$25 per year and include discounts on classes/purchases, a copy of the monthly online newsletter, participation in member-only exhibits and selling artwork at the center.

Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) or call (219) 926-4711 for more details.

## St. Luke Spaghetti Dinner

St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Cool-spring Ave., will host an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner, with salad and dessert, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 3.

The cost is \$7, and all proceeds support vacation Bible school and Sunday school curriculum. Call (219) 879-9415 for details.

## Wild Women and Wine

Revamped for its second year, "Wild Women and Wine" will highlight unconventional women who shaped Northwest Indiana history.

The program, which helps celebrate Women's History Month, is at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 10, at Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St.



Dana Chartier as Diana and Helen Williams as Belle in "Duneland Diaries."

The evening begins with wine and sweets. The highlight is a Metamorphis Traveling Theatre performance, "Duneland Diaries." Held in the Drawing Room, it introduces Diana of the Dunes and Belle Gunness, who discuss their fates over tea. Belle is portrayed by Helen Williams and Diana by Dana Chartier. Doug Moon will serve as a waiter, along with playing the men in their lives. The show is written by Ken Brelsfoard and directed by Judith Joseph.

The evening closes at 9 p.m. after guests have had the chance to view all three floors of the mansion.

Advance registration for the 21-and-older event is required through Eventbrite or by calling the mansion at (219) 873-1520. A \$28 ticket includes two glasses of wine, sweets, a tour and the program. Those wishing to buy a ticket without alcohol included can receive a discounted rate of \$20.

Visit [www.barkermansion.com](http://www.barkermansion.com) for details.

## ICS Sweetheart Day

Independent Cat Society will host its annual Sweetheart Day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 3, at Valparaiso Moose Lodge, 108 Indiana Ave.

Guests can visit booths of the eight teams to vote, along with items for sale and raffles. Purchases count as votes (\$1 = one vote), and the team with the most votes is named the winner.

All proceeds benefit the shelter's cats and kittens.

ICS is located at 4061 S. County Line Road, Westville. Visit [www.catssociety.org](http://www.catssociety.org) or [www.facebook.com/INCatSociety](http://www.facebook.com/INCatSociety) for pictures of the contestants and more information.

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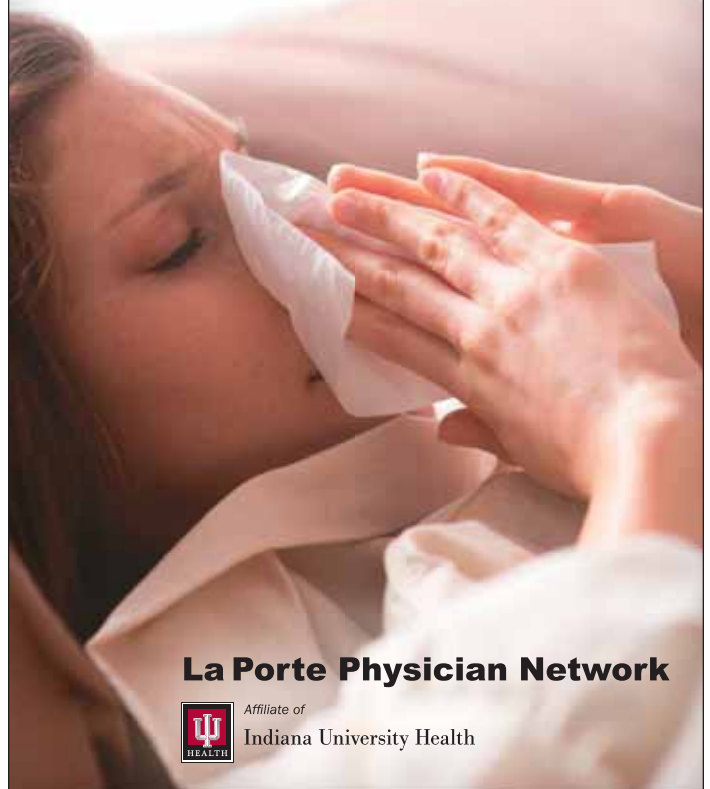
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## Westchester Public Library

*The following programs are available:*

• **Teen Library Council from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 1, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Teens in grades 6-12 can recommend library programs, books and other programs for Teen Services. Community service hours are available.

• **Make N Take Kids Craft Time on Saturday, March 3, at Thomas Library.**

Children can stop by the Children's Department anytime during the day (while supplies last) and make a rainbow of heartfelt wishes.

• **Premier Theatre to present "Homeschooled" at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 3, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

Participating actors range in age from 12-14 and are predominantly from Duneland-area schools. The show is tailored for school-aged audiences and recommended for the entire family. Students are trained by professional musical-theater performers and taught proper stage techniques.

• **Knitting Together from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 4, at Westchester Township Museum.**

Area knitters, and those who crochet or do needlework, are invited.

• **Sunday Matinee: "Three Billboards Outside of Ebbing, Missouri" at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 4, at The Baugher Center.**

The film is Rated R. Free popcorn is available.

• **Chesterton Cubing Club from 2 to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 4, at the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is solving a Rubik's Cube.

• **Intro to the Ukulele from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sundays, March 4, 11, 18 and 25, 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.

• **Popular Books at 2 p.m. Monday, March 5, at the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell Jr.'s "Empty Mansions: The Mysterious Life of Huguette Clark and the Spending of a Great American."

• **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.

• **Film screenings by Alzheimer's Speaks Founder Lori La Bey of 90-minute "His Neighbor Phil."**



La Bey

Showings are at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 7, and 5 p.m. Thursday, March 8, at The Baugher Center.

In the film, Harvey is devoted to his wife, Mary, who is stricken with early onset Alzheimer's disease. Discovering music somehow gets through to her, he brings music to her whenever possible.

An additional presentation is at 8 a.m. Thursday, March 8, at Ivy Tech Valparaiso Campus, 3100 Ivy Tech Drive. Those interested in attending should register by visiting [tinyurl.com/ybk6cmj](http://tinyurl.com/ybk6cmj) or calling Karyn at the Thomas Branch at (219) 926-7696.

• **Adult Coloring Program from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

Registration can be done in person or by phone at (219) 926-9080.

• **Minecraft Meet-up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 7 and 21, at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required 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.

• **Chesterton Writing Group at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 7, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The group is open to adult writers – fiction or nonfiction — of all levels, whether published or unpublished. Attendees share their work and learn about publishing.

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We often take our mobility for granted. Walking, hiking, cycling, running, or the simple joys of daily life: these are all activities you may have loved in the past, but now you may be considering giving up because of back pain or sciatica.

Are you...

- Taking a couple Ibuprofen each day, hoping the pain will disappear?
- Buying expensive stop-gap solutions that only drag out the ordeal?
- Finding yourself leaning forward on the shopping cart at the store just to make it through your errands?
- Slowing down and missing out on more than you think - maybe even the kids' or grandkids' sports games or school activities?

Our Lower Back and Sciatica Workshop teaches you about the latest NATURAL treatment techniques. Learn from our experts how other sufferers cured their back pain - ONCE AND FOR ALL.

*"When I first came in, I had so much back pain. It hurt to go from sitting to standing, and I couldn't stand straight. I could barely walk or stand for any length of time. I couldn't even sleep. I was usually up pacing all night...but now that I'm done (with treatment) I feel great! I have my life back without the pain. After trying 2 chiropractors before coming here, I wish I would have known to come here first."* -Karie B.

Hi -

I'm Dr. Arlan Alburo, Physical Therapist and Co-Founder here at Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists.

I am hosting the **Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop** here at Orthopedic and Balance Therapy on the following dates and locations:

- **La Porte office: Tuesday March 13th at 5:00 PM** -1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B (next to All Star Auto, across Route 2 from Walmart)

**PAID ADVERTISEMENT**

- **Valparaiso office: Thursday March 15th at 6:00 PM -3125 Calumet Avenue Suite 8 (next to the YMCA)**

If you have back pain... sciatica... or are worried about them happening in the future... or just want to find out more... here's some of the things you'll learn:

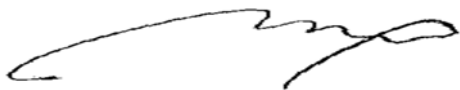
- **The ONE Everyday Activity Sufferers are Doing WRONG which Blocks Healing and Actually Makes Back Pain WORSE...**
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219-380-0809 in La Porte or 219-202-2502 in Valpo**

When you register, we will mail you a copy of the Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Worksheet. You will bring it with you to the event to make sure you catch all of the key information and tips from our experts.

**The workshop is completely FREE but is limited to only 20 attendees at each location due to the interactive nature of this workshop.**

See you there!



Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

**P.S.** Don't delay - register now! Call our office to save your seat: **219-380-0809 in La Porte or 219-202-2502 in Valpo**

**P.P.S.** This event is limited to 20 people - first come, first served. BUT, if your registration is successful, you may bring a guest for support.

**P.P.P.S.** As a bonus, the first 10 registrants for the Lower Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop will receive a Special Report: **"The Top 10 Burning Questions for Sciatica"**.

Oh, how the tide has changed.

Every Oscar season has its ebbs and flows. A film receives a groundswell of critical embrace, monopolizes the Golden Globes, then fizzles somewhere down the line. And these days, the movie that wins Best Picture rarely dominates the night — “Crash,” “12 Years a Slave,” “Birdman,” “Spotlight,” “Moonlight” — let alone is correctly revealed after last year’s 11th hour headscratcher.

Had the nominations been announced last September, this year’s Oscars would have been a love letter to Christopher Nolan’s “Dunkirk,” a staggering achievement released back in July. Had it bowed during the official Oscar “season,” which commences early October, it might have had staying power.

But then came along “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri” and “The Shape of Water,” the creators and cast of which have prepped one awards-acceptance speech after another.

So who is the clear victor? Aye-yi-yi. Not easy to say, my friends. The acting fields, for the most part, are tightly locked into place. Again, where things get dicey are not only Best Picture, but also the writing categories. For those who entered our annual “Beat the Editor” contest, I suspect these three areas will be the ones that stump me, affording you the best chance of nabbing our prizes: an AMC movie card and a \$30 gift certificate to Fiddlehead restaurant, our contest’s generous sponsor.

I’ve modified my prediction categories, by the way. Last year, a few readers remarked they were a tad confusing. So, the first category, “my prediction,” indicates the film or actor I believe will win. “My preference” states the film or performer I would select if voting. If “prediction” and “preference” are the same, then it will be reflected as such.

The Academy Awards airs Sunday, March 4. The winner of our “Beat the Editor” contest will be announced in the March 15 edition.

So, without further ado, the nominees are:

#### Best 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.”



# AND THE OSCAR GOES TO...

by Andrew Tallackson

**My Prediction:** A month ago, I would have said “Three Billboards.” However, cries of racism — however founded or unfounded they may be — have chipped away at the film’s momentum. Academy voters, after the #oscarssowhite backlash, are exceedingly self-conscious about how they are perceived, so Guillermo del Toro’s much-beloved fairy tale “The Shape of Water” should waltz away with the top prize.

**My Preference:** “Three Billboards” and “The Shape of Water” are dynamite films, uniquely challenging in their own rights. But 10 years from now, people will still be talking about “Dunkirk” and “Get Out,” two films of considerable impact and relevance. If either wins, I will be a happy camper.

#### Best Director

“Dunkirk,” Christopher Nolan; “Get Out,” Jordan Peele; “Lady Bird,” Greta Gerwig; “Phantom Thread,” Paul Thomas Anderson; “The Shape of Water,” Guillermo del Toro.



**My Prediction:** Del Toro crafted a modern fairy tale that, by all means, should have crumbled amid the weight of its own ridiculousness. Somehow, he sold you on the premise from the word “go” to create a film that is inspired, hilarious, heartbreaking and moving. Del Toro also is the only member of the self-professed “Three Amigos,” which includes Alfonso Cuarón and Alejandro González Iñárritu, to have not won an Oscar.

**My Preference:** “Dunkirk” may be the definitive retelling of the World War II rescue of some 300,000 British soldiers. It was the year’s most immersive experience, and we have Nolan to thank. All of his gifts as a storyteller are on full display here. He deserves the recognition.

#### Best Actor

Timothée Chalamet, “Call Me by Your Name”; Daniel Day-Lewis, “Phantom Thread”;

lice have no leads in the rape and murder of her daughter, McDormand is a tsunami of rage, vengeance and twisted humor.

#### 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.”



**My Prediction:** Rockwell has forged a respected career in indie fare. “Three Billboards” provided his meatiest role, that of a racist small-town sheriff who gets a reality check through McDormand’s angry mother. That transformation is handled by Rockwell with exceptional skill.

**My Preference:** Harrelson, long due for an Oscar, is the moral compass of “Three Billboards.” His performance is deeply moving, the soul of a town overrun with hearts darkened by anger and grief. What an upset it would be if the actor bested his own co-star for the trophy?

#### Supporting Actress:

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



**My Prediction:** Janney’s performance must be seen to be believed: a damning portrait of mother-

Daniel Kaluuya, “Get Out”; Gary Oldman, “Darkest Hour”; Denzel Washington, “Roman J. Israel, Esq.”



**My Prediction and Preference:** The competition ended the minute the first trailer for “Darkest Hour” hit movie screens. Oldman didn’t just physically transform into Winston Churchill. He became him. You no longer see Oldman the actor, but Britain’s prime minister, struggling to hold a country together as war becomes unavoidable.

#### Best 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.”



**My Prediction and Preference:** McDormand is hypnotic in “Three Billboards.” You can’t take your eyes off of her. As a mother infuriated local po-

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hood at its most toxic. The actress mixes the darkest of humor with unrelenting viciousness.

**My Preference:** **Spencer** could do this role in her sleep, but she is so laugh-out-loud hilarious in "The Shape of Water," she prevents it from becoming maudlin.

**Adapted Screenplay**

"Call Me by Your Name," James Ivory; "The Disaster Artist," Scott Neustadter & Michael H. Weber; "Logan," Scott Frank & James Mangold and Michael Green; "Molly's Game," Aaron Sorkin; "Mudbound," Virgil Williams and Dee Rees.

**My Prediction:** "Call Me by Your Name," aside from Sorkin, has the strongest awards pedigree in Ivory, whose credits include "A Room With a View" and "Remains of the Day."



**My Preference:** "Mudbound," for juggling a hefty slate of characters like a pro, affording each one enough room to breathe on screen.

**Original Screenplay**

"The Big Sick," Emily V. Gordon & Kumail Nanjiani; "Get Out," Jordan Peele; "Lady Bird," Greta Gerwig; "The Shape of Water," Guillermo del Toro, Vanessa Taylor; "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," Martin McDonagh.

**My Prediction:** The evening's wild card, about as dicey as Best Picture. The amount of talent here is staggering. But conventional wisdom says while "The Shape of Water" takes Best Picture, "Three Billboards" gets the screenplay consolation prize.



**My Preference:** "Get Out" for achieving the year's most remarkable feat: the most stinging commentary on race, but in the guise of a genre horror movie. Peele could be the evening's surprise upset.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)

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

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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 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup>**

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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## Shirley Heinze Receives Bequest

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has received a bequest from the estate of the late Dune Acres resident J. Timothy Ritchie.

Ritchie died Aug. 14, 2017, at 79. A native of St. Paul, Minn., he received an undergraduate degree from Yale University and a graduate degree from the University of Chicago Law School. After a long career with Northern Trust Bank, he retired in 1998. Among his many interests, he served on the board of Openlands, a land-conservation organization in northeast Illinois, and on the board of The Nature Conservancy's Indiana Chapter.

Ritchie's connection to the environment began during childhood visits to his family's cabin in the woods along Lake Superior. He and his partner, the late J. Richard Brannon, became involved with Shirley Heinze by attending its "spring fling" hikes organized by Dune Acres resident and life board member Barbara Plampin.

Brannon, who died in 2014, also left a gift to the organization in his estate.

In a press release, board member Anne Walsh said the bequest has "given the organization a secure footing far into the future."

Since 1981, Shirley Heinze has protected, restored and maintained Northwest Indiana's natural communities, including tallgrass prairie, high dune, oak savanna, boreal flatwoods, dune-and-swale, woodlands, marshes, swamps, ponds, fens, bogs and riparian habitat. Call (219) 242-8558 or visit [www.heinzetrust.org](http://www.heinzetrust.org) for more details.

## Women in Leadership Program

Kelly Duggan of Kelly Duggan Image Consulting will present "Creating Personal Brand through Image Management Development" during the next Women in Leadership of La Porte County meeting.

The event is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, at Pottawattomie Country Club, 900 Springland Ave.



Duggan will emphasize how to:

- Create a positive lasting impression by identifying what image/professional presence is, and understanding why it matters.
- Communicate successfully, with composure, to positively set yourself apart.
- Build an action plan to enhance advantage.

The meeting's corporate sponsor is Nora Akins of Strategic Management.

WILL meetings are open to guests. Visit [www.women-in-leadership.com/events](http://www.women-in-leadership.com/events) or the Women in Leadership of La Porte County Facebook page for more details.

## Design a Bookmark Contest

The second Friends of the New Buffalo Library Design a Bookmark Contest is open to New Buffalo and New Buffalo Township students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Entries must be submitted by the end of the school day Thursday, March 15. Forms are available from art teachers at New Buffalo Elementary School and New Buffalo Middle School/High School. All work must be done in class, with the exception of home-schooled students, who can pick up their entry and rules forms at the library circulation desk.

Categories and prizes are K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12, with \$25 going to first place in each category, \$20 to second place and \$15 to third place.

Contestants are asked to design a bookmark that fits one of these themes: "If I wrote a book, this is the cover I would want," or "I would like to read a book with this cover."

Only one entry per child is allowed. They must be original. No computer-generated images or copyrighted material are allowed, such as Harry Potter, Disney or DreamWorks. Entries may be done in ink, crayon, pencil, colored pencil, paint, magic marker or any medium approved by art teachers. No glitter is permitted.

All entries become the property of New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. They may be reproduced for public distribution and displayed at the library. Winning entries will be printed, laminated and available to patrons while supplies last.

## Library Drive to Benefit Shelter

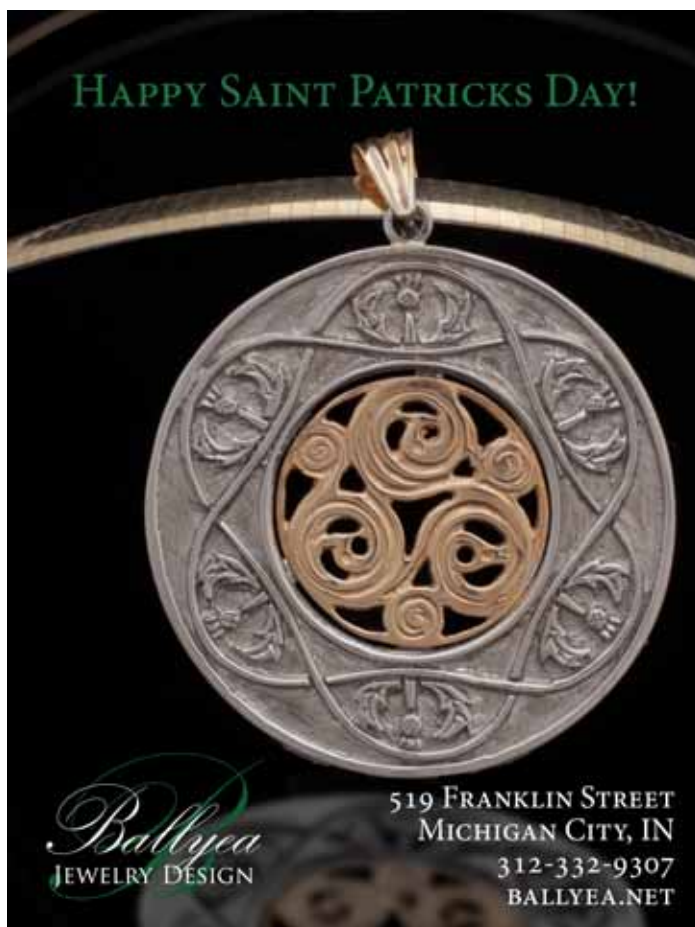
For the second year, in honor of March's Women's History Month, New Buffalo Township Library will host a drive for Michigan City's Stepping Stone Shelter for Women.

Fine forgiveness will be given up to \$5 for items brought in around the same approximate value or more in March. The shelter especially needs cleaning products for kitchens and bathrooms, paper products, trial-sized hygiene and beauty products, feminine-hygiene products, women's and children's underclothes, baby supplies and Michigan City Area Schools uniforms.

The library also will accept snacks and non-perishable foods, tea and coffee, bottled water, laundry supplies, African-American hair products and office supplies (paper, legal pads, pens, pencils).

The library cannot accept some items, so contact staff if unsure. Items should be new and unopened.

Contact Courtney at [nbtlcreate@gmail.com](mailto:nbtlcreate@gmail.com) or (269) 469-2933 for details. The library is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Visit [newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org](http://newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org) or [www.stepsingstoneshelter.org](http://www.stepsingstoneshelter.org) for more information.



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## LaPorte Mayor Visits La Lumiere Journalism Classes

La Porte's new mayor, Mark Krentz, paid a visit to La Lumiere's journalism classes Feb. 16 so students could participate in a mock press conference.

Krentz, the mayor since August, spoke before two classes of juniors and seniors studying journalism as part of writing requirements. The 34 students each were expected to have 10 questions ready for the local politician after having spent their week researching the caucus that elected him, and the various issues important to LaPorte residents.

Krentz spoke to the high-schoolers about the unusual way in which he became mayor after the promotion of previous La Porte leader, Blair Milo.

"I had three weeks to decide whether to run for mayor," he said, to their surprise.

Krentz said one of his first actions once he took charge was to change the police chief. He also said it was one of the most challenging things he's done, and talked about the process of interviewing other candidates, although he admitted it was "impossible to satisfy everyone."

As the son of a former city mayor, Krentz was asked if holding the position was always his dream job. Saying he "knew it was a hard job" for his father, Krentz admitted that back in college, he wanted to work in radio, but that his "family was really excited about (him) being mayor."

Krentz told students they should work on their skills to be good journalists, because "the power of listening to people is huge," something he's also



Students of La Lumiere's Journalism and New Media writing seminar course pose with La Porte Mayor Mark Krentz.

learned in his current line of work.

Krentz is the second person to visit with La Lumiere journalism students this semester. The first was La Porte attorney Mary Lake, who helped the teens learn about First Amendment issues. Last semester, guests to the classes included State Sen. Mike Bohacek, who also participated in a mock press conference, as well as newspaper columnist Phil Potempa, South Bend weatherman Matt Rudkin, Amarillo (Texas) investigative reporter Niccole Kaan and, via Skype, *New York Times* sports reporter Allan Kreda.

Documentary producer Pat Wisniewski and magazine publisher Julia Huisman likewise spoke to students about careers in the media business. Also expected to appear before this year's students are newspaper columnist Jerry Davich and talk-show host Michael Essany.

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## Region Photography Clinic

Early bird registration is under way for the Ninth Annual Photography Clinic on Saturday, March 24, at Munster's Center for Visual and Performing Arts.

The all-day event is hosted by the non-profit Calumet Region Photo Club. The featured speaker is landscape photographer and self-published author Blake Rudis of Kansas City, Mo. His presentation will include photographic composition techniques, color theory and post-production workflow.

Photographers of all skill levels and interests are welcome. Those interested can download a registration form from [www.calregionphoto.org](http://www.calregionphoto.org). The early bird fee is \$75 if received by March 1. Afterward, the cost is \$80, with registration required by March 17. The cost includes all presentations, a continental breakfast, luncheon, an opportunity to visit with vendors and a chance at winning door prizes.

## Scholarship Applications Available

The Healthcare Foundation of La Porte will award \$33,750 in scholarships this year, with individuals receiving aid that ranges from \$500 to \$3,000.

La Porte Hospital Foundation started the tradition in 1983. Scholarship opportunities funded by La Porte Hospital Auxiliary also are accessible through the same application process.

Visit [hflaporte.org/scholarships](http://hflaporte.org/scholarships) for details.

Students must be pursuing a degree in a health or wellness field, and be enrolled at an accredited university, college or similar higher-learning institute. The deadline is midnight Friday, March 16. Applicants will be notified of their status Friday, April 27. Scholarships will be presented during an awards reception May 31.

Available scholarships and requirements include:

### Healthcare Foundation Scholarships

Students must:

- Be residents or actively employed within the city of La Porte and surrounding areas.
- Be enrolled in their third year (junior) or higher, or in a post-graduate health-care program.
- Have a GPA above 3.0.

### Healthcare Foundation Radiologic/Medical Imaging

Students must:

- Be residents or actively employed within the city of La Porte and surrounding areas.
- Be enrolled in Associate of Applied Science-Radiologic Technology, Associate of Science-Radiography or Bachelor of Science-Medical Imaging Technology.
- Have a GPA above 3.0.

### La Porte Hospital Auxiliary Scholarships

Students must:

- Be enrolled in freshman or sophomore year.
- Be a graduate of a high school in La Porte County or employed by La Porte Hospital or La Porte physicians.



## American Red Cross

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

- Edgewood Elementary School, 502 Boyd Circle, 1:30 to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 1.
- St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road, noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 6.

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](http://redcrossblood.org) for more details.

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## Maple Sugar Time 2018

The annual Maple Sugar Time festival returns to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 3-4 and 10-11.

Take a self-guided tour to learn how maple tree sap has been used for hundreds of years. Park staff will be at each trail stop to show how American Indians first boiled maple sap into sugar, and how later, settlers used large iron kettles to make the sap into syrup. Afterward, stand in the sugar shack, where sap is still boiled down the way the Chellbergs did.

Visitors can drill a tap hole, or use an old-fashioned yoke to carry heavy sap buckets. Samples of pure maple syrup can be compared to “artificially flavored” brands.

The activities are at Chellberg Farm, the parking lot for which is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 20 and 12 in Porter. Admission is free, and pure maple syrup and related products will be sold. Call (219) 395-1882 for more details.

## First Friday @ Lubeznik Center

Expect a combination of art, live music and craft beer during the First Friday Art Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. March 2 at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

The musical duo Cat Man Dog will perform, while Burn 'Em Brewing will offer tastings. Light bites and a cash bar are planned.

Visitors also can see “Birds and Bees,” the new exhibit by 10 artists who share personal interpretations of birds or bees through drawings, printmaking, painting, sculpture, video and mixed media.

Admission is free. Visit [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org) for more details.

## Lunch & Learn Series

The “Lunch & Learn” series continues with “Moving, Downsizing, Traditions: Working Through the Emotions” from noon to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, at Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave.

The program is sponsored by Alzheimer’s & Dementia Services and REAL Services, the latter providing a free lunch, including a beverage, to family caregivers who serve at least one week in advance.

Call (800) 552-7928, Ext. 7132, for reservations.

## First Saturday Hikes

Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest (formerly Taltree Arboretum) will host a First Saturday Hike from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 3.

A naturalist guides visitors through the arboretum and focuses on seasonal changes and interests.

Email [info@taltree.org](mailto:info@taltree.org) or call (219) 462-0025 for more details. Gabis Arboretum is located at 71 N. County Road 500 West near Valparaiso.

## Spring Break Camp

Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest (formerly Taltree) is offering a spring break camp for children in first through fifth grades.

Camp is Monday through Friday, March 26-30. The science-based program celebrates the natural world through exploration and outdoor experiences. Campers learn how to grow and care for plants, find solutions to water pollution and discover animals that can be found in their own backyards.

Campers should take a lunch, water bottle, closed-toe shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. Registration is available for the full week or per day.

Dropoff begins at 8:30 a.m., with camp running from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The full week cost is \$140 for members and \$150 for non-members. The daily cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members.

Registration and payment are due Monday, March 19. Forms can be downloaded at [Taltree.org](http://Taltree.org). Contact Ellen Kapitan at (219) 742-8147 or [ekapitan@taltree.org](mailto:ekapitan@taltree.org) for details.



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## Shirley Heinze Receives Donation

The Brandstetter family has donated 3.03 acres, or 14 lots, adjacent to wetlands in Beverly Shores to Shirley Heinze Land Trust's land holdings.

The acquisition, linked to the Shirley Heinze Great Marsh Preserve, will aid efforts to restore healthy marshland habitat by reducing the number of complex boundaries, Executive Director Kris Krouse said.



The Great Marsh at Beverly Shores.

Krouse lauded volunteer Tyson Lagoni for his efforts in aiding the work.

"To date, we've acquired approximately 85 acres in the project area," Krouse said. "Restoration activities taking place here include the removal of invasive plants and the seeding and planting of native plant species."

Shirley Heinze's Great Marsh properties are separated from Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore by Beverly Drive, Krouse added.

"The sedge meadows and wetlands present here are a haven for birds and other wildlife, and a home to rare plants," he said. "The area is a designated stop on the Chicago Region Birding Trail and has been recognized as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society."

Visit [www.heinzetrust.org](http://www.heinzetrust.org), call (219) 242-8558, or access its Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/heinzetrust](http://www.facebook.com/heinzetrust) for more details.



## Long Beach Women's Bowling

Feb. 20, 2018

### TEAM STANDING

	WON	LOST
1. Diagonal Divas	22	6
2. Queen Pins	17	11
3. Alley Katz/Lucky Lefties	16	12

### HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. June Salmon	167
2. Mary Lou McFadden	165
3. Sue Labovitz	156
4. Lenore Hadaway	154

### SPLITS

1. Susan OConor	3-10 (2)
2. Nancy Klausner	5-10



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

## Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will host a sunset outing, "In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb: Ice Formations of Lake Michigan," at 6:15 p.m. EST Saturday, March 3, at the City of New Buffalo Beach.

While gathered on the leeward side of the beach house, HCH Board Member Janet Schrader and President Pat Fisher will explain the origins of many ice formations found along Lake Michigan's shores. Weather permitting, some formations will remain for first-hand inspection.

The presentation will last about 20 minutes, followed by a short hike, described as "easy, but potentially cold and windy."

Visit [harborcountryhikers.com](http://harborcountryhikers.com) for more details.

## Friends of New Buffalo Library

The Friends of New Buffalo Library will seek community input to plan future events at 4 p.m. EST Thursday, March 8, in the Pokagon Room at New Buffalo Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Funds for activities were raised from a successful "give-back" dinner at Bentwood Tavern at the Marina Grand Resort, as well as proceeds from commemorative brick and book sales.

Call the library at (269) 469-2933 or email [nbli-brary@comcast.net](mailto:nbli-brary@comcast.net) with questions.



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

**Answer:** Renderings depicting what the completed project will look like are available at City Hall. Specific amenities include the proposed people/pet fountain pictured here and pet mitt-bag dispenser.



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## Dunes Learning Center

Two workshops are set for Saturday, March 24, at Dunes Learning Center, 700 Howe Road, Porter.

First up is "Fruit Tree Grafting" from 9 a.m. to noon. Working in conjunction with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and Purdue Extension, participants graft scion wood to rootstock, and plant grafted trees in pots to enhance fruit orchards at the center and Chellberg Farm. Each participant takes home two to three of the trees he/she grafts, plus a grafting knife.

The cost is \$20. Visit [tinyurl.com/y8u6owa9](http://tinyurl.com/y8u6owa9) to register.

The second workshop, "Project WET Educators, is from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk off U.S. 12 near Ogden Dunes.

Along with traditional content for Project WET certification, the session incorporates activities and resources around Asian carp and aquatic invasive species that threaten regional waterways.

The \$40 cost includes lunch and materials. Visit [tinyurl.com/ybor3hx5](http://tinyurl.com/ybor3hx5) to register.

## Area Artists Association Exhibit

The Area Artists Association will present the exhibit "Deliberate Strokes" on March 2-April 15 at Valpo Art House & Gallery, 404 E. Lincolnway.

A reception is from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 2. Regular gallery hours are noon to 6 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

The AAA is affiliated with Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St.

Contact Stephanie Carnell at [beachprintmaker@gmail.com](mailto:beachprintmaker@gmail.com) or (219) 926-7852, or Larry (Lars) Jensen at [larrylarsjensen@gmail.com](mailto:larrylarsjensen@gmail.com) or (219) 877-4010 for more details.

## Yoga Kids Foundation Class

Teachers, parents and therapy providers can attend Yoga Kids training Saturday and Sunday, March 10-11, at Dancing Feet Yoga, 19135 U.S. 12, New Buffalo, Mich.

As part of the event, free yoga classes are offered to children as demo lessons.

Visit [www.yogakids.com/freeclasses](http://www.yogakids.com/freeclasses) and [www.yogakids.com/training-events](http://www.yogakids.com/training-events) for more details.

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## Enameling Workshop

Stephanie Swanson will present an enameling workshop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 3-4, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Students will experiment with different techniques of high-firing enamels (finely ground glass powder). They will mostly work in copper and some sterling silver, which will be provided.

Students will learn the following techniques: stenciling, sgraffito, *basse-taille*, *grisaille*, *champleve*, *cloisonne* and *plique-a-jour*. All supplies are included. Lunch breaks are planned.

The cost is \$225, with members receiving a \$25 discount. A maximum number of six students is allowed. Visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for details.

## Polish Heritage Essay Competition

Applications are available for the Polish Heritage Association of Michigan City 2018 scholarship essay competition.

Applicants are eligible for first place (\$1,000), second place (\$500) or third place (\$100). The competition is open to any high school or college student living in Northwest Indiana (Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Starke and St. Joseph counties). Applicants don't have to be of Polish ancestry.

This year's theme is "Ignacy Jan Paderewski and the Rebirth of Polish Independence in 1918."

Entries are due by April 27. Contact Professor Janusz Duzinkiewicz at [jduzinkiewicz@pnw.edu](mailto:jduzinkiewicz@pnw.edu) for more details.



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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**March 2** — Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**March 2** — First Friday Art Walk, 5-8 p.m., Uptown Arts District (downtown Michigan City).

**March 2** — First Friday @ LCA, 5-8 p.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: [www.lubeznikcenter.org](http://www.lubeznikcenter.org)

**March 2** — Opening reception, "Masters' Art Reimagined," 5-8 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. Info: [www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com](http://www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com)

**March 2-5** — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing:* "Call Me By Your Name." Rated R. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 2:30 p.m. Sat.-Sun. *Also:* Oscar-nominated short films — live action. Not rated. Time: Noon March 3. All times Eastern. Info: [vickerstheatre.com](http://vickerstheatre.com)

**March 3** — Westville Elementary PTO Bazaar and Craft Show, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Westville Elementary School, 207 E. Valparaiso St.

**March 3** — Premier Theatre production, "Homeschooled," 3 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**March 3** — Harbor Country Hikers sunset outing, "In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb: Ice Formations of Lake Michigan," 6:15 p.m. EST, City of New Buffalo Beach. Info: [harborcountryhikers.com](http://harborcountryhikers.com)

**March 3** — All-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner, 4:30-6:30 p.m., St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave. Cost: \$7. Info: (219) 879-9415.

**March 3-4** — Builders Association of LaPorte County Home & Lifestyle Expo, Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa. Times: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. March 3/9 a.m.-4 p.m. March 4. Free. Info: [www.balc.org](http://www.balc.org)

**March 3-4, 10-11** — Maple Sugar Time 2018, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Free. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**March 4** — Sunday Matinee: "Three Billboards Outside of Ebbing, Missouri," 1:30 p.m., The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**March 4** — Academy Award Film Tribute: "Wings," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**March 5** — Story Time on the Road, 11 a.m., Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Free.

**March 5** — Popular Books, Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell Jr.'s "Empty Mansions: The Mysterious Life of Huguette Clark and the Spending of a Great American," 2 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**March 6** — Purdue University Northwest Brain Awareness Day event, "The Artful Tour of the Brain," 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Library-Student-Faculty

building, Gallery 144. Free. Info: (219) 785-5593.

**March 7-8** — Documentary screening, "His Neighbor Phil," The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Times: 2 p.m. March 7/5 p.m. March 8. Registration: [tinyurl.com/ybktc6mj](http://tinyurl.com/ybktc6mj), (219) 926-7696.

**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

**March 2** — Opening reception, "Deliberate Strokes," 5-7 p.m., Valpo Art House & Gallery, 404 E. Lincolnway. Info: (219) 926-7852, (219) 877-4010.

**March 2-17** — "No Way to Treat a Lady," Elkhart Civic Theatre @ Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (Eastern): 7:30 p.m. March 2-3, 9-10 and 16-17, 3 p.m. March 11. Tickets: adults, \$21, seniors & students/\$19. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, [elkhartcivictheatre.org](http://elkhartcivictheatre.org)

**March 3** — Independent Cat Society Sweetheart Day, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Valparaiso Moose Lodge, 108 Indiana Ave. Info: [www.catsociety.org](http://www.catsociety.org)

**March 3** — First Saturday Hike, 10-11 a.m., Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest (formerly Taltree Arboretum), 71 N. County Road 500 West near Valparaiso. Info: [info@taltree.org](mailto:info@taltree.org), (219) 462-0025.

**Through 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](http://tinyurl.com/ydd714wt)

### 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.

## Library Staff Available as Speakers

LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., makes available library staff who can give talks on a variety of topics at organizational meetings.

Visit [laportelibrary.org](http://laportelibrary.org) and choose Services, then Speakers Bureau. Topics fall under categories such as travel, holiday histories, parenting, downloading eBooks and local history.

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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](http://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. 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?

### 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.

### 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.

### Shelter and Hall Reservations

Call (219) 325-8315 to make reservations for one of many picnic shelters at any of the four county parks, or Pat Smith Hall at Red Mill County Park for a family function.

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## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**The Black Painting by Neil Olson** (hardcover, \$24.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

As the old saying goes, you can pick your friends, but you can't pick your family.

The Black Painting explores the inner dynamics of a dysfunctional family while throwing in a suspicious housekeeper, a cursed painting, a stranger in the woods and a dead patriarch who may or may not have been murdered. Let me introduce you to the Morse family of Owl's Point, Conn.

Four cousins have been summoned by their grandfather, Alfred Arthur Morse II, to the patriarchal home on Owl's Point. They are now grown, each with their own lives in other places. They haven't been to the house since they were teens. Grandpa was an art collector and dealer — a collector when he saw something he wanted to keep, like the Goya self-portrait rumored to bring madness and death to anyone who gazes upon it.

But, *"There was a trick to it, or there was a type of person able to withstand the portrait's awful gaze. More than withstand it, but learn and prosper from the contact. This was explained to Teresa by her father, Ramon..."*

Ramon, however, suffered from mental illness and died, jumping off a bridge, so he might not be a good source of information.

As Teresa enters the house, she notes that the *"...magical home of her childhood no longer existed... Full of sadness and memories, but nothing to be afraid of."* Yeah, hold that thought, Teresa...

It is Teresa who enters the study and finds grandfather dead, his open eyes, seeming to stare at the wall where the Goya had hung. I say had hung because it was stolen 15 years earlier. There were suspects, of course, but the maid, Jenny Mulhane, had a brother, Peter, who was a known thief and was accused of the crime. The painting was never found, but many household items, Peter stole. He spent 10 years in prison for the theft.

An autopsy confirms grandpa Morse had a heart attack, but Teresa has an unexplainable feeling that he was murdered. But by whom and why?

There are plenty of suspects, starting with the family. No love lost there. Conversations show the distance, jealousy and downright hatred various members of the family have for each other.

As Teresa cries out in despair: *"Why is everyone so hostile in this family?"*

The cousins' parents include: Teresa's mother, Miranda; James and Audrey's father, Alfred Arthur Morse III (called Fred), now on wife two or three; and Kenny's father, Philip Morse, on wife who knows what number.

So Miranda, Fred and Philip don't trust each other and wonder what will be in grandpa's will for them? Boy, will they be surprised! Each of the cousins gets an envelope with the promise of \$250,000 — if they complete a task dear old grandpa assigned for each of them. Wow. He really was a strange, mean old man.

Speaking of suspects, there's Ilsa Graff, grandpa's housekeeper of many years. Where is she? She can't be found after grandpa's body is discovered. Then there's a strange man Teresa sees in the woods, but not close enough to identify.

Philip hires a private investigator, Dave Webster, to look into grandpa's death. Teresa wonders why. Does he know something no one else knows? Too many things don't add up, and as time goes by, Teresa and Dave are thrown together and begin to find out

what secrets Owl Point conceals. The climax is exciting, with the stranger in the woods playing a big part. Will the Goya painting show up? You never know!

Family dynamics are always intriguing, and long-hidden secrets most always find their way to the surface. It can mend some old grudges or break some relationships forever. Goya's painting is the dark matter at the center of the Morse family relationships, perhaps fulfilling its ancient curse. Even the cover of the book will scare you enough to make you drop it instantly or intrigue you enough to start reading. Either way, it has a lot to offer.

A different read, indeed.

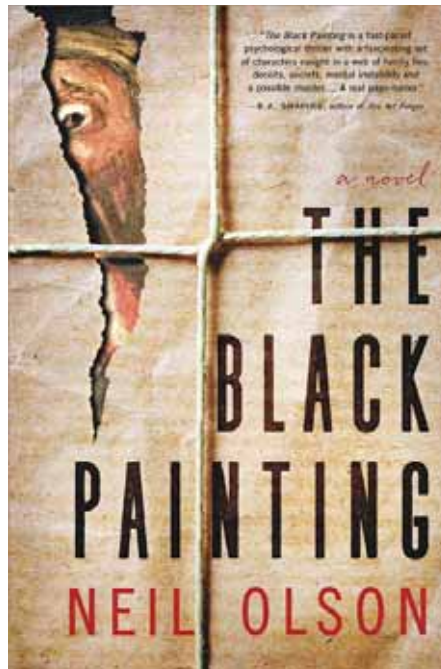
*Publishers Weekly*: "[A] taut psychological thriller... This dark, supernaturally tinged tale ends on an unexpectedly hopeful note."

*Library Journal*: "A quick and chilling read for fans of B.A. Shapiro, Noah Charney and Iain Pears."

*Toronto Star*: "Get ready for a thrilling ride through the worlds of the unhappy rich, whose acquisitions can prove very dangerous indeed."

Olson is also the author of The Icon and a play, Dealers. He works in the publishing industry and lives in New York City. Website: [NeilOlsonAuthor.com](http://NeilOlsonAuthor.com)

Till next time, happy reading!



# Think Spring.

LET US GUIDE YOU

TO A FUN FILLED SUMMER!



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**1603 Hidden Hills Trail**



**\$479,900**

NEW LISTING! - On a secluded cul-de-sac this delightful 4 bedroom, 3 bath invites the beach-goer. Great room with new kitchen in 2012 includes new appliances and granite countertops. This opens to bright sun room and then a secluded patio with firepit, built-in benches and surrounded by trees. Lower level offers privacy for guests-bedroom, sitting room, private bath, all with gleaming bamboo floors. Furnace just 2 years old. The 2 car garage is heated. Decks surround the house and there is generous parking. Easy stroll to Stop 16 beach where a level boardwalk leads to an uncrowded beach for sunset gazing. A well cared for home ready for a fun filled summer!



**4 Bed/3 Bath/2,072 sq.ft.**



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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!



Doug Waters\*  
GRI  
Principal Broker

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