In a way, Maidena Young became a Jack of all trades out of necessity. The mother of five children, and with little money to hire extra help, Young realized if tasks must get done, then she must do them herself. That explains why, over the years, the many businesses she oversaw reflected the skills she achieved, from cleaning and painting services to handling maintenance for The Courts by Long Beach. She even was the first female foreman at Indiana State Prison.

Young has artistic abilities, but couldn’t afford formal training. She enjoys painting, from acrylics on canvas to furniture with faux finishing. That’s why she jumped at the chance to fill out an application for Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin St. It was a marvelous opportunity.

Young was the first to sign a lease with Artspace, and the first of two single female artists to move into one-bedroom units. She’s transformed her apartment into cozy live/work space. Sunlight beams through tall windows, bathing the room in warm light. The open-concept design allows her to work, relax and prepare meals in the same room.

“I’m still pinching myself every time I walk...
Dream Come True Continued from Page 1

into my apartment here,” she said, a smile on her face. “The big windows, the high ceilings, everything’s new — I love it.

“I’ve had a hard time believing I’m a real artist. I look at what I’ve created and can’t believe I did it. I once stayed in a loft apartment for a friend who was away. I was looking down on Franklin Street, and I told myself, one day, I’m going to be living in a loft that looks down on Franklin Street. Now, I am.”

Young was one of six people — some of the first individuals to move into the seven-story Artspace — who met with The Beacher to discuss what life is like in the estimated $13.7 million mixed-use project located in what once was the historic Warren Building.

And while finishing touches remain, especially at ground level where studio and commercial space will exist, something extraordinary already has emerged — a sense of community. Like Young, the artists can’t believe the good fortune that befell them through Artspace. It is like a gift, they say, dropped in their laps. Now, they can concentrate less on how to make ends meet and more on honing their skills as artists. And, they thrive off each other. Just sitting together around a table in the seventh-floor common area, that camaraderie was evident. They laughed, shared stories of stopping by each other’s apartments and admitted how much they admired the creativity thriving within them.

They also speak of Catherine MacDonald, Artspace’s property manager, with practically an air of reverence, each recalling the day she called to let them know they could move in.

“I really enjoy helping people, which is why I took this job,” said MacDonald, who received a Bachelor of Science and Arts in photography, working for years in the field of commercial real estate.

“The artists here want to better themselves and their lives,” she continued, “and Artspace really cares about that. They care about artists as people and their well-being, and I like that.”

The tallest building in Michigan City’s Uptown Arts District, Artspace has 44 live/work units for artists and their families, complete with large windows, terrazzo floors and high ceilings. Options include a studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom spaces ranging from 529 to 1,075 square feet. Rent ranges from 30 to 60 percent of the Area Median Income for low-income artists. The building’s eco-friendly features include Energy Star roofing material, open-grid pavers, permeable concrete and grass pavers.

Artists began moving in March 4. Of the 44 units, MacDonald says, 22 are occupied, with an additional three expected by the time The Beacher went to press with this article.

The amenities, the artists say, add to the welcoming feel of Artspace. Pets, for example, are allowed. Off-street parking and bike storage exist.

Being in the heart of Michigan City’s Uptown Arts District also prompts residents to explore their surroundings, which is particularly exciting for them amid the artistic and economic rebirth of the city’s downtown.

One such resident is Bethany Silcox. Delighted Artspace allows pets, she moved into her apartment with her 1 1/2-year-old dog Chevy, a collie-Australian shepherd mix. They take walks together in the Uptown Arts District.

“I grew up in the country, so I never thought I’d live in the city,” she said. “They are doing so much with the downtown. It has improved so much. To be able to live here is amazing.”

A 2008 Michigan City High School graduate who excelled in volleyball, Silcox also had a flair for photography. Her college career began at Purdue University-North Central before switching to visual com-
Bethany Silcox relaxes with her dog, Chevy, in her Artspace apartment.

Communications at Ivy Tech in Indianapolis. Her journey eventually took her to South Bend's Ivy Tech campus, where she flourished under the tutelage of Associate Professor of Photography Craig Sheaks. In fact, Sheaks used her photo, that of her niece and nephew at Michigan City Public Library, in material that garnered a Silver Award through The ADDY Awards, the world's largest advertising competition.

In just the short time she's lived at Artspace, Silcox says, tapping into the creative synergy there has been invigorating.

"The idea of networking and working with the other artists, this is going to be so beneficial," she said. "We have so many different styles."

It helps, too, that Silcox's good friend, Elizabeth Linder, lives just around the corner from her, on the same floor, in fact, as Young.

Linder traveled quite a bit, including a period where she lived in San Diego after high school, but she missed family and friends, which prompted her

Continued on Page 4
Dream Come True  Continued from Page 3

return home. She’s attended makeup school and studied dance, from ballet to jazz to hip-hop, but it was hooping, also known as hula hooping and hoop dance, that spoke to her, particularly during a traumatic period in her life.

Elizabeth Linder specializes in the art of hooping, using her Artspace apartment to teach lessons.

“It’s kind of like, when you get into the natural flow of it, you block out everything and forget about everything else in the world,” she said. “You’re not thinking about, I have to do this or that. I can just escape.”

Silcox had her tag along to an informational meeting about Artspace. Disinterested at first, Linder says she was hooked by the end of the meeting.

“I was like, I have to be here,” she recalled. “This is the environment I need to be in, and already, I feel so blessed to meet all these awesome people.”

Her apartment works to her advantage because the space is open to teach hooping, and kick back and relax afterward.

The same applies to Kyron Williams, who uses his apartment not just as living space, but also as his photo studio. Sometimes, he photographs up-and-coming musicians and models needing to build up their portfolios. Other times, he’s out in the community, hired to capture birthdays or weddings on film.

The 1999 Michigan City High School graduate had a passion for drawing, exploring various uses of color. He also dabbled in music, creating his own studio and focusing on R&B and hip-hop.

Photography, however, has become his passion, and living in Artspace has fueled that love in ways he couldn’t have anticipated. Take, for instance, his desire to capture the perfect sunset. One morning, the earliest traces of sunlight creeping through his windows, he awoke and grabbed his camera.

“Ninety minutes later, I got the perfect shot,” he said, beaming.

Indeed, Williams continued, the support evident among Artspace’s new residents has inspired him.

“Everyone seems so down to earth,” he said. “It’s all positive energy. It’s motivated me to create better.”

Not all of Artspace’s residents are from the area.

Take, for instance, Jeffrey Baumgartner, a Fort Wayne native, actor and artist. He worked for 30 years as an actor in Chicago, with performances at Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Co. and Chicago Shakespeare Theater. He’s also spent the past 10 years as a painter, working in oils. During the past five years, he’s concentrated on plein air, or outdoor, painting, highlighting landscapes across Northwest Indiana.
One of his recent efforts has been “30 in 30,” painting 30 locations in 30 days. Ten of those works are featured in a new exhibit at Southern Shore Art Association, right across the street from Artspace.

“This is a painter’s dream,” he said. “It’s great.”

Another newcomer to the community is Michele McDannold, a poet, editor and publisher. She hails from Meredosia, a town of a little more than 1,000 people off the Illinois River, about one hour from Springfield. A community, she adds, with “no culture or diversity.” In love with writing, her only creative outlet was the Internet. Online workshops, she says, had a snowball effect that led her to publishing. She also founded The Literary Underground Wiki, a forum for poets, editors and writers to inspire each other.

Last year, she did poetry readings in 15 states, traveling some 35,000 miles. She was in La Porte at the time when she first caught wind of Artspace. Now, like everyone else, she pinches herself that she’s living there.

“It’s been pretty overwhelming, but in a good way. To only get small doses of this (back home) and now, to be in the city every day — I can’t believe this is my life.

“It’s been my dream to have the kind of time to not worry so much about living expenses. I’m looking forward to having the time now to think about exactly what I want to do.”

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The view from Michele McDannold's apartment offers plenty of inspiration.

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Candle Making Class

Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., has partnered with Antique Candle Works, a locally based artisan company, to offer a unique class.

For $25, participants can make soy candles poured into tea cups and glass jars.

The event is at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, in the historic Butler’s Pantry. After making three candles of their choice, participants embark on a tour of the mansion.

Reservations and pre-payment are available at tinyurl.com/hoepk36. Walk-ins are not accepted. Visit www.BarkerMansion.com for additional information.

Spring Rummage Sale

Donations are being accepted for the Women’s Guild Spring Rummage Sale, which runs Thursday through Saturday, April 28-30, at St. John’s United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road.

The sale has been an annual activity for the Guild since the early 1980s, often held during the spring and fall.

This year’s event is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday, April 28-29, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 30. Sales on Friday and Saturday (except jewelry) are half-price. Available are clean, gently used miscellaneous household items, clothing for children and adults, toys, books, dishes, jewelry, small electrical appliances, tools and sports equipment.

Donations of used items (no TVs) are being accepted at the church office until the first day of the sale. Call (219) 872-9121 for more information.

New Farmers & Artisan Market

New Buffalo Business Association, along with City of New Buffalo and New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority, are developing a downtown farmers and artisan market for this summer.

The market will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. EDT Thursdays. It will consist of farmers/growers, businesses and local artisans selling fruit, produce, flowers, jams/jellies, baked goods, coffee, handmade products and live music.

Growers and artisans can reserve space for the market, which runs Thursday, June 2, through the second Thursday in September. Also sought are local musicians and food vendors to provide prepared food. Contact Cathi Rogers at events@newbuffalo.org or by calling (312) 965-9114 for more information or to receive an application.

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$435,000
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4079 Lakeshore Drive, Michiana
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LaLu Competes in Olympiad

La Lumiere School’s Science Olympiad Team competed for the 23rd consecutive year in the Indiana Science Olympiad State Tournament on March 19 at Indiana University-Bloomington.

The team placed 12th overall out of 36 schools and competed in 23 events covering biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, engineering and problem solving. They medaled in three events and had 10 top-10 finishes. Medal winners included:

- Fifth Place, Bridge Building: Janice Baek, Ulsan, South Korea; Yuyang (Peter) Zhang, Beijing, China.
- Fifth Place, Dynamic Planet: Janice Baek, Ulsan, South Korea; Yuyang (Peter) Zhang, Beijing, China.

La Lumiere School’s Science Olympiad Team is: (row 1, from left): Qingyuan (Season) Wu, Zoe Surma, Haley Harkness, Rowena Quinn, Hao Hao (Maggie) Chen, Sean Russell, Shivani Patel and Mr. Bryan Smith. Row 2 is (from left): Mr. Tim Earles, Zifei (Vincent) Chen, Tucker Magill, Megan Gillen, Janice Baek, Yang (Kathy) Kong, Yifan (Iven) Jiang, Natalie McGuckin and Mr. Tom Falcone. Row 3 is (from left): Mr. Brett Balhoff, Shunzhang (Lee) Li, Zicheng (Tom) Ren, Nolan Grieger, Yuyang (Peter) Zhang, Luyuan (Andy) Hang, Hasan Nasar, Mr. Don Snedden and Mr. Ken Andert. Row 4 is (from left): Noah Schuster, Matt Peters and Bozhao (Connor) Zhang.
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**Eugene Allen, America’s Butler**

by Kim Ward

This is the first in a two-part series about author and journalist Will Haygood, starting with the story that put Eugene Allen on the map.

Oscar-nominated director Lee Daniels and an all-star cast of actors, including Oscar-winners Forrest Whitaker, Cuba Gooding Jr., Jane Fonda and Robin Williams, released “The Butler” in August 2013. The film portrayed a man, Eugene Allen, who served eight U.S. presidents over 35 years as a White House butler.

Art+Times spoke to author and journalist Wil Haygood, writer of the 2008 Washington Post article, “A Butler Well Served by This Election,” that sparked initial interest in Allen’s story.

Days after the original article — a vivid chronicle of Allen’s life — was published, the story went viral. The article was reposted in The Los Angeles Times and shortly thereafter, nearly 15 Hollywood actors and producers reached out to Haygood hoping to secure a movie deal. Four and a half years later, “The Butler” shared the story of one of history’s unsung champions.

Speaking to Haygood, a prolific biographer, having written celebrated texts on Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Sugar Ray Robinson and Sammy Davis Jr., you get the sense Allen’s story may be Haygood’s masterwork, an assertion not solely based upon the brilliant content of the article nor Haygood’s adept journalistic rectitude, but the striking parallels that weave Allen and Haygood together. Both men are gracious and professional, proud and persevering, fully committed to their vocation and, in the face of worldwide attention, remarkably humble. We were fortunate to get a look at Allen’s life and Haygood’s enlightening perspective and story.

Haygood’s two-year immersion into Allen’s life made him confident his story had the elements to resonate on the big screen. To Haygood, Allen is nothing short of an American hero whose life plays out like a movie, and whose story deserves to be told.

“It had the stuff of drama, the stuff of cinema — this one man that was in the White House for eight presidents,” he said. “It’s almost like a novel, but it’s a real story. It really happened. Now, he has a movie about his life. His life is important enough to be on the big screen. It’s really pretty magical.”

However, Allen’s life may not have fit the standard mold of the blockbuster Hollywood biopic. While the sweeping grandeur of riveting cinematography, a gripping screenplay and a lush score can serve as a recipe for box-office success, audience appetites are often whet by the star power of larger-than-life historical figures whose names and lives are more recognizable throughout popular culture.

So, why was Allen’s story noteworthy? Why make a film about his life? Why would Lenny Kravitz, after reading the script, cancel his European tour for a role in the movie? Why would Oprah Winfrey appear in the film after a 15-year hiatus? Allen did not break the color barrier on the baseball field nor shake up the world in the boxing ring. He didn’t liberate a people from the shackles of slavery with the stroke of a pen, or revolutionize the world through music or technology. Allen, a butler, a humble man
from Virginia, is not a mainstay in history books, but he was an eyewitness to history for more than three decades from a significant vantage point — 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. — the most powerful address in the world.

Retired for more than 20 years before receiving Haygood’s call, Allen and his wife, Helene, lived, according to the author, in a “very modest house, small, on a quiet street, here, in northwest Washington, D.C.” Haygood was soon to discover that the stories Allen held within him were just as rich as the treasures beneath the Allen residence floors.

Haywood describes the scene as he enters the Allen’s basement.

“There were pictures of him and Harry Truman, him and President Eisenhower, him and President Kennedy, him and the Kennedy children, him and Duke Ellington when Duke Ellington visited the White House, him and Sarah Vaughn, him and Frank Sinatra,” Haywood said. “I almost started spinning on a top. It was like finding this unknown man and his life that nobody had written about.”

It is possible no one wrote about Allen for the same reasons the date Jan. 20 came and went 16 times, through 10 U.S. presidents for nearly 60 years before President Barack Obama invited Allen to attend his first presidential inauguration in 2008. In 1986, Allen made history as the first White House butler to be invited as a guest to a presidential state dinner, a tribute bestowed upon him by President Ronald and First Lady Nancy Reagan. He took the moment so seriously, a picture of him and his wife at the event is the only White House photo in the front room of their home.

Yet, there was a time when he grappled with the racism and segregation that kept black Americans stifled from social, economic and political progress. And with his training, he defaulted to react discreetly, not wearing his political affiliation or views on his sleeve. The effect was impactful. Witnessing both emotional events like assassinations, Civil Rights-movement violence and, in time, triumphs like the passing of The Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act, it is evident he exhibited a herculean amount of restraint.

Even the White House, his daily destination of duty, was not immune, nor could it serve as a place of refuge.

“In 1962, he was working at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, the most powerful address in the world. He could leave there, get in his car and drive to a rest stop in his native Virginia and have to use a bathroom for blacks only. And then go back to work under the American flag. The dual emotions that must have been rumbling inside of him — he was able to quiet any anger and go into work every day, not in a restaurant, a bar or factory, but at the most powerful address in the world that was supposed to be an emblem for world freedom. He didn’t have his rights and yet he never missed a day of work,” Haygood said with zeal.

Continued on Page 12
“When JFK was assassinated, Mr. Allen stayed at the White House all day heart-stricken. He waited until the plane from Dallas had flown back to Washington, D.C. He stayed around as long as he could and helped everybody and then he went home at about 11 p.m. His son told me this — at about 3 o’clock in the morning he woke up, he got dressed and his wife asked him where he was going. He said, ‘I have to go back to the White House. Somebody might wake up in the middle of the night and need me. Everybody is in pain. Everybody is in shock.’ And as he was walking down the hallway, he crumpled to the floor and sobbed. And his son told me it was the first time he had seen his father cry.

“As with the assassination of Dr. King, Allen was heartbroken, but determined. Washington, D.C., was engulfed in riots. While he drove to the White House through the fire and violence, he got out of his car, parked it and walked the rest of the way. As grief stricken as he was, it was important for him to get to work that day,” Haygood explained with captivating detail.

In describing Allen’s stature amongst celebrated history makers, Haygood places Allen near the top.

“It’s interesting that the men I wrote about are famous figures, and Mr. Allen was unknown to those men. Two of them, he probably served. He probably served coffee or tea to Adam Clayton Powell or Sammy Davis Jr. in the White House. Mr. Allen stayed on the same job for 34 years. He represented to those eight presidents an example of a black man who works for his family, who believes in the country, who salutes his flag and he never quit.

“There were other butlers who came and went, especially after the 1960s and the social revolution during a time where it might not have seemed so cool to be a butler, a servant, in the White House. The Civil Rights Bill had not really taken full hold yet, and to stay on that job had to have meant that he believed in America, and that he loved his country. And it didn’t matter that the occupant of the Oval Office was a Democrat or a Republican. He did his job very well, and in the end he rose to be the maître d’, the highest ranking butler at the White House. So, his life had an amazing American song to it, and I think we are in his debt to him.”

In an interview, Oprah Winfrey, who portrayed Eugene Allen’s wife, Helene, cites the Allens’ commitment as one of the things that drew her to the film.

“It was people like Eugene and Helene Allen who helped build the black middle class in this country,” she said. “And that is a big reason why I took this role.”

Allen chose to leave a legacy by staying on the job, which enabled him to put his son through college, extend finances to relatives who desired to migrate from the brutal south and mentor many of the butlers and service people who came through the White House.

According to Haygood, “Many who passed under his tutelage went on to get jobs in big hotel chains in L.A. or Chicago.”

As Martin Luther King, Jr. gave voice to the dream, it was men like Allen whose life made the dream real every day. He served more than the inhabitants of the White House. He served humanity.

(Editor’s note — Part Two of the Art+Times interview with Haygood will delve into how he discovered Allen, the special relationship they developed, how his life has changed because of Allen’s story, and his new book, “Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination that Changed America.”)
## Your Connection to Michigan & Indiana

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**Contact Information**

- Will Schauble | 312.860.4192
- Jack Wehner  | 312.406.9258
- Graham Bailey | 312.694.3750
- David Albers | 219.728.7295
Doll Tea at Barker Mansion

Children of all ages are invited to Barker Mansion’s annual doll teas at 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17.

Formerly known as the American Girl Doll Tea, the event has been renamed the Dearest Doll Tea. Children can take their favorite doll, whether it’s a Cabbage Patch, Chatty Cathy, American Girl or Teddy Bear.

The event will feature light food and refreshments, a craft and a look at Catherine Barker’s favorite doll, which she purchased as a child in Paris.

Oboist Featured in Recital

Michigan City Chamber Music Festival will present oboist Jennet Ingle in a free recital at 7 p.m. Friday, April 8, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

A renowned young woodwind artist, Ingle holds the principal oboe chair with South Bend Symphony Orchestra and Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra. She also has performed with Lyric Opera of Chicago and Chicago Symphony.

The recital will feature the Christopher Rouse Oboe Concerto, composed in 2004. Ingle will explain and explore the piece, as well as perform more familiar works by Bozza and John Williams.

A meet the artist reception follows the performance. Visit www.mccmf.org for more information.

Fiber Art 2016

Duneland Weavers Guild’s Fiber Art 2016, which features everything from unique garments and home goods to hand-spun and dyed fibers, runs this month at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Guild members weave, spin, knit, crochet and felt, using fibers as varied as bamboo, cotton, silk, stencil and wool. This year’s president’s challenge was beads.

Visit www.dunelandweavers.org for additional information.
Rittenhouse Senior Living of Michigan City is now Rittenhouse Village At Michigan City! Now under new ownership and management by award-winning Discovery Senior Living, an industry leader with more than 25 years of exceptional experience. We are honored to bring our new level of wellness care and lifestyle programs to independent living, assisted living and memory care in Michigan City. Come for a visit and stay for our lifestyle!

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416 RVMC0020
Susie Blue and the Lonesome Fellas

Local vocalist Solitaire Miles will present a concert of Western Swing music as part of the La Porte Community Concert season at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 10, at La Porte High School’s auditorium, 602 F St., La Porte.

Western Swing came out of Texas and is sometimes called Texas Swing, but since Miles’ group, Susie Blue and the Lonesome Fellas, is from Chicago, they call it Western Swing, which hails back to authentic Western Swing from the 1940s.

Miles grew up singing in swing bands, both as a teen in northwestern Pennsylvania and while attending Chicago’s DePaul University. A stint with a western swing band convinced her to add country to her repertoire. From there, she formed Susie Blue and the Lonesome Fellas, which includes some of Chicago’s best jazz and country players.

DownBeat Magazine chose the group as having one of the best jazz CDs of 2015. The group also received a Grammy nomination.

Tickets, which can be purchased at the door, are $15 for adults and $5 for students through high school. Call (219) 362-5292 or (219) 362-8262 for more information.

Dodge Ball Challenge

The 2016 Dodge Ball Challenge, which this year benefits Michigan City Area Schools elementary sports programs, is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 23, at Michigan City YMCA Elston Branch’s Wolf Gym, 317 Detroit St.

The cost is $200 per team for a group of eight players. Community, corporate and the general public are encouraged to play. Pledge sheets are available by calling Dave at (219) 210-3534. Online registration is at tinyurl.com/n2s8zm9

Prizes include: Traveling Trophy for Winning Team; Trophies for Second Place; Trophies for Best Dressed, Best Fan & MVP; $400 cash prize for First Place Team; and dining certificates for first- and second-place teams.

General admission is free.

Free Children’s Yoga

Dancing Feet Yoga, 19135 W. U.S. 12, New Buffalo, Mich., will offer free children’s yoga classes Friday and Sunday, April 8 and 10.

Times are 4 to 5 p.m. EDT Friday and 2 to 3 p.m. EDT Sunday (5- to 10-year-olds). Limited spots are available, so make a reservation by email at dancingfeetyoga@gmail.com or call (269) 469-1966.
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BENEFITING
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Michigan City
SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016

It’s Time to Skedaddle!

Join us for the 13th Annual Samaritan Skedaddle 5K Run/Walk

MICHIGAN CITY
SAT., APRIL 30, 2016
9:00 A.M.

REGISTRATION IS EASY!

Simply log on to
www.skedaddle.org

for race details, start times, and registration information.

Same Day Registration is Available.

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Visit La Lumiere! We’d love to show you around. During our spring Open House you will enjoy breakfast with current students, experience interactive classes, tour campus (keep an eye out for Lake La Lumiere), and have your questions answered by our campus leaders.

We look forward to meeting you.

Open House
Saturday, April 30, 2016

Register by April 25, 2016
admissions@lalumiere.org

Can’t make it to the Open House?
Contact us to schedule your personal tour.
World Creativity and Innovation Week

Northwest Indiana is about to celebrate World Creativity and Innovation Week, which kicks off with a breakfast Friday, April 15, at The Center for Creative Solutions Inc., 410 Franklin Square.

This year’s theme is “Indiana Innovation: Past, Present and Future.” The speaker is Ann White Leggett, who will share her journey from La Porte County to Purdue University, to Microsoft, to her current position as leader of the Amazon Device sales and marketing team.

The Center also will recognize local residents for creative/innovation accomplishments. Three A.K. Smith Career Center students will receive scholarships from Dr. Rakesh and Bina Gupta, the B.R. Foundation and the Center. The awards are named after Ms. Gupta’s father, Tej Ram Gupta. Other students will be honored with grants that can be applied to creative projects or equipment. The CREO! will be presented to an individual who has promoted an innovative culture in Northwest Indiana.

The breakfast, open to the public, is at 7:45 a.m., followed by the program at 8:15 a.m. Reservations are requested by Tuesday, April 12. Visit centerforcreativesolutions.com, email creativity52@comcast.net or call (219) 861-0955 for more information.

Free SSAA Monthly Programs

Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St., will offer four free monthly gatherings, led by Linda Weigel and titled “Contemporary Artists and Themes,” starting at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 10.

Maya Lin, designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., is one of four artists to be highlighted along with Bruce Nauman, Kerry James Marshall and William Wegman. A video will be followed by active discussion of all four artists and their themes.

Visit www.southernshoreartassociation.com for more information.

76ers Golf League

The 76ers Senior Golf League will begin its 41st season Monday, May 2, at Michigan City Municipal South Golf Course.

Although most members are from the Michigan City area, including Long Beach and Trail Creek, players also represent La Porte, Chesterton and New Buffalo, Mich. New members are welcome.

The league plays on Monday morning, with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. A spring luncheon, mid-season cookout and year-end awards banquet are included.

Call (219) 872-1646 for more information.

How Sweet It Is


McGinnis Pub, 227 W. Seventh St.
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Lakeshore Coffee, 444 Wabash St.
9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 9

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SMSO Summer Season

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra has announced the lineup for its Summer Beach Series, which offers family entertainment in venues more relaxed than typical concert halls.

The schedule is (all times Eastern):
• “Disney’s The Little Mermaid” at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 25, at Shadowland Pavilion, St. Joseph, Mich.
• Independence Day Concert at 6 p.m. Monday, July 4, at Shadowland Pavilion, with fireworks at dusk.
• Songs From the Heart at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 30, at Jean Klock Park, Benton Harbor, Mich., with guest artist Jenna Mammina.
• The Best of the Eagles at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, 2016, at Shadowland Pavilion. Tickets are: lawn seating — $15; reserved seating — $25, and $5 for children 12 and younger; and tables of 10 — $300. The day-of cost increases by $5.

Special events include:
• SummerFest Music & Microbrews at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 16, at Shadowland Pavilion.
• A Toast: Michigan Wine & Live Music at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at Shadowland Pavilion. Tickets for these two events are $20, or $25 the day of the event.
• Casual Classics Series, Ji Hye Jung, Solo Marimba and Percussion, at 6 p.m. Thursday, June 9, at The Heritage Museum & Cultural Center, St. Joseph, Mich.
• Appleseed Collective at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 7, at The Heritage Museum & Cultural Center.
• Trio Attrito at 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, at The Heritage Museum & Cultural Center. Tickets for these three events are $35.

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

Shirley Heinze Seeks Accreditation

Shirley Heinze Land Trust is applying for accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, which recognizes groups that meet national quality standards for protecting the environment.

The commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant’s policies and programs. Shirley Heinze wants to achieve accreditation as a reminder that its policies and practices are sound and uphold the public’s trust.

A public comment period is open, and most helpful, through Thursday, April 14. Comments must relate to how Shirley Heinze Land Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. Visit tinyurl.com/homcjc3 for a full list of standards.

To submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org, or email a comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments also may be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183, (mail) 112 Spring St., Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

“Growing Stronger”

La Porte County Extension Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, Suite A, will host “Growing Stronger” on May 10 to June 30, with orientation at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 14.

The program — 16 one-hour meetings — emphasizes how strength training and proper nutrition can improve health, including: increased strength and flexibility, improved balance and reduced falls, improved weight and glucose control and improved sleep and mood.

Participants learn about healthy snacks, and practice exercises with a trained leader. Weights are provided for use during the class.

Aimed at participants 18 and older, registration can’t be accepted after April 14. The program fee is $10. Call (219) 324-9407 for more information.
2512 OAK STREET, MICHIGAN CITY
NEW ON MARKET! This 3 bedroom, 2½ bath home located in Old Edgewood has wonderful curb appeal and loads of character. Recently remodeled baths and eat-in kitchen. There are formal dining and living rooms with hardwood floors and a lovely fireplace. Massive main floor multi-purpose room off the back of the home is a wonderful place to relax and unwind. You will love the fenced-in area of the backyard as a retreat for your morning coffee or safe haven for the pets.

1699 N. COUNTRY LANE DRIVE, MICHIGAN CITY
This beautiful 4 bedroom, 3½ bath ranch home is located in Ridgeview Subdivision. Home sits up on a hill with amazing landscaping tended by the owner who is a Master Gardener. Home has an open concept kitchen, dining and living area with double fireplaces. Main floor master suite has walk-out to large deck and a beautiful serene wooded setting. The basement is finished with additional bedroom, family room, full bath, and lots of storage. Located within minutes of major highways and the toll road. This move-in ready home is priced to sell.

Call Pat Mathews-Janasiak for your private showing at 219-861-9385

Pat L. Mathews-Janasiak
Associate Broker
Multi Million Dollar Producer
plmx@comcast.net

2016 N. COUNTRY LANE DRIVE, MICHIGAN CITY
This beautiful 4 bedroom, 3½ bath ranch home is located in Ridgeview Subdivision. Home sits up on a hill with amazing landscaping tended by the owner who is a Master Gardener. Home has an open concept kitchen, dining and living area with double fireplaces. Main floor master suite has walk-out to large deck and a beautiful serene wooded setting. The basement is finished with additional bedroom, family room, full bath, and lots of storage. Located within minutes of major highways and the toll road. This move-in ready home is priced to sell.

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Pat L. Mathews-Janasiak
Associate Broker
Multi Million Dollar Producer
plmx@comcast.net

WATERFRONT SALES LACKLUSTRE
Past 12 Months

First, the numbers:

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Although GNIAR MLS does not officially have a “waterfront” variable, and Beverly Shores waterfront houses are across the street from the park beach, I worked my way through all the sold properties whose addresses put them facing the lake with no possibility of someone building between their house and the lake. Still some subjectivity, but the best I could calculate.

As in Michigan, there are not a lot of sales. But the $Volume adds quickly when your median price is above $1,000,000.

Two interesting plotlines. From 2011 to 2014, the market was recovering. The peak hit in 2013-2014 when there were 10 sales, $13.551 million in $Volume. 2014-2015 was still pretty good. Number of sales down, but median sale price up and $Volume at least over $11 million.

The second plotline is 2015-2016. While there were ten sales, the median sale price and the average sale price are the lowest for any of the five years. And the total $Volume is the second lowest. I did the search twice. The numbers are as correct as I can get them.

Lakefront values dipped this last year to the lowest point in 5 years.

Notes: Area searched by mapping program is from the Steel Mill to the Michigan line on the Lake Michigan side of U.S. 12 using GNIAR MLS data.

Dan Coffey
O: 269.469.5635 Ext. 302
C: 269.612.0505
E: Dan@DanCoffey.com
W: www.remaxhc.com
Permit me to divulge a secret.

I am the only person on the planet who thought “The Da Vinci Code” was annoying.

Don’t get me wrong. I love a good treasure hunt. “Raiders of the Lost Ark” may be my favorite: swashbuckling hero, tough-as-nails heroine, tenacious villains, exotic locales, mind-boggling stunts, a buried relic both divine and terrifying. The movie had it all.

The spirit of Steven Spielberg’s 1981 classic peppered every page of Dan Brown’s colossal hit — at nearly 85 million copies sold worldwide, it’s one of the most popular books ever — but aye-yi-yi, all those clues, each new one more arcane than the previous one. Granted, Brown’s hero, Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon, was the right man for the job, as was Langdon’s partner in run-like-hell crime, Elizabeth Sinskey, director-general of the World Health Organization.

Here are a few theories. With a Dan Brown novel, there is a lot of ground to cover. Characters, clues, locations and the biggest hurdle: the inner workings of Langdon’s mind as he snaps all the puzzle pieces into place. What you need is a master screenwriter who can scale the elements down, eliminate what feels extraneous. If Koepp thins the book, there is a lot of ground to cover. Characters, clues, locations and the biggest hurdle: the inner workings of Langdon’s mind as he snaps all the puzzle pieces into place. What you need is a master screenwriter who can scale the elements down, eliminate what feels extraneous. If Koepp thins the book, what remains is Brown’s growth as a storyteller.

For “Inferno,” Howard has turned to David Koepp, a guy Spielberg refers to as his “closer,” who tinkers with screenplays penned by others to make them sing. He has worked with Spielberg on “Jurassic Park,” “The Lost World,” “War of the Worlds,” “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull” and what’s now being called “Indiana Jones 5,” scheduled to arrive in theaters in 2019.

Koepp is a gifted screenwriter. In 2002, alone, he penned not only Sam Raimi’s “Spider-Man,” but also “ Panic Room.” With “ Inferno,” he has a hefty obstacle. To describe Brown’s explanation for Langdon’s amnesia as convoluted is to deny a thesaurus ample reward for proffering a decent synonym. The twist does not work on any logical plane. It’s confusing, baffling — whatever description floats your boat. On film, it will not work and be dismissed as laziness.

What’s the solution? Simplify. Koepp needs to take a lesson from John Irving when he adapted his own work, “The Cider House Rules,” for the big screen. Concentrate on the key story thread and eliminate what feels extraneous. If Koepp thins the story out, then we could have the first Dan Brown movie that, indeed, feels like the cinematic equivalent of a roller coaster ride.

Not, if the movie tanks, then Howard’s career as a director might flatline, jeopardizing as well the future for any other Brown adaptations.

A lot is on the line with “Inferno.” Maybe too much. Come October, we’ll have our answers.

(Next up: Steven Spielberg’s adaptation of Roald Dahl’s “The BFG.”)

Contact Andrew Tallackson at drew@thebeacher.com

Editor’s note — This is the next in a series of columns exploring upcoming film adaptations of popular books.

by Andrew Tallackson

Author Dan Brown.

Tom Hanks, seen here in “Angels & Demons,” returns as Robert Langdon in “Inferno.”

Another fresh twist? Women call most of the shots. Brown loves a factual assassin, and “Inferno” is no exception, but this time around, it’s Vayentha, a woman more complex, and possibly not as cold-blooded, as the standard Brown wackjob.

The other two, Sienna Brooks, Langdon’s partner in crime, and Elizabeth Sinskey, director-general of the World Health Organization, are whip-smart characters, their allegiance to Langdon questioned right up until the end as they grapple with an exceedingly timely moral and ethical dilemma involving viruses and population control.

So all the elements are in place for one whopper of a movie. Here’s the dilemma, though. For books that feel like fast-paced movies, why is it that the movie adaptations are so boring? Why do they feel so mechanical, choppy and lifeless?

Here are a few theories. With a Dan Brown book, there is a lot of ground to cover. Characters, clues, locations and the biggest hurdle: the inner workings of Langdon’s mind as he snaps all the puzzle pieces into place. What you need is a master screenwriter who can scale the elements down, to distill the essential elements from Brown’s tale so you know what’s going on, but the story still moves and moves fast. If the book leaves you breathless, then the movie should get your adrenaline pumping.

Brown has his riddles and conspiracy theories. It’s what he does... and does better with each passing tale.

Ron Howard directed the film adaptations of “The Da Vinci Code” (2006) and “Angels & Demons” (2009). The once bullet-proof director, however, has not had a hit since “Angels & Demons,” with audiences avoiding his last expensive misfire — the Moby Dick-retelling “In the Heart of the Sea” — like it was riddled with peg-legs.

The movie “Inferno,” set for release Oct. 28. Of all the author’s works, it is my favorite...and at the same time the most maddening.

Howard, with Tom Hanks returning for a third go as Langdon, have their work cut out for them. This time around, Langdon awakens in a hospital bed in Florence, Italy, and with amnesia. It takes all of five pages for an assassin to arrive at his hospital door — would there be any point to a Langdon adventure if someone trying to kill him? — but the fact that the symbologist is left in the dark more so than ever gives the Dan Brown template for his series a fresh kick in the pants.

Classic works of art, of course, figure into the unraveling jigsaw-puzzle mystery, from Botticelli’s “Map of Hell” to Dante’s “The Divine Comedy,” but what “Inferno” reveals is Brown’s growth as a storyteller. If “The Da Vinci Code” read like a fleshed-out screenplay, then “Inferno” conveys a writer more at ease with conveying a sense of place and time. The book is like an armchair tour of the grandeur and architecture of the city, from the stunning Palazzo Vecchio and Il Duomo to the haunting Florence Baptistery.

Another fresh twist? Women call most of the shots. Brown loves a fa-
Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

- **Teen Library Council from 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, April 7,** in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave.

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

- **Chesterton Writing Group from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 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.

- **Lego Club from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 8,** at the Thomas Library Children's Department.

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

- **Local Author Series at 2 p.m. Saturdays in April.**

  The next program is Heather Augustyn, author of “Ska: An Oral History,” on April 9 at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter. A Q&A session follows a brief reading from the book.

- **Make N Take Kids Craft Time on Saturday, April 9,** at Thomas Library.

  Children can stop by the Children's Department anytime during the day (while supplies last) and make a flyable kite.

- **Bifocal Bookies at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 12,** at Hageman Library.

  The focus is Margaret Peterson Haddix’s “Running Out of Time” from the Next Indiana Bookshelf. Copies are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

- **Mad About Mysteries at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 13,** and Saturday, April 16, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

  Sue Helm will delve into mysteries that feature religious characters as protagonists and detectives.

- **Pokemon League from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through May 24** at Thomas Library.

  The program is aimed at children in first grade and older. Attendees learn to make decks of 60 cards. They don’t need to take anything unless wanting to take a starter pack of cards.

- **Children's Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays through June 29** in the Children's Department at Thomas Library.

  Attendees learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. Children should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Register by calling (219) 926-7696.
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www.MichianaMechanical.com

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs are offered:
Saturday, April 9
• 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. — 20th Annual Friends Native Plant Sale.
  The Friends of Indiana Dunes sale is at Indiana Dunes Tourism, 1215 N. Indiana 49 Porter. More than 100 species of native plants will be on sale. Call the Nature Center at (219) 926-1390 for more information.
• 10 a.m. — Bird Banding Demonstrations.
  Explore the science of bird banding at the Nature Center.
• 2 p.m. — High Tech Scavenger Hunt.
  Meet outside the Nature Center for a scavenger hunt using GPS units to explore the hobby of geocaching. Prizes will be awarded.
• 7:30 p.m. — Bog sucker Ballet.
  Meet at the main-entrance parking lot for a 45-minute stealth hike in search of the bog sucker, or woodcock. Dress for the weather, and prepare for off-trail hiking.

Sunday, April 10
• 10 a.m. — Feed the Birds.
  Meet a naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding. Get close views of chickadees, cardinals and woodpeckers.
• 2 p.m. — 100th Anniversary of State Parks.
  Meet at the Nature Center auditorium for the 50-minute documentary produced in 2009 by PBS.
  Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:
• Parents and toddlers can participate in the Nature Tots program from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, April 13, at the Paul H. Douglas Center.
  Children 2-4 will learn about nature through a ranger-led story time, crafts and outdoor play.
• Find Your Park Film Series on Saturdays and Sundays.
  Explore a different National Park Service site through films shown at 2 p.m. Saturdays at the Paul H. Douglas Center and 2 p.m. Sundays at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. Call the park’s information line at (219) 395-1882 for this week’s film.
  The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is on Lake Street in Gary. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

Clarification

PEO Chapter DF members participated in the annual Trash & Treasure Sale on April 2 at Michigan City Senior Center. The sale, itself, was not presented by the PEO Chapter.
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Taking Spring Clothing
**Health Care Scholarships Available**

La Porte Hospital Foundation and La Porte Hospital Auxiliary have announced scholarships and awards available to assist students pursuing health-care careers.

The following auxiliary scholarships are:
- **Auxiliary Scholarships** — $750 available to first-time applicants.
- **Auxiliary Scholarship Renewals** — $1,000 available for students applying for a second year, based on satisfactory academic progress and need.
- **Friends of Auxiliary** — $750 available.
- **Harold and Marcy Bowen Scholarship** — $750 available.

Students must be in their freshman or sophomore year and enrolled in a health-care program at an accredited school.

The foundation offers the following scholarships:
- **Elizabeth and Eugene Siefker Scholarship** — $500 available to a student enrolled in a health-care program.
- **Foundation Scholarships** — Available to students entering their junior or senior year and enrolled in a health-care program. The scholarship amount is determined by the scholarship committee.
- **Hrankja Scholarship** — Available to students entering their junior or senior year of a Bachelor of Nursing program.
- **Magnuson Scholarship** — Available to IU Health La Porte Hospital employees seeking an advanced degree in a health-care program. The amount is established by the scholarship committee. The recipient may apply for one additional year (a maximum of two years).
- **Richard M. Sisson Scholarship** — $1,000 available to students enrolled in a nursing program.

All completed applications and required documents must be returned or postmarked by Friday, April 15. Interviews may be required, and semi-finalists will be notified of their status. Final selections will be announced in June.

Visit iuhealth.org/laportefoundation for additional information.
Michigan City Public Library

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

- **Writers’ Group at 6 p.m. Thursdays, April 7 and 21.**
  The group, which meets the first and third Thursdays of each month, lets writers share ideas and work.
- **Mightiest of Mighty Mic at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 10.**
  Blues guitarist Keith Scott will host the event open to musicians, poets, dancers and other talents.
- **Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Mondays, April 11 and 25.**
  The foreign policy discussion program continues its 18th season. This month’s topics are Korean Choices and United Nations Post-2015. Reading material is available at the circulation desk.
- **Night Time Story Time at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 12.**
  Children and adults can wear pajamas for story time, songs and crafts. The program is appropriate for children birth to age 5 accompanied by an adult.
- **Storytime at the Library at 10 a.m. Wednesdays, April 13, 20 and 27.**
  Children birth to age 5 and adults can enjoy stories, songs and crafts during time designed for parent/guardian and child interaction. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.
- **Art Bots! at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 13.**
  The hands-on STEAM activity involves designing a working Art Bot.
- **Knitting Club for All Ages at 6 p.m. Wednesdays, April 13, 20 and 27.**
  Take size 9 straight knitting needles, worsted yarn and tape measure (optional). Contact Joanne Hale at joeyAB1971@yahoo.com or (219) 814-4398 for more information.
  Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.

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**PNW Open House**

Purdue University-Northwest will host an open house for prospective students and their families from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 7.

Held in the Library-Student-Faculty Building, the free event is appropriate for high school students, community college graduates, veterans and adults thinking about attending college.

The general open house starts at 5:30 p.m., with campus tours offered at 5:30 and 6:15 p.m. An Academic, Student Service and Activity Fair will continue throughout the evening where students can explore majors, clubs and activities, and discover the various types of assistance that PNW offers.

A breakout session will offer a look at campus life through the eyes of PNW students who attend the North Central Campus. Information about the basics of paying for college and financial aid will be covered as well. Light snacks and refreshments will be served.

The open house also will feature an informational session for high school students interested in earning Purdue credits through the Concurrent Enrollment/Dual Credit Program, and who intend to enroll at PNW.

Email abishel@pnw.edu or call (219) 785-5505 for more information.

**Indiana State Police Presentation**

Indiana State Police, in conjunction with TheWell ArmedWoman Northwest Indiana Chapter and Michigan City Rifle Club, will host a public forum from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 7, at Michigan City Rifle Club, 4801 W. U.S. 20.

The free event, “Unarmed Response to Active Shooter Events,” highlights prevention strategies and response options to survive such a scenario. Women, men and children 14 and older are encouraged to attend. The content is not recommended for children younger than 14.

Visit [www.in.gov/isp](http://www.in.gov/isp) for more information, or email twawindiana@gmail.com

**The One-A-Day Show**

Blink Gallery, 1709 Franklin St., Michigan City, is hosting “The One-A-Day Show.”

Twelve area artists accepted a challenge: Create a piece of art every day starting Jan. 1. The results included tiny paintings, cartoon art in antique notebooks, “selfies” taken all over the world, images inspired by daily newspapers, photos comparing textures in the Midwest and Southwest and a 3-D installation about swimming pools in the desert.

The pieces contain two threads: each is a unified series made up of multiple parts, and the work was created once a day during the past three months.
The Village Gallery

The Village Gallery will showcase works by 19 Valparaiso High School Advanced Photography students, with an opening reception at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 10.

Under the instruction of artist and art teacher Ray Juestel, the students have expanded their awareness of subject matter and knowledge of photography techniques and processes.

The students were engaged in a sequential learning experience that encompassed art history, criticism, aesthetics and production, culminating in the creation of a portfolio.

Juestel and his students will kick off the exhibit opening by sharing their individual stories. Featured students are: Lauren Ahrendt, Kylee Chayhitz, Torie Cox, Valerie Keenan, Rachael Knoblock, Connor Leverich, Ashley Lubovich, Allie Miller, Kaylee Neff, Jenna Roganovich, Malika Saxena, Katelyn Schoenling, Kyle Sharp, Emily Simcich, Megan Simons, Baylee Staack, Tristian Szymanski, Dani Thome and Marie Townsend.

The exhibit runs through May 12.

The Village Gallery is located at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle (off Calumet Avenue just north of Cumberland Crossing) in Valparaiso. Call (219) 465-1591 for more information.

Allie Miller’s “Untitled” is included in the exhibit.
La Porte County Genealogical Society meets at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, at the La Porte Parks & Recreation Building, 250 Pine Lake Ave.

The program speaker is Rita Duncan, La Porte County resident and descendant of the Ottawa Indians. She is an elder among the Native American nations and a genealogical and historical researcher for the Indians of the Great Lakes Region. She will present a historical view of the lifestyles and cultures in the region, including little-known facts about La Porte County’s many burial grounds.

Also, the second in a series of joint programs with Michigan City Public Library, held in honor of Indiana’s bicentennial year, is at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 24, at the library.

Laura Shields and Lester Chadwick will serve refreshments. The film “Friendly Persuasion” will be shown, with an introduction by Dorothy Palmer about the film and black soldiers from La Porte County who enlisted and fought in the Civil War. Barbara Backer will discuss Quaker settlements in La Porte County and their views on slavery, and will provide Civil War artifacts for a display that starts April 12.

Visit www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~inlcigs/ for more information.

La Porte Artist Announces Exhibit

La Porte artist Ginny Scott will exhibit abstract/action paintings April 8-June 25 at South Shore Arts, Substation No. 9, 435 Fayette St., Hammond.

An opening reception is from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 14.

Scott has exhibited throughout the region in solo, juried and group shows, as well as in New York and Westchester County in galleries, group and solo shows before relocating to Chicago and Indiana. She has won many honorable mentions and first prizes for her work. Two of her paintings were juried into Studio Visit Magazine, a national art magazine to be published this summer.

She is a juried member of the Area Artists Association and Northern Indiana Artists Inc.

Valparaiso Oldtime Dance Society

Valparaiso Oldtime Dance Society will present its April Dance on Saturday, April 9, at the MAC, 135 W. Lincoln, Chesterton.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with dancing from 7 to 10 p.m. and one intermission. Laurie Pietravalle, Grand Rapids, Mich., will be the caller, with music by Hoosier Recruits. All dances are taught, and all ages can participate. No costumes, partners or experience are needed.

Admission is $5, while children 14 and younger are free.
Hospital Ambassador of the Month

Pearlie Jenkins, a behavioral health technician who has been with the hospital for 20 years, is Franciscan St. Anthony Health-Michigan City’s April Ambassador of the Month.

The award, presented by the hospital’s Social and Recognition Committee since 1988, recognizes employees who exhibit Franciscan Alliance’s mission and values, which include compassion for those in need, respect for life and the dignity of mankind, wellness and prevention of illness, restoration to health and acceptance of death as the final step toward wholeness. They also demonstrate courtesy, the proper attitude and enthusiasm for their work.

Jenkins, who lives in Michigan City and has three children, was nominated for the award by a fellow employee, who wrote that Jenkins is “compassionate, caring and supportive and always willing to help.” Her supervisor applauded the nomination, adding that she “consistently provides quality care to our patients and gives 100 percent effort in fulfilling the Franciscan mission.”

Jenkins said she is honored to receive the award.

“My job has been a profession and a joy,” she said. “I enjoy working with people; my teammates are the best, caring people. I work for the best hospital in the region.”

As a recipient, Jenkins was honored with a special billboard display, a privileged parking spot, an ambassador badge holder, a photo on the Ambassador of the Month wall that displays the previous 12 months’ winners and $150.
AAUW Meeting

The Michigan City Branch of the American Association of University Women will meet at 11:30 a.m. Monday, April 11, at Mama Rosa’s, 402 U.S. 20.

Dorothy Stoler will present the program “A Tour of Eastern Europe.”

AAUW has sought equity for women and girls since 1881 through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. The Michigan City branch meets monthly September through May.

Call Julie Kreighbaum at (219) 872-3730 for more information.

Basic Handgun Class

Michigan City Rifle Club, 4801 E. U.S. 20, will host an eight-hour NRA Basic Handgun Shooting Course at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 16.

The class introduces students to the knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for safely owning and using a handgun. Fees range from $125 to $175, depending on if participants take handguns and ammunition or use club equipment. The cost includes light refreshments and lunch. Class size is limited, and preregistration with deposit is required.

Email jotto32@gmail.com or call (219) 369-3577 for more information.

Patriots’ Day Celebration

Project Appleseed will host a Marksmanship and Heritage Clinic on Saturday and Sunday, April 16-17, at Michigan City Rifle Club, 4801 E. U.S. 20.

The weekend chosen is Patriots’ Day weekend, celebrating the events of April 19, 1775, from Paul Revere’s famous ride to the first battles at Lexington and Concord. The clinic will focus on the basics of rifle marksmanship with modern-style rifles, safe handling and usage of rifles and the history surrounding the events of April 19, 1775.

The class starts with registration each day at 8:30 a.m. and continues until 5 p.m. The cost is $60 for the weekend for adults and $20 for children 17 or younger. Each student must have a rifle (.22 long rifle rim-fires are fine for use) and roughly 300 to 400 rounds of ammunition. The club provides lunch both days.

More information and registration are at http://appleseedinfo.org, then click Appleseed Events and search in Indiana. Email IN@appleseedinfo.org for additional information as well.

Read The Beacher On Line

http://www.thebeacher.com/
Horse Gifted to Reins of Life

Through a groundswell of support, Reins of Life has received a Gypsy Horse through Tennessee’s LexLin Gypsy Ranch gift program.

In the past two years, the owners of Tennessee’s LexLin Gypsy Ranch have donated several of their Gypsy Horses to Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship-accredited therapeutic riding centers through its program. Due to their size, strength and gentle temperament, Gypsy Horses are ideally suited for people who are developmentally disabled, injured or troubled.

LexLin Ranch’s goal is to donate 30 horses during a three-year period — a $500,000 donation.

Last spring, Reins of Life applied and was nominated as a possible center to receive one of the horses. Along with 49 others, Reins competed to receive the most Facebook votes toward the goal. Ten centers with the most votes would receive a horse.

Local support was strong, with votes coming from businesses, schools, service clubs and the center’s volunteers and rider families. A Valparaiso University fraternity garnered votes during its international conference in Philadelphia. Friends and relatives in Poland and Sweden participated. Sisters of the Holy Cross assigned to remote areas of Argentina, India and Africa used their short, sporadic periods of electric service to log on and vote. The result was 19,184 votes in support of Reins of Life, making the first to choose to select one of 10 Gypsy Horses available.

Reins of Life received Jenny, a 7-year-old Gypsy Vanner broodmare ground trained, but never ridden. She needed training under saddle and time to develop skills required in the center’s programs. She spent three months working with local trainer Elizabeth Grainger, learning to lunge, trot on a lead and stand nicely in crossties. She is being ridden at the walk, trot and canter. She now is at the South Bend barn to receive more instruction.

Assuming she remains in the program for 10 years, she will touch more than 3,000 lives through therapeutic riding lessons alone. Her training is partially funded with a Community Foundation of St. Joseph County grant.

Reins of Life has facilities in South Bend and Michigan City.
National Library Week

New Buffalo Township Library will join libraries in schools, campuses and communities nationwide to celebrate changes unfolding in today's libraries.

April 10-16 is National Library Week, and libraries today aren’t only places of quiet study, but also community centers where people can collaborate using new technologies or just relax.

The library offers access to print and digital resources, including newspapers, magazines, Overdrive eBooks, MelCat inter-library loan, Ancestry.com, ProQuest and World Book Online.

During National Library Week, people can stop by to see special displays, and have the chance to win gift cards or a library tote bag. Youth Services will have game days and make-and-take crafts.

Visit www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org, email nbtlstaff@gmail.com or call (269) 469-2933 for more information.

Business Networking Event

The Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce will host a Biz Expo networking event from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at Blue Chip Casino's Stardust Event Center.

The event is free and open to anyone who presents a business card at the door. Attendees can connect with more than 40 businesses that will provide products and services, sample food from area eateries and win door prizes. A cash bar is planned, and radio station WEFM will broadcast from the event, featuring interviews with expo sponsors.

Contact the chamber at (219) 874-6221 or visit MichiganCityChamber.com for more information.

Lunch With the League

Peg Kohring, Midwest regional director of conservation acquisition for The Conservation Fund, will speak during the next Lunch With the League from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, at Mama Rosa's, 402 W. U.S. 20.

Kohring will discuss “What Prevents Beach Closures.” Guests don't have to be League members to attend. Reservations are not required. Attendees may buy lunch from the menu.

Call Sue at (219) 874-6809 for more information.

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HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES    SCORE
1. Sue Labovitz   195
2. Tammy Vouri    186
3. Dottie Brinckman    172
4. Mary Lou McFadden  166
5. Tammy Nelmar    161
6. Judy Yagodnik   156
7. Cindy Beck      155
8. Nancy Kubath    153
9. Diana Holt      150

SPLITS
Ann Klosinski     3-10
Judy Yagodnik     6-7-10
Heidi Jaffee      5-10

4 STRIKES IN A ROW
Sue Labovitz

3 STRIKES IN A ROW
Judy Yagodnik

American Red Cross
The American Red Cross La Porte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobile:
• First Church of God, 2020 E. Lincolnway, La Porte, noon to 6 p.m. Monday, April 11.

Card Party and Salad Bar
St. John Kanty Altar and Rosary Society will host its annual card party and salad bar Sunday, April 10, in the parish hall, 7012 N. County Road 600 East, Rolling Prairie.

Doors open at 11:30 a.m., with the salad bar at 1 p.m. Raffles, piggy raffles and a 50/50 are planned. The donation of $5 per ticket can be made at the door or by calling (219) 778-8375.
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

**April 7-10** — Manjushree Hermitage, 10303 E. U.S. 12. Buddhist teachings (April 7-8), Buddhist program (April 9), special celebration (April 10). Info/registration: manjushreefoundation.com, manjushreehermitage@gmail.com, (219) 879-7940

**April 8** — Michigan City Chamber Music Festival, oboist Jennet Ingle, 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Free. Info: www.mccmf.org

**April 8, 10** — Free children’s yoga, Dancing Feet Yoga, 19135 W. U.S. 12, New Buffalo, Mich. Times (Eastern): 4-5 p.m. Fri./2-3 p.m. Sun. (5-10-year-olds). Reservations: dancingfeetyyoga@gmail.com, (269) 469-1966.

**April 8-10, 15-17** — “Little Women,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri./Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: $15 (2 for $25 with coupon printed off website), $10/12 and younger. Reservations: (219) 874-4035, footlightplayers.org


**April 9** — 20th Annual Friends Native Plant Sale, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Indiana Dunes Tourism, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**April 9** — Local Author Series, Heather Augustyn & “Ska: An Oral History,” 2 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.

**April 9** — High Tech Scavenger Hunt, 2 p.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**April 9** — Valparaiso Oldtime Dance Society April Dance, the MAC, 135 W. Lincoln, Chesterton. Doors/6:30 p.m., dancing/7-10 p.m. Admission: $5, free/children 14 and younger.

**April 10** — Annual card party and salad bar. 11:30 a.m., St. John Kanty parish hall, 7012 N. County Road 600 East, Rolling Prairie. Cost: $5 donation @ door, or call (219) 778-8375.

**April 10** — Mightiest of Mighty Mic, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**April 10** — “Contemporary Artists and Themes,” 2 p.m., Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. Info: www.southernshoreartassociation.com

**April 10** — La Porte Community Concert, Susie Blue and the Lonesome Fellas, 3 p.m., La Porte High School’s auditorium, 602 F St., La Porte. Tickets: $15/adults, $5/students through high school. Info: (219) 362-5292, (219) 362-8262.

**April 12** — Lunch With the League, noon-1 p.m., Mama Rosa’s, 402 W. U.S. 20. Info: (219) 874-6809.

**April 12** — Night Time Story Time, 6 p.m., Mich-
April 7, 2016

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

April 12 — Bifocal Bookies, Margaret Peterson Haddix’s “Running Out of Time,” 1 p.m., Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.


April 13 — Art Bots!, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

April 13 — Candle Making Class, 7 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: $25. Registration: tinyurl.com/hoepk36

April 13, 16 — Mad About Mysteries, 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

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

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

Through April — Duneland Weavers Guild, Fiber Art 2016, Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: www.dunelandweavers.org

Through May — “Bits of Time” display, La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Hours: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tues.-Sat. Info: www.laportecountyhistory.org, (219) 324-6767.

Farther Afield:

April 8-June 25 — Exhibit, La Porte artist Ginny Scott, South Shore Arts, Substation No. 9, 435 Fayette St., Hammond. Opening reception: 6-8 p.m. April 14.

April 9 — “Cool Change” with Drew Frailey and Steve Seevers, 7:30 p.m. EDT, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: $10/general admission, $8/students and seniors, free/children 12 and younger. Info/reservations: (269) 983-3688, info@boxfactoryforthearts.org, www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

April 10 — Opening reception, exhibit by Valparaiso High School Advanced Photography students, 1:30 p.m., The Village Gallery @ Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Info: (219) 465-1591.

Want Your Event Included Here? Call (219) 879-0088 drew@thebeacher.com

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Sisi by Allison Pataki (hardcover, $28 in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

She was the Princess Diana of the late 19th century. Her beauty, her fashion sense, her fairytale life were followed by women all over the world.

May I present...

Sisi. The Empress Elisabeth of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Wife to Emperor Franz Joseph. Mother of four children, only one of them raised by her, the others swept away as soon as they were born to be raised by her mother-in-law, Princess Sophie of Bavaria.

Sisi was only 17 when she married Franz Joseph in 1854; he was 24. But I don’t want to get into statistics about Sisi’s life. What’s important in this novelization is the woman herself, what her view of her life as empress might have been based on known facts and extensive research.

One thing’s for sure, Sisi was a beauty. Dark brown hair down to the floor, a flawless complexion and equally flawless body. Her only rival in Europe was the Empress Eugenie, the wife of Napoleon III, emperor of the Second French Empire. They must have come into contact with each other at state events--imagine the care both took in their looks and costume for those meetings!

Pataki’s book revolves around Sisi’s life and how she viewed her world and dealt with it. It’s a sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes uplifting look into the evolution of girl to woman, maid to mother. It is fascinating to see through the eyes of a woman whose every move was scrutinized by the public. She was adored by the common people and sometimes vilified by the press.

The atmosphere at the Vienna castle was grim, to say the least. Protocol was beaten into Franz Joseph by his mother, whom he adored until her death. No one could speak until the emperor spoke to them directly, and no one could eat until the emperor took his first bite. Not a friendly dinner table.

And yet, Franz Joseph was a more than able statesman; his empire lasted longer than others in Europe. But the bloom of his marriage to Sisi wore off after several years, and his womanizing placed a wedge between them. Sisi loved the freedom of life in her castle in Hungary, where she also was closer to her parents and sisters.

Much has been written about Sisi’s male companions, especially Prince Nicky Esterhazy and Count Andrassy, prime minister of Hungary. With Andrassy, Sisi shared a special bond for horseback riding. By all accounts, Sisi was an excellent rider and superior to any — man or woman. Pataki takes care in this area, showing only the deep friendship between her and these men. They represented a human need for friendship to make up for the lack of marital feelings between her and Franz Joseph, and perhaps even more on an intellectual level. Who knows.

The book helped me take a quiet walk beside a woman the world thought it knew, but Sisi only showed her “empress” face. Her real face, the woman inside, was known to only a few. As Pataki says in her notes: “Sisi was in fact as intelligent, well educated, moody, charming, intrepid and complex as one would think.” Her place in life was foreordained, and there simply was no other way out.

Tucked in-between the chapters are the ravings of a mad man, whom time and place would bring Sisi in contact with at the end, and an event that would shock the world.

The story starts in 1868. At this point, Sisi has three living children: Gisela, Rudy and Valerie. Her first child, Sophie, died at 2 from high fever. She considered Valerie “her only child” because she was born in Sisi’s castle in Hungary, and she kept her close to her and away from her mother-in-law. The other children were never hers, her mother-in-law citing her inability to care for them since Sisi was so young. Balderdash! Much is said about Sisi’s devotion to Valerie and her distance from her other children, especially as they, and she, grew older. I could feel the pain Sisi felt as if her children treated her as a distant relative they had to tolerate.

Till next time, happy reading!
## Classifieds

### Classified Rates - (For First 2 Lines)
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- Additional lines - $1.00 ea.

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### Classified Ads Must Be Received By Noon Friday Prior to the Week of Publication

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Lubeznik Center for the Arts is seeking a part-time marketing coordinator to oversee online media, press relations and graphic design projects. Graphic design experience is necessary. Experience with press media, website, email and social media communications preferred. Please send cover letter and resume to adavis@lubeznikcenter.org

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The Spring Girlfriend Sale, your ultimate woman’s resale clothing event, is scheduling appointments now through April 18 to submit up to 30 items for resale. To participate, email whatthenexst@comcast.net or call Susan Vissing at (219) 961-6188 and leave a message with a few alternate dates and times you can come in with your items. Appointments are scheduled every 1/2 hour M-F (no Wednesday appts.) 10 a.m.-4 p.m. plus weekend dates of Sat., April 9, and Sunday, April 10. Ask for the participation guidelines if you don’t have them already. Be sure to bring along a spring jacket, sweater or handbag to donate, with proceeds benefiting The Samaritan Center.

Shopping dates:
Friday, April 22, 6-9 p.m. for participants and friends Saturday, April 23 & 30, 10-2 p.m. open to the public Sunday, May 1, Noon-4 p.m. famous 1/2 price day Saturday, May 7, 10-2 p.m. second chance 1/2 price day. Long Beach Community Center 2501 Oriole Trail.

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Open Houses: 11am-2pm April 2 & April 9

Spring Economic Briefing
The Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce, Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce and Purdue University Northwest will host a Spring Economic Briefing on Tuesday, April 12.

The event, held in the LSF Building, Room 144, starts with registration at 7:15 a.m., followed by breakfast and the program at 7:30 a.m. It will feature La Porte County’s current and future economic outlook presented by Anthony Sindone, director of CEDaR and continuing lecturer. A question and answer period is planned.

The cost is $20 for Chamber members. Continental breakfast and refreshments are included. Registration is encouraged at www.lpchamber.com or calling the La Porte Chamber at (219) 362-3178.

Athletic Logo Revealed
Through two ceremonies held on each campus, emerging Purdue University Northwest officially released its new athletic logos, the Pride.

Purdue University-North Central and Purdue University Calumet each held unveiling ceremonies – attended by more than 300 people — on their respective campuses to show the new Pride marks designed by Rickabaugh Graphics.

PNW Chancellor-Designate Thomas Keon and Purdue North Central Chancellor James Dworkin, PNW Athletic Director-Designate Rick Costello and PNW Associate Athletic Director for Compliance Tom Albano, as well as student-athletes Carissa Jones and Clarence Heath, each spoke at the events.

“I am finally excited to see the Pride come to life and cannot wait to wear it on my jersey next year as a student-athlete at Purdue Northwest, as we will all represent such a wonderful new beginning,” said Jones, a volleyball player and Purdue Calumet Student-Athlete Advisory Committee president.

Through an extensive process that began in February 2015, thousands of students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members from the Calumet and North Central campuses participated in the nickname selection. A task force comprised largely of students guided the process, which included a widely distributed survey to which nearly 3,000 people responded.

The lion mascot emerged through extensive brand research that included discussions and focus groups with hundreds of students, faculty, staff and alumni.

With the March approval by the Higher Learning Commission, the unification of Purdue North Central and Purdue Calumet into Purdue University Northwest will result in an institution of some 15,000 students, the fifth largest in Indiana.

The athletic programs of Purdue Calumet and Purdue North Central officially will unify beginning in July, with Purdue Northwest Pride athletic teams – 13 varsity sports — set to debut in the NAIA’s Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference in the 2016-2017 academic year.
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2032 Oriole Trail
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Newer construction with 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths & just 3 blocks to the beach! Great room boasts 18ft ceiling, fieldstone & slate gas fireplace, French doors to covered deck, hardwood floors throughout. Birch kitchen cabinets, Cambria quartz counters & stainless appliances. Walk-out basement w/extra sleeping space.

2519 Glendale Way
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2223 Oriole Trail
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Living room gives panoramic view of green fairways. New kitchen with corian countertops. Lower level rec room with wet bar. Large deck along whole length of house for summer entertaining. Nicely landscaped & double garage. An inviting neighborhood on a dead end street. $399,000

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8401 Lake Shore Drive, Miller Beach
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Asking $699,000

3987 Lake Shore Drive, Michiana
Panoramic views of Lake Michigan from this 6 bedroom, 5 bath open living concept home in Michiana. 2 master suites, large dining area and gourmet kitchen with 2 ovens and 2 dishwashers.

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