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Seeing Others Through Art

by Linda Weigel

I once read that true influence is not about being seen, but about seeing others and doing something about it.

That certainly applies to Whitney Bradshaw, curator at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. She arrived here about three years ago as a photographer with a lengthy background in social work, a curator and an educator.

She lived in Chicago, born to parents who “were both artists for a time in their lives and both wished they had been able to continue their respective art practices: my mom as a ballerina and my dad a musical-theater guy,” she said. “While I was in elementary school, my mom was our ‘Picture Lady,’ as she was called. She would bring in reproductions of famous paintings and talk with students about them. She was interested in all kinds of art, but wasn’t a visual artist herself.”

Both parents encouraged and supported their children’s art explorations, more as creative outlets than careers. Bradshaw took ballet classes and private violin lessons for years, but no outside visual arts classes. Her favorite class in middle school was



Whitney Bradshaw is photographed with her Hasselblad 501 CM camera. Photo by Linda Weigel.

art. That followed in high school with Mr. Ray, who provided space where she felt most comfortable.

While in middle school, she received her first camera: a 1970s Kodak 110 pocket Instamatic. Taking photos became a routine between school and home, “mostly, you know, of friends or if I would see something out on the street or someone out on the street that I thought was interesting. I would ask to take their picture.”

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In high school years and college, she was an activist. Some of that likely had to do with growing up in the primarily white Chicago suburb of Homewood. Neighborhoods were changing, white flight an issue, and overhearing visiting neighbors talk about leaving because Black and Latino families were moving in impacted her. Bradshaw found that kind of talk “abrasive and awful.” Her family did not move. In fact, starting at around age 10, she ended up being a primary source for babysitting in her neighborhood.

“It was amazing! I felt like I was invited into all these new cultures. I got to learn a lot about how different people lived and it changed my life,” she said. “It really made me become kind of a social justice warrior, I would say, at a really young age.”

Eastern Illinois University and a Change in Direction

In high school, Bradshaw’s father was diagnosed with cancer. Wanting to help out, she entered Eastern Illinois University, taking out loans to pay for her schooling.

Bradshaw’s original intent was to study microbiology “because when I was in high school, I was really into art and music, but I also was really excited about science. I took a lot of science and a lot of chemistry classes,” she said.

Her freshman year began by focusing on microbiology and exploring courses such as botany, public policy and a women’s literature class taught by a woman she admired.

“I was really, really excited to read stories only from a woman’s perspective,” she said.

Studying microbiology was a means to eventually make money; however, that literature class saw her change goals.

“So, my first year in undergraduate school,” she said, “I talked to my

English professor and another friend of mine who I met in that class and I said, ‘We should start a Women’s Studies Department here at the school. I was 18, and there was no Women’s Studies Department at Eastern Illinois University.’”

Her professor supported the idea, encouraging her to find other professors in different disciplines who might support the goal. She and a classmate worked on that, successfully helping start a Women’s Study Department at Eastern.

By her second year, she was invested in women’s studies, sociology and public policy, working at the university’s Women’s Resource Center and taking classes in art appreciation, jazz appreciation and film studies (no studio art classes). She was writing papers aiming for a degree in sociology. One such paper was especially important to her: “Environmental Sociology,” which “dealt with environmental justice and safety issues at most toxic waste dump sites, industrial parks...and many later became Superfund sites, are placed in neighborhoods where underprivileged or marginalized communities reside, therefore impacting Black and Brown communities most. Think of Flint, Mich., for example.”

Meanwhile her photography and camera skills evolved as she graduated from college and entered the job market, always setting aside time to pursue her passion for the medium.



Whitney demonstrates a camera with LCA Development Director Nicole Guenin.
Photo by Linda Weigel.

Chicago and Social Services

In shifting focus from science to social service, Bradshaw entered a world of innumerable challenges and life-altering experiences. These early years found her working in a series of social-service positions in Chicago.

“I was like, I’m going to put myself into different communities, and I’m going to do social service work to see if the things that I learned are really true in some ways,” she said. “So my first job was working on the South Side of Chicago (with people with disabilities), where I didn’t have a car and would take public transportation.

“It really opened me up even more to knowing that what I had learned and what I had felt and what my experiences were, were real.”



Whitney discusses a work included in the recent exhibit, “LIT! Site-Specific Installations by Maria Burundarena and Luftwerk.” Photo by Linda Weigel.

She met many incredible individuals whose lives were different from her own. She managed about 20 people with disabilities a day (including dual-diagnosis mental illness), serving as a support person as her clients shrink-wrapped objects.

Bradshaw next supported adults with disabilities living in their own apartments, helping with daily living requirements such as attending school meetings with their kids. For the individual with a dual diagnosis, Bradshaw made sure the person took the proper medications and went to work.

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She did that for a couple of years before discovering an organization, now called Resilience in Chicago, that trained people in “how to support survivors of sexual abuse in emergency rooms.” She completed the specialized training, becoming a rape victim advocate, “which is now called rape survivor support services or sexual assault survivor services.”

Bradshaw was on call for 14 hospitals assisting victims — men, women or children — through processes such as the emergency room process. She served as moderator/mediator between the traumatized victim and police, between the patient, doctors and nurses.

Next, she began a job as a social worker without a master’s degree in an early childhood (ages 0-3) program, working on a team alongside a speech pathologist, physical therapist, occupational therapist and a nurse. Part of the job was home visits. Unfortunately, she became ill, diagnosed with the autoimmune Epstein-Barr virus. Her doctor insisted she take six months off work, make major changes in her diet and take antiviral medications. The time off was healing, marking another major change in her life’s direction.

Bradshaw continued taking pictures, too, a great counterbalance to her daily work. On Friday nights, she processed black-and-white film she’d shot during the week. She turned her bathroom into a darkroom. At one point, she even rented a darkroom through Chicago Park District for \$35 per year.

Graduate School and “Scars”: Finding Her Voice as a Social Practice Artist

Bradshaw’s health diagnosis pushed her to not only get healthier, but also organize a portfolio of her photos. Taking a leap of faith, she applied to graduate school to become an artist, something she’d dreamed of since childhood.

Some of her friends questioned her decision, citing the fact that she had never taken an art class.

“I was like, well, I mean it’s possible and I’m going to give it a shot, right?”

Hedging her bets, she applied to University of Illinois Chicago for social work because of its reputation for the program, and Columbia College Chicago, which had one of the top photography three-year master’s degree programs. Bradshaw liked that idea because, without an undergrad degree in stu-

dio art, she’d need those three years to figure out her art practice. She didn’t get into UIC, but was accepted to Columbia.

Within the first year, Bradshaw ended up assisting a professor, by her second and third years teaching classes. Alongside her master’s coursework, she took on a job as an intern at Columbia’s Museum of Contemporary Photography. She split her time between teaching and working at the museum, going to school and waiting tables.

She loved her time at the museum, working there



Whitney once worked as a curatorial assistant at The Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago.

through grad school and beyond. She curated shows, wrote essays and taught a range of classes, from color photography to photography in Chicago Now, a class where she accompanied people to private collections. She also continued working on her own art. Sometime between her second and third year in the program, she figured out she could combine her interest in social services with her love of photography. When it came time for her graduate thesis, she combined the written portion with a photography art project she titled “Scars.” It resulted from an earlier experience when she was around 21. Her friend, Meg, was badly burned in a house fire, staying in the Cook County burn ward for a long time. Bradshaw went to visit and support her friend, apply salve to her scars, take care of her and be there for her. She considered asking to photograph the scars as symbols of power and resilience, but didn’t broach the subject.

Seven years later, amid grad school, Bradshaw approached Meg about photographing the scars. Her friend, who had been covering the scars, agreed.

The result was an exhibit, and a stunning transformation for Meg.

“She started wearing tank tops,” Bradshaw said. “She started thinking of herself and her scars as being beautiful, as being something unique to her

about her experience in the world, and that was beautiful.”

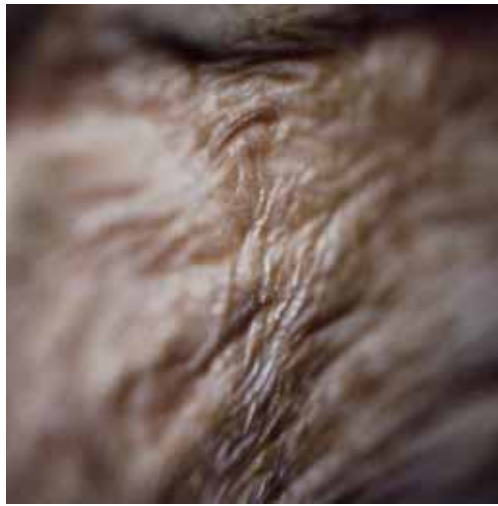
During the exhibit, people approached Bradshaw, saying things like, “My brother was in a motorcycle accident. He has scars here, here and here. I think he would really benefit from working with you if you were interested.”

By now, Bradshaw was in her late 20s-early 30s and expanding her work with “Scars,” photographing nine different people over the three years she was in grad school. Eventually, she had a major solo show with “Scars” at International Museum of Surgical Science, a division of the International College of Surgeons, North America’s only museum dedicated to surgery and located at 1524 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago.

(Of particular note is the pieta-style sculpture at the entrance with a surgeon holding a patient.)

The new location impacted visitors as well. Bradshaw received letters from visitors about how important and transformative it was for them. *The Chicago Tribune* did an article about the exhibit.

Bradshaw recalled how some of her grad-school professors questioned her direction. Art, they said,



This untitled image was included in Whitney’s “Scars” effort. Provided photo.

isn’t social work. Nonetheless, she felt art could heal the people who make it *and* the people who saw it.

What wasn’t recognized at that time now is called social practice art.

Becoming a Curator

Amid her post-graduate work, Bradshaw became pregnant with her daughter while working at The Museum of Contemporary Photography as a curatorial assistant and as an adjunct professor at Columbia College. However, without health insurance, she began a new job search. She first

encountered the Lasalle Bank Photography Collection through Curator Sarah McNear Wardropper, a fan of her work and the “Scar” project. It was suggested Bradshaw consider working with the collection.

Bradshaw was interested, but only if she could diversify the collection from mainly white male works to include more Black and Brown, Queer, Latino and women artists. At some point, Wardropper left

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Whitney is photographed by Linda Weigel in her office at Lubeznik Center for the Arts.

and Carol Ehlers replaced her. Ehlers was a noted photography curator in Chicago and a gallerist. She reached out to Bradshaw to look at the collection.

"It's an extraordinary collection," she said. "It's a historic art photography collection, a museum-style collection that was started in 1967 with works by Daguerre and, I mean, it's really remarkable."

The collection is world-renown, spanning the history of the medium. Bradshaw interviewed, got the job as an assistant curator with a budget to do exactly what she wanted to do. She worked there while also maintaining her Columbia connections. After Bank of America bought LaSalle Bank, things changed. People were let go, except for Bradshaw and her preparatory assistant. She was promoted to curator and spent 13 years overall with the collection. She also published four books out of the collection holdings and curated many exhibits. By the time she left, the collection held more than 5,000 works.

Moving On, Teaching & OUTCRY

With six month severance from the bank in hand, Bradshaw realized she missed making her own art, subsequently building a studio in her basement. She then took her daughter on a nine-week road trip, accompanied by a geology friend, his wife and daughter. She took lots of pictures and upon her return decided to pursue teaching instead of facing a conflict of interest with curatorial work.

In 2012, she found employment at The Chicago

High School for the Arts (Chi Arts), the only public arts high school in Chicago. When a position opened for chair of the Visual Arts Conservatory, she applied and got it. She restructured the program, which was only a few years old when she joined. She designed curriculum, hired teachers, managed the entire program and taught. The 15-20 faculty were part time and hadn't been trained as teachers. It was up to Bradshaw to do.



An installation shot from "OUTCRY" taken in Chicago in August 2021. Photo by Nathan Keay.

By 2018, Bradshaw had been developing her own photographic art career, alongside her teaching, with the OUTCRY project: a social-practice project incorporating women empowered by photographing the participants in a mid-scream moment, creating a communal bond of resistance and a place to be loud. Photos were arranged in a grid format. The project required a lot of travel time. In fact, a documentary was produced titled "OUTCRY: Alchemists of Rage" (2024). Directed by Clare Major, it was shortlisted for Best Short Documentary Film in 2024 by International Documentary Association.

At the same time, Bradshaw was balancing two full-time jobs. By 2022, she'd been at Chi Arts for 10 years and decided to step down, segueing into an artist-in-residence for Chicago Public Schools with a new program called "REALIZE." It was the fall of 2022, and Bradshaw was one of three artists hired to teach seven hours per week to junior and senior art students. The bonus was a studio/classroom as personal art space. She did that for a year. Unfortunately, the program did not survive.

June 2023 and Lubeznik Center for the Arts

Prior to the collapse of "REALIZE," Bradshaw was contacted by Janet Bloch, Lubeznik Center for the Arts executive director, about the curator position here. The position also offered flexibility for her to travel with her own art. She didn't apply initially because she was still working/teaching in Chicago. Once she knew REALIZE would not survive, she



"KAPOW" was Whitney's first summer show at Lubeznik Center for the Arts. File photo.

visiting artists to make sure they are interested in being a part of a show, and that their work will be available when it's needed.

In addition to contacting Chicago artists, Bradshaw wants to make space for artists from the region, expanding that outreach.

Flexibility is a key component to putting a show together. Running ideas by Bloch and other team members, specifically how they feel about a suggested theme, is important.

"KAPOW" was her first summer show at LCA. The idea came first to Bloch, then to Bradshaw. None of the art or objects were catalogued or from boxes. Everything was in New Jersey, but she had a great time organizing the highly successful show. The owner was grateful, even gifting her an original Keith Pollard: one of the only black comic artists working for Marvel from 1960-1980. It is a drawing of Black Cat: one of the only female super heroes at that time.

Her short time at the LCA has seen the continuation of high-quality, thoughtful exhibits, such as "Abstraction + Love,"

"Stitched, Woven and Hooked," "KAPOW! Mighty Mythos," "Ordinary Wonder," "Women to the Front" and "LIT!," which closed Feb. 15.

With her own photography, Bradshaw has graduated from that middle-school Kodak camera to a Hasselblad 501 CM, a legendary medium format, film camera. As she works to curate new exhibits at LCA, she strives to expand her own vision, one that is not about being seen, but rather about seeing others with clarity and compassion.

An art that softens the soul.

applied for the LCA position, joining the team six months later.

Asked how she develops concepts for LCA exhibits, she stated that in her early days here, she made a list of things she was interested in, followed by a list of artists. She mulls things over a bit until they begin to click and a show solidifies.

One of her first tasks was to develop a two-year program. She does not have an assistant or a team similar to her previous curator work. The post here is considered part time, but the work also entails

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“Wuthering Heights” is a Tedious, Frequently Laughable Bore

by Andrew Tallackson

Congratulations, Emerald Fennell, you’ve just made the year’s first stinker.

It’s been about 40 years for me since reading Emily Brontë’s “Wuthering Heights” in high school, so I cannot say how faithful Fennell’s adaptation is or isn’t. All I can judge is what’s on the big screen, and after a strong start, the movie is a hot mess.

Taking risks is not my objection. Doing so has defined Fennell’s career. The former prestige-TV actress (“Call the Midwife,” “The Crown”) shifted to writing and directing her own films, starting with the audacious “Promising Young Woman” (2020), which won her a writing Oscar. Then came the scathing, love-it-or-hate-it “Saltburn” (2023).

With “Wuthering Heights,” what kind of movie she wanted to make, I have no clue. Doesn’t matter if the approach is modern or old school, Brontë’s story should sweep you away with its tragic romance. But Fennell tries too many contrasting approaches. Visually and tonally, it’s all over the place, like the Celtic soundtrack, apparently oblivious to the fact that the story is set in 18th century England. Worse, the leads have zero chemistry. By the time the story turns hateful, the movie is a tedious bore.

Early in the film, hopes are high. The artificial sets, the stark color schemes, it reminds you of classic Hollywood. The young actors as Heathcliff and Cathy have conviction to spare, especially Owen Cooper, the breakout star of Netflix’s “Adolescence,” giving everything he’s got to Heathcliff.

Then, Cathy and Heathcliff transform into adult

eye candy: “Barbie” star Margot Robbie as Cathy and Fennell’s “Saltburn” alum Jacob Elordi as Heathcliff. If any two actors could swoon and pant with the best of them, it’s these two, but Robbie is shrill from the word go. Elordi, a freshly minted Oscar-nominee for Guillermo del Toro’s “Frankenstein,” is sooooo drowsy as Heathcliff, it’s like he downed an Ambien before the cameras started rolling.

Cathy and Heathcliff are madly in love, but like many 18th-century romances, he’s too broke to be a socially acceptable suitor. So, these two spend their lives torturing each other for being denied true love.

Fennell makes the most of her \$80 million budget, although many times, she’s preoccupied with style for style’s sake. Composing shots that rely on colors or garish sets for symbolism. Then, she raunches things up. Now, I’m no prude, but the film’s bawdy nature is ridiculous. The first red flag is in the opening scene that concludes with a hanging victim who, shall we say, stands at full attention down below, the flabbergasted crowd shocked into admiration. Then, we have the hired hands who engage in filthy “Fifty Shades of Grey” horseplay...liter-

ally, complete with a bridle. Oh, yeah, there’s also the unintentional laughs from Elordi licking skin-like wallpaper in ecstasy.

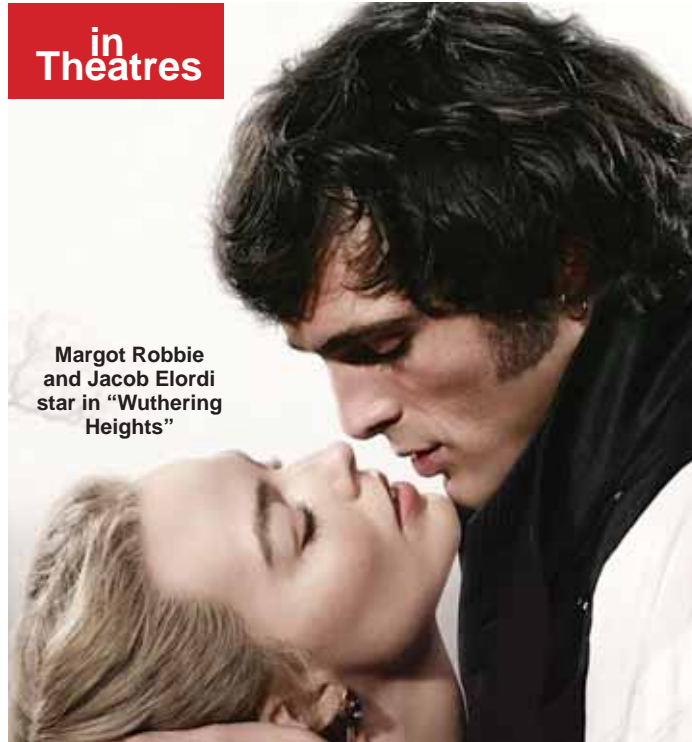
At its ugliest, when Cathy and Heathcliff destroy each other, the movie pushes the S&M imagery to uncomfortable extremes, complete with Heathcliff chaining up a young woman like a dog, having her bark like one, too.

Had Fennell decided on a consistent tone, then played fair with the characters, the tragic ending of “Wuthering Heights” might have been classic. She stages it with the right dramatic flourishes, but you feel zilch for these characters. Any elation experienced at the end is simply that the movie is thankfully and finally over.

Contact me at atallackson@gmail.com

in
Theatres


Margot Robbie
and Jacob Elordi
star in “Wuthering
Heights”



★ 1/2

“Wuthering Heights”

Running time: 136 minutes. In theaters. Rated R for sexual content, some violent content and language.



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Monday Musicale meets at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

Program chair Betsy Kohn has assembled a jazz program with: vocalists Ange Benz, Howard Brenneman, Deb Campanella, Frank Casorio and Michelle Schumaker; pianists Joyce Craig, Bev Griffith and Jennifer Keeley; Kohn on flute; Pam Jenks on drums; and multi-instrumentalist Dan Moser. A small combo from Michigan City High School's jazz band will perform as special guests.

Selections include "Stormy Weather," "My Way," Etta James' "At Last," "Love Is Here to Stay" by George and Ira Gershwin and Norah Jones' "Don't Know Why." Also planned are "Blues Tango" by Robert Vandall and Gershwin's "Blue Lullaby." Kohn, Keeley, Moser and Jenks will collaborate to perform "Sweet Georgia Brown" and "Take Five," popularized by Dave Brubeck.

Steven Mast's hosting committee will serve refreshments after the program. The public is welcome. There is no fee; however, donations to the club's scholarship fund are appreciated.

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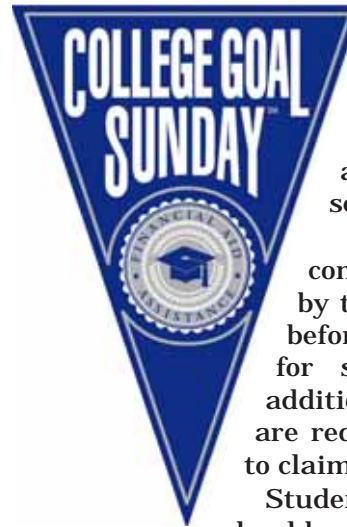
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College Goal Sunday

Financial-aid professionals will assist college-bound students and their families during the free statewide College Goal Sunday from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22, at Purdue University Northwest.

The Westville location is Room 241 of the Library Student Faculty Building, 1401 S. U.S. 421.

The focus is filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is required for



students to be considered for federal and state grants, scholarships and federal loans at most colleges, universities and vocational/technical schools.

The form must be completed, filed and received by the federal processor on or before April 15 to be considered for state grant funding. In addition, 21st Century Scholars are required to submit a FAFSA to claim their scholarship.

Students 23 or younger should attend with a parent(s) or guardian(s), and parent(s) should take completed 2024 IRS 1040 tax returns, 2024 W-2 Forms and other 2024 income and benefits information. Students who work should take income information. Students 24 or older may attend alone and take their completed 2024 IRS 1040 tax return, 2024 W-2 Forms or other 2024 income and benefits information. Students and parent(s) are encouraged to apply for their U.S.

Department of Education FSA IDs at www.studentaid.gov before coming to the event. Students, and parent(s) if applicable, will need an FSA ID to sign the FAFSA form.

Students who attend College Goal Sunday and complete the necessary form are eligible to win one of five \$1,000 educational prizes from Indiana College Goal Sunday. Students will need to ask about that prize when arriving.

Visit www.pnw.edu/paying-for-college, email the Office of Financial Aid at finaid@pnw.edu or call (219) 785-5460 for more details.



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Black History Month Exhibit



A Black History Month exhibit celebrating 10 people who were historic firsts in La Porte County runs through Feb. 28 at La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Profiles range from Michigan City's first black doctor to the first black lawyer admitted to the La Porte County Bar Association. Call (219) 324-6767 for more details.





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Harbor Country Hikers

An indoor presentation on a range of topics marks the next Harbor Country Hikers meeting at noon EST Saturday, Feb. 21, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The program by HCH President Pat Fisher includes topics such as how the latest glaciers shaped Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana, and how rubble piles, meltwaters, strong westerly winds, sandy soils, lake-moderated climate and the convergence of large-scale ecological systems established a biologically diverse region.

The Friends of the New Buffalo Library sponsors the program. Visit www.harborcountryhikers.org or the group's Facebook page for more details.



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MCAS Wall of Fame Nominations

March 27 is the deadline to submit 2026 Michigan City Area Schools Wall of Fame nominations.

The annual award, first presented in 1976, honors former employees who made outstanding contributions to MCAS, including: administrators, custodians, food-service personnel, instructional assistants, maintenance personnel, paraprofessionals, teachers, transportation staff and secretarial staff.

To qualify, the candidate must have been employed by MCAS for at least 15 years. Special circumstances may be considered for those who don't meet the 15-year requirement due to hardship or death.

Candidates also must have been retired or separated from the school system for at least five years. Because retirees occasionally are called back to service, the date of separation is considered the official retirement date, not including subsequent employment. Employees from schools independent prior to school reorganization, as well as those from schools no longer in existence, also are eligible. Death does not make a person ineligible.

All applications remain on file for three years. At the end of that time, candidates must be re-nominated. The deadline is Friday, March 27. Forms, a complete list of past recipients and additional details are available at www.EducateMC.net/WOF

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Oscar Watch: “Come See Me in the Good Light”

by Andrew Tallackson

I will confess to being a spoken word poet’s worst audience. Any pretense of me being hip or savvy flies out the window. The performer uses words to create a mental picture, but I am more of a visual person. Symbolism, metaphor, it gets lost amid my mind’s frantic shuffle to keep up.

“Come See Me in the Good Light,” an Apple TV film nominated for Best Documentary Feature, sold me on spoken word poetry because of its subject. Andrea Gibson, the late poet, considered herself the enemy of pretention. She preferred the poetry equivalent of one-on-one conversations with her audience. And in the documentary, she makes herself so accessible, bares her soul so fully, you leave the film bruised and inspired.

This is a movie about the big picture, specifically when death comes knocking, how do you face your own mortality? That, alone, would be enough for one film, but “Come See Me in the Good Light” also is about art as the purest form of expression. And how loving, and being loved, are life’s most transformative experiences.

I was unaware of Andrea, who died from ovarian cancer in July 2025. But as the movie reveals, in the LGBTQ community, she was poetry’s rock star. Someone who spoke from the heart. No big words, no air of high art, and with the full support of writer wife Megan Falley.

Had the documentary been made some 30, 40 years ago, Andrea and Megan might have tread carefully. But here, the two are exceptionally open, which is why we get to know them: Their loves and fears, the way humor defuses the uncomfortable. Because of that, we get a rare glimpse of why two people truly belong together. Take Andrea, who as nonbinary identifies as “they,” so the issue of being comfortable with queerness felt unobtainable. Megan, by comparison, allowed weight issues to define her. Together, as adults, they fill those gaping holes through love, patience and understanding.

When diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2021, emerging a few short years later as incurable, Andrea stood at a precipice of whether to give up entirely. The opposite arrived. A desire to savor every day as a gift and pursue every treatment available until all options fail.

That doesn’t mean “Come See Me in the Good Light” reduces Andrea to sainthood. The poet is seen at low points, moments of weakness, tears fu-



Andrea Gibson (left) and Megan Falley.



“Come See Me in the Good Light”

Running time: 104 minutes. Apple TV. Rated TV-MA.

eled by anger, fear and regret. But the movie balances those moments with how free Andrea feels. Art, specifically poetry, is a way to preserve joy, uncertainty and life itself.

Maybe that is why the climactic poetry reading in “Come See Me in the Good Light” got to me. Bolstered by a sold-out crowd, Andrea comes alive. Nothing feels rehearsed. It’s like the words are pouring out of her. A release. You hear the joy, the urgency in Andrea’s voice. A rush to share every thought or emotion. Poetry here is not for the intellectually elite, but a safe place for confessions of the soul. How the audience responds, well, it is impossible not to be moved. Everyone knows this is likely her final performance. You see women, eyes rimmed with tears, hands clutched over hearts, nodding in approval and understanding.

In that moment, “Come See Me in the Good Light” is not about dying, but living. A celebration of the spirit’s ability to grasp the unthinkable and present it in a way that speaks to an audience.

The work of a true poet.

Contact me at atallackson@gmail.com

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And the Nominees Are...

PICTURE

- "Bugonia"
- "F1"
- "Frankenstein"
- "Hamnet"
- "Marty Supreme"
- "One Battle After Another"
- "The Secret Agent"
- "Sentimental Value"
- "Sinners"
- "Train Dreams"

SUPPORTING ACTOR

- Benicio Del Toro,
"One Battle After Another"
- Jacob Elordi, "Frankenstein"
- Delroy Lindo, "Sinners"
- Sean Penn,
"One Battle After Another"
- Stellan Skarsgard,
"Sentimental Value"

SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- Elle Fanning,
"Sentimental Value"
- Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas,
"Sentimental Value"
- Amy Madigan, "Weapons"
- Wunmi Mosaku, "Sinners"
- Teyana Taylor, "One Battle
After Another"

DIRECTOR

- Chloé Zhao, "Hamnet"
- Josh Safdie, "Marty Supreme"
- Paul Thomas Anderson,
"One Battle After Another"
- Joachim Trier, "Sentimental Value"
- Ryan Coogler, "Sinners"

ACTOR

- Timothée Chalamet,
"Marty Supreme"
- Leonardo DiCaprio,
"One Battle After Another"
- Ethan Hawke, "Blue Moon"
- Michael B. Jordan, "Sinners"
- Wagner Moura,
"The Secret Agent"

ACTRESS

- Jessie Buckley, "Hamnet"
- Rose Byrne,
"If I Had Legs I'd Kick You"
- Kate Hudson,
"Song Sung Blue"
- Renate Reinsve,
"Sentimental Value"
- Emma Stone, "Bugonia"

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Rules for The Beacher's Beat the Editor Contest:

Check one box in each category. Only one entry per person. Entries from *Beacher* employees will not be accepted. Forms can be dropped off at *The Beacher* or submitted by mail to: The Beacher, Attn: Oscar Contest, 911 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360. Only scanned copies will be allowed by email to atallackson@gmail.com. **The deadline is noon Friday, March 6.** Editor Andrew Tallackson's picks will appear in the March 12 edition, before the March 15 telecast. Those who beat his picks will be placed into a drawing. **First place receives a \$50 Swingbelly's gift certificate and an AMC movie pass. Second place receives an AMC movie pass.** If no one beats him, readers with the most correct picks will be placed into the drawing. The winner will be revealed in the March 26 edition.

Name:

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The Roaring Twenties



Everyone got into the proper spirit as La Porte County Symphony Orchestra presented its latest concert, "The Roaring '20s: A Celebration of America's Jazz Age," on Feb. 7 at La Porte High School's Performing Arts Center. All photos by Bob Wellinski.



Oscar Watch: “The Secret Agent”

by Andrew Tallackson



On
Demand

Best Actor nominee Wagner Moura stars as a man on the run in 1977 Brazil in “The Secret Agent.”

“The Secret Agent” is an exceedingly well-made film, with a considerable canvas of characters weaving through a very specific moment in time.

It also leaves you curiously empty at the end.

The movie, nominated for four Academy Awards — Best Picture, International Feature Film, Actor (Wagner Moura) and Casting — is the latest in a rush of projects (“I’m Still Here,” “The Penguin Lessons”) exploring political and social unrest in 1970s South America. It is not based on true story, instead presenting itself as a political thriller. That it moves at a leisurely pace — the running time clocks in at 2 hours, 41 minutes — suggests our patience will be rewarded.

Instead, “The Secret Agent” ends without ending.

To be fair, life is like that. Cruel in how it denies closure. Movies, however, are a different beast. When we’ve invested time into characters and the worlds they inhabit, we hope they illuminate something greater. Perspective, maybe.

We don’t get that here.

Moura (“Civil War,” Apple TV’s “Dope Thief”) stars as Armando Solimões, who in 1977 Brazil is on the run because of persecution by the country’s military dictatorship. Kleber Mendonça Filho, the writer and director, weaves through past and present, taking his time with Armando’s story. In fact, in the opening sequence, when highway patrol stops Armando at a roadside gas station, we have no inkling of his past. There is a slight edge to him, but overall, a cool demeanor.

That may be the triumph of Moura’s performance.



“The Secret Agent”

Running time: 161 minutes. VOD. Rated R for strong bloody violence, sexual content, language and some full nudity.

It’s *so* subtle, you appreciate it more after the movie ends. It is controlled calm under pressure.

From there, Filho does not pace “The Secret Agent” as a traditional thriller. We meet the many people whose paths cross with Armando. He has a son, Fernando (Enzo Nunes), who is desperate to see “Jaws” in theaters, but can’t understand why everyone says no. That includes his maternal grandfather, Sr. Alexandre (Carlos Francisco, wonderful), who owns the local movie theater.

We meet other dissidents, love interests, local police, the two hit men dispatched to kill Armando, colleagues at Armando’s new job, even a Holocaust survivor, played by the late Udo Kier in his last film performance. The most unforgettable is pint-sized Tânia Maria as his landlord, Dona Sebastiana. She is a former anarcho-communist in her late 70s with zero fear. The kind of woman who walks into a room and owns it, instantly earning respect.

The first half of “The Secret Agent” feels at home with all these characters. By the second half, as more of the past reveals itself, the emotional stakes amp up, and the film becomes one man’s desperate attempt to preserve his family — those living and those gone too soon. The movie finds its groove as a thriller. All the parties converge, and Armando

finds himself in a feverish attempt to flee the country.

Then, Filho catches you off-guard, and not always successfully. We arrive for good in the present. One crucial revelation feels like a swift kick to the gut. The movie's final conversation is sad, but beyond that, what are we to make of what we've seen? That life doesn't resolve itself neatly? That memory over time blurs the past? Or some truths remain buried?

Maybe it is all these things. But Filho really bit off more than he could chew. He's given us a lot to think about, I'll give him that. But after "I'm Still Here," whose final scene destroyed you, the sadness of "The Secret Agent" just kind of, well, evaporates.

Contact me at atallackson@gmail.com



Armando (Moura, second from right) finds himself increasingly watched by those either wanting him dead or arrested. Here, he is surrounded by local police who at first see no connection to the hunt for him.

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Purdue University Northwest Fall Dean's List

The Purdue University Northwest fall 2025 Dean's List has been released.

Qualifying students sustained an overall grade-point average of at least 3.5 and a semester grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Local students included on the list are:

Abbas Al-Saedi	Michigan City
Abby Alexander	La Porte
Ava Atterberry	La Porte
Cray Barden	Michigan City
Caden Boren	La Porte
Mia Britton	New Carlisle
Lilia Bublitz	Rollg Prairie
Kolbi Cambric	Michigan City
Dave Campbell	Michigan City
Madilynn Carpenter	La Porte
Danielle Chisko	Westville
Taylor Cleek	Union Mills
Billy Clkert	Michigan City
Makayla Colls	Rollg Prairie
Quton Colls	Trail Creek
Arianna Cooley	La Porte
Aiona Cornelio	La Porte
Chloe Cyphert	Westville
Chloe Deckard Deckard	La Porte
Ellery Denny	Westville
Stacy Dollahan	Walkerton
Greg Dudash	La Porte
Autumn Duncan	K. Heights
Jessica East	Michigan City
Kade Fandrei	Michigan City
Jaimie Flores	Michigan City
Isaac Ford	Wanatah
Roman Ford	Wanatah
Just Hanrath	Westville
Makena Hawthorne	Michigan City
Cassandra Hefl	Michigan City
Maria Hoang	Michigan City
Jeremiah Hyska	Michigan City
Gabby Johnson	La Porte
Bob Johnson	Michigan City
Lily Jot	La Porte

Jax Kalemba	New Carlisle
Trey Karch	La Porte
Bella Keene	La Porte
Jacob Kelly	Michigan City
Peyton Knight	La Porte
Kyla Kolasa	Michigan City
Caitl Kovalan	Westville
Heidi Kravcheno	La Porte
Simon Kubaszyk	La Porte
McKenna Langager	La Porte
Maybeth Lara	La Porte
Lydia Lemmons	Michigan City
Rebekah Lewis	La Porte
Heather Lg	Union Mills
Sydney Lohman	Westville
Ryan Mahaffey	Westville
Megan Rae Maxwell	Michigan City
Evie Menear	La Porte
George Mezo	Michigan City
Candace Mton	Wanatah
Mariana Montana	La Porte
Kaitlyn Morrison	La Porte
Kristan Morrison	La Porte
Eliana Munoz	La Porte
Camrynn Newenhouse	Michigan City
Rosie Nguyen	La Porte
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Brianne Norman	La Porte
Owen Ott	La Porte
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Valerie Pendergast	Michigan City
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Alexandra Reed	Michigan City
Aaliyah Roundtree	La Porte
Abigail Sall	La Porte
Kierra Santana	La Porte
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Emma Schultz	La Porte
Abby Sims	La Porte
Lucas Sonaty	Westville
Simona Stantcheva	Michigan City
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Prayer to the Blessed Virgin
(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

Boys & Girls Clubs 2026 Campaign Under Way

Boys & Girls Clubs of La Porte County has launched its 2026 annual campaign, "Where Potential Begins to Bloom," to support its programming.

The organization, which has eight clubs in Michigan City, La Porte, Westville, Kingsford Heights and Rolling Prairie, offers healthy after-school snacks, homework help, STEM enrichment and physical activity. This year, it is expected that:

- Around 1,200 children will walk through club doors.
- Club members will have ac-



cess to five hours a week of active games and sports.

- The organization will serve more than 60,000 snacks.
- BGCLPC aims to enhance programming for children in grades 5-8, with a goal of increasing the number of tweens/teens served by 20 percent.

All programs are free. To support the organization, one-time or recurring donations can be made at www.bgclpc.org/give/ or by check to 321 Detroit St., Michigan City, IN, 46360.

Visit www.bgclpc.org for more information.



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La Porte County Parks



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

A Brush with Madness

The all-ages program is from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte.

Participants follow easy painting directions, with all supplies provided. No experience is necessary. The cost is \$8 per person. Register in advance by calling (219) 325-8315.

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 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, at Luhr County Park.

Celestial Night Hike: How the Stars Guided Them to Freedom

The program is from 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26, at Creek Ridge County Park, 7943 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City.

Learn about the stars that helped guide Harriet Tubman along the Underground Railroad.

New Buffalo Township Library

• **Adult Literacy Class.** The program is from 5:30-6:45 p.m. Thursdays in February.

Weekly programs

- Story Time at 10 a.m. Mondays and 4 p.m. Thursdays.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Pajama Story Time at 6 p.m. Tuesdays.
- Craft Time from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Teen Maker Space from 4-6 p.m. Thursdays.
- Chess Club from 4-6 p.m. Thursdays.
- Spanish Story Time at 10 a.m. Fridays.
- Essentrics Exercise for Seniors (gentle) at 10 a.m. Fridays. The intermediate program is at 11 a.m.
- Lego Club from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Fridays and 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturdays.

All times are Eastern. New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Visit www.newbuffalotownshiplibrary.org or call (269) 469-2933 for more details.



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Michigan City Public Library

Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public. Public seating is available, and the computer lab is open. Hours are: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday and closed Sundays.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **3-D Pen Workshop (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19.** Meet in the children's makerspace, with no experience necessary. Children 12 and younger must attend with a parent or guardian.
- **Bad Art Night for Adults from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19.** Designed as a way to unwind and create, the library provides the paint, canvas and pompoms. An award goes to the piece voted Worst Art. No registration is required.
- **Needle Arts Club from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays.** Join fellow artists to stitch needle art. A variety of crafts are included. All skill levels and ages are welcome, as is the sharing of skills.
- **Great Decisions, "U.S. Engagement of Africa," from 11 a.m.-noon Friday, Feb. 20.** The foreign-policy discussion program continues. Participants read the "Great Decisions Briefing Book," watch the videos at the library, then discuss with community members. Call (219) 873-3049 to register or for more details.
- **Genealogy Help with Colleen Miltenberger from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21.** Miltenberger can offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical record.
- **Genealogy Help with Pat Harris from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays.** Harris can offer tips and advice on how to research a family tree or find genealogical records.
- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays.** Create with LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D pens. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs

and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.

- **Tinkercad 3-D Modeling from 4-5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, in the Makerspace.** Registration is required for the program that involves Tinkercad, a free online collection of software tools. This session, for children 9-17, serves as an introduction to 3-D design, art and printing. No experience is necessary. All registered participants receive a 3-D print of his/her creations. Register at the Youth Services desk or call (219) 873-3045 for more info. Space is limited. MCPL 3-D printing rules apply, and the printing fee is waived for this program.
- **Dungeons and Discussions from 5-6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25.** Join "resident DM Sydney" for consultations on playing the game.
- **February scavenger hunt.** Find all four hidden Kawaii characters and win a prize.
- **Winter Reading Challenge for Adults through Feb. 28.** Pick up a Winter Reading bookmark at the reference desk. Fill in a circle for every 20 minutes of reading or listening to a book. Once filling all the circles, return the bookmark to the reference desk to pick a prize and receive an entry in a drawing. One reader may receive a \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card. The limit is five entries per person. The last day to enter is Saturday, Feb. 28.
- **Art Exhibition Wall.** Tim Lace's solo exhibit runs through March 6. Lace ventured to New Orleans, capturing men and women who bead the suits in which they parade twice each year: Mardi Gras Day and Super Sunday. The brightly colored suits of beads and feathers celebrate the connections between African and Native American tradition.
- **Learning Center volunteers needed for children and adults.** Areas include reading, math, high school equivalency and English as a Second Language. All supplies and training are provided. Volunteers are needed two hours a week. Contact Jessica Hoffmaster at (219) 873-3043 or stop by the Learning Center for more details.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org or call (219) 873-3049 for more details.

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LP Community Concert Series



Diego Figueiredo.

Brazilian guitarist Diego Figueiredo marks the third La Porte Community Concert Association program this season at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, at Kesling Intermediate School Auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., La Porte.

Born in Franca, Brazil, in 1980, Figueiredo has performed in more than 60 countries. His style fuses jazz, bossa nova and classical. Program highlights include: "Tea for Two," "Malaguena," "Yesterday," "Tico Tico," "Bye Bye Blackbird" and "Autumn Leaves."

The program is included in the La Porte Community Concert season ticket. Tickets at the door cost \$25 for adults and \$10 for students ages 6-18. Use Door 22 to enter Kesling Intermediate School. Call (219) 362-5292 or (219) 362-8262 for more details.

Public Art Committee

Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, in the City Hall Mayor's Conference Room, 100 E. Fourth St.



Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail.)

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

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

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Indiana Dunes National Park

- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.
- **Chellberg Farm Care from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 21, at Baily Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter.** Meet a ranger and fellow volunteers to care for the farm. Equipment and protective gear will be provided.
- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday through March 28.** Rangers and volunteers will share the area's history as visitors tour the farmhouse and garden, and visit the animals. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **Critter Time from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Sundays through March 29 at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Learn what the park's ambassador animals eat, where they live and how park staff care for them.
- **Snowshoeing in Miller Woods from 1-3 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** Friends of Indiana Dunes sponsors the program.

Snowshoeing needs at least a 6-inch snowpack for safety. A limited number of snowshoes are available for loan, or take your own. Inquire at the front desk or call (219) 395-1824 to check for appropriate conditions.

- **Artist-in-Residence Art Display at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday-Sunday at The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.** View 21 pieces, all inspired by the Indiana Dunes.
- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. daily at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit tinyurl.com/2p83798v for more details.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary's Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 or visit www.nps.gov/indu for details.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following programs will be offered:

- **Arts, Film and History Intersect at the Dunes at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21.** Meet at the Nature Center auditorium for a program on the impact of the arts on the Indiana Dunes.
- **A Secret World Under the Snow at 11 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 22.** Visit the Nature Center auditorium as a naturalist reads a story about how small animals survive the winter. Depending on the weather, a hike or short children's activity follows.

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

Krueger Alumni Award Night

Krueger Alumni Award Night is set for halftime during the girls basketball game, which tips off at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, at Krueger Middle School, 2001 Springland Ave.

This year's honorees are: Jenny Jones, Krueger Middle School teacher, and Marty Corley of Michigan City Police Department.

Contact Krueger's office at (219) 873-2061 for more details.

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	WON	LOST
1. Pin Ups, Strike Out	16	4
2. Spare Me, Pin Pushers	15	5
3. Gutter Gals	13	7

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

	SCORE
1. Kathy Russell	170
2. Deb Konicek	158
3. Dottie Brinckman	157
4. Carolyn Wiggins	156
5. Ginna Lucas (series)	406

SPLITS

- Nancy Klausner — 2-5-10.
- Ginny Hogan — 5-10.
- Debbie Novak — 3-10.
- Deb Konicek — 2-7.



American Red Cross

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

- Queen of All Saints, 606 S. Woodland Ave., 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21.
- La Porte County Family YMCA Elston Branch, 1202 Spring St., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24.
- La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25.

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 www.redcrossblood.org for more details.

Westchester Public Library

Westchester Public Library has curbside pickup at its Thomas and Hageman branches.

Use a library card or go online to place holds on up to 10 items, including DVDs and CDs. Once notified the items are available, park in specially-numbered spaces at each branch during pickup hours. While parked, call the library phone number posted on the numbered space sign.

Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Westchester Township History Museum (219-983-9715) is located at 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton. The Baugher Center is located at 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.



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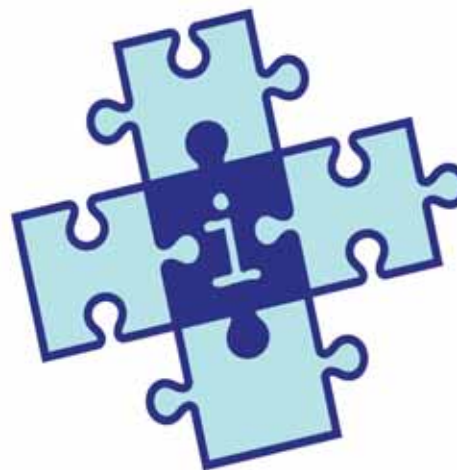


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In the Area

Feb. 18 — A Brush with Madness, 5-7 p.m., Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Info: www.laportecountyparks.org, (219) 325-8315.

Feb. 19 — 3-D Pen Workshop (ages 6-17), 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 19 — Bad Art Night for Adults, 5-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 20 — Great Decisions, "U.S. Engagement of Africa," 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 21 — Genealogy Help with Colleen Miltenberger, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Feb. 23 — Choose Your Own Storytime, 4-4:30 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Feb. 23 — Monday Musicale, 7 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: (219) 873-6040, (219) 362-1421.

Feb. 24 — Virtual Author Talk with Tom Crouch, 1-2 p.m., through La Porte County Public Library. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

Feb. 24 — Readers Corner — Book Club, 6-7 p.m., Coolspring Branch Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Feb. 24 — Brazilian guitarist Diego Figueiredo (La Porte Community Concert Association), 7 p.m., Kesling Intermediate School Auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., La Porte. Tickets at door: \$25/adults, \$10/students ages 6-18. Info: (219) 362-5292, (219) 362-8262.

Feb. 25 — Teen Zone, 4-5 p.m., La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Feb. 25 — Tinkercad 3-D Modeling, 4-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

Feb. 25 — Dungeons and Discussions, 5-6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

Through April 24 — Tom Sourlis' "Luminaries," Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: jsexton@lubeznikcenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Through March 6 — Tim Lace solo exhibit, Art Exhibition Wall, Michigan City Public Library, 100

E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Through March 28 — Exhibit, Jaber Dabagia's "White Static," The Rising Phoenix Gallery, 2817 Franklin St. Info: contact@risingphxgallery.com

Through March 31 — Watercolor/colored-pencil drawings by local artist Kristy Kutch, Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Info: kd3627@hotmail.com

Through Dec. 31 — "America A-Z" exhibit, La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: (219) 324-6767.

First and Third Mondays — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Senior Health/Wellness Center (old hospital ER, Barker/Buffalo).

Mondays in Michigan City — Bingo, Moose Family Lodge 980, 2107 Welnetz Road. Doors open/8:30 a.m., early birds/9:30 a.m., regular Bingo/10 a.m.

Mondays in Michigan City — Adult Children of Alcoholic and Family Dysfunction (ACA), 6 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin St. Info: (219) 801-1296.

First Monday of the Month (February, April, June, August, October, December) — Cancer Support Group, 5-6 p.m., Franciscan Health Woodland Cancer Center Community Room, 8955 W. County Road 400 North, Michigan City. Info/registration: (219) 861-5820.

Mondays in La Porte — Weekly line dance lessons, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1130, 181 W. McClung Road. Cost: \$5. Beginner lessons, 2-3 p.m. Improver lessons, 3-4 p.m. Info: (219) 363-8301.

Tuesdays — Genealogy Help with Pat Harris, 1-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Tuesdays — Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17), 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Tuesdays — Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS), 4:30 p.m., Simeon Square, 1207 S. Woodland Ave. Info: marsha2529@comcast.net

Tuesdays — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 1506 Washington St. Doors open: 4 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. \$40 entrance fee (includes specials except Winner Takes All & Jackpot). Jackpot consolation \$300 guaranteed. Info: (219) 336-3099.

Second Tuesday of the Month — Stroke Support Group for Survivors and Caregivers, 2 p.m., Mother Maria Theresia Room, Franciscan Health Michigan City, 3500 Franciscan Way. Info: Kelly Wise at kelly.wise@franciscanalliance.org

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meeting for Friends/Family of Alcoholics, 6 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church, 600 Franklin Square. Enter at Sixth Street Barker Hall side. Info: Candy at (708) 927-5287.

Thursdays — Needle Arts Club, 5:30-7 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 9:30 a.m. Info: Jan at (219) 241-8757, Paula at (219) 588-3127, www.oa.org

In the Region

Feb. 20 — Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 21 — Chellberg Farm Care, 9 a.m.-noon, Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: www.nps.gov/indu, (219) 395-1882.

Feb. 21 — Arts, Film and History Intersect at the Dunes, 11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 21 — Harbor Country Hikers, noon EST, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: www.harborcountryhikers.org

Feb. 22 — A Secret World Under the Snow, 11 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Feb. 28 — Duneland Chamber of Commerce Indoor European Market, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter.

Through Feb. 28 — “Hope for a New Season: Duneland Photography Club Exhibition,” Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: www.chesterton-art.org, (219) 926-4711.

Through March 1 — “The Half-Life of Marie Curie,” Chicago Street Theatre, 154 W. Chicago St., Valparaiso. Times: 8 p.m. Feb. 20-21, 2:30 p.m. Feb. 22 (includes “Sunday Salon” post-show discussion), 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26, 8 p.m. Feb. 27-28, 2:30 p.m. March 1. Tickets: \$25/adults, \$22/seniors 62+, students, military members with ID. Reservations: www.chicagostreet.org

Through April 26 — “From a Bailly Point of View,” Porter County Museum (PoCo Muse), 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Museum hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tue.-Sun. Free admission. Info: www.pocomuse.org, @pocomuse on social media.

Through May 25 — “Reel Rides: Cars of TV & Film,” Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors 60 & older, \$7/youth ages 6-18. Info: (888) 391-5600, www.studebakermuseum.org

Through May 31 — “Rockne: Life & Legacy,” South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Saturday-Sunday through March 28 — Chellberg Farm Open House, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays through March 29 — Critter Time, 1:30-2:30 p.m., The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882,

www.nps.gov/indu

Wednesday-Sunday — Snowshoeing in Miller Woods, 1-3 p.m., The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Wednesday-Sunday — Artist-in-Residence Art Display, 9:30 a.m., The Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays — Free sewing classes, 5-7 p.m. EDT, Friends of New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

Mondays — Pickleball, 5:30 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free, donations welcome. Info: (269) 426-3909, friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing:* “Animal Crackers.” Rated G. Time: 6 p.m. Feb. 19. *Also:* “Midwinter Break.” Rated PG-13. Times: 3:30 & 6 p.m. Feb. 20-21, 1:30 & 4 p.m. Feb. 22, 6 p.m. Feb. 24. All times Eastern. The theater is located at 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

Have a story idea?

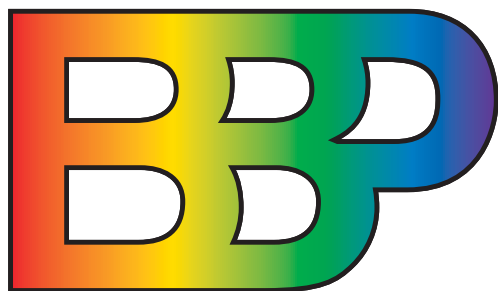
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On February 19, 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr was arrested in Alabama and charged with treason. He was later acquitted.

On February 19, 1878, Thomas A. Edison received a patent for his invention of the phonograph. His assistant, John Kreusi, who constructed the first working model from Edison's drawings, received \$18 for his efforts.

On February 19, 1910, the famous "Diamond Jim" Brady appetite was in rare form. At a New York dinner party it was reported he ate seven dozen oysters, five servings of roast beef, two gallons of stewed fruit and three gallons of orange juice.

On February 19, 1976, Patricia Hearst, at her bank robbery trial in San Francisco, invoked the 5th Amendment 19 times.

On February 19, 1981, the post office increased the price of a first-class stamp from 15 to 18 cents.

On February 20, 1792, President George Washington signed an act creating the U.S. Post Office.

On February 20, 1839, an Act of Congress prohibited the fighting of duels in the District of Columbia.

On February 20, 1962, John Glenn, in his Mercury space capsule, became the first American to orbit the Earth, circling the globe three times before landing in the Atlantic.

On February 20, 1965, the unmanned "Ranger 8" spacecraft, after sending back thousands of pictures, crashed on the surface of the moon.

On February 20, 1999, *Chicago Tribune* movie columnist Gene Siskel, 53, died in Evanston, Ill., of brain cancer.

On February 21, 1804, the first self-propelled steam railway locomotive was demonstrated in Mid-Glamorgan, Wales. Built by Richard Trevithick, it pulled a 10-ton load around a 10-mile track.

On February 21, 1838, Samuel Morse gave the first public demonstration of the telegraph.

On February 21, 1846, Sarah Bagley became the first female telegrapher, taking charge at the newly opened office in Lowell, Mass.

On February 21, 1866, Lucy Hobbs, upon graduating from the Ohio College of Dental Surgery, became America's first women dentist.

On February 21, 1878, Connecticut's New Haven Telephone Co. issued the world's first telephone directory.

On February 22, 1810, Polish composer Frederic Chopin was born near Warsaw.

On February 22, 1865, Tennessee adopted a new constitution that prohibited residents from owning slaves.

On February 22, 1879, in Utica, N.Y., Frank W. Woolworth opened the first "five-cent store," forerunner of the modern "five-and-dime."

On February 22, 1879, the first women registered for longshore work on the piers of New York.

On February 22, 1924, Calvin Coolidge delivered the first presidential radio broadcast from the White House.

On February 22, 1934, the romantic comedy "It Happened One Night," starring Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert, opened at New York's Radio City Music Hall.

On February 23, 1836, the assault on the Alamo began as 5,000 Mexican soldiers, under the command of Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, laid siege to the Texas fortress, defended by 150 men.

On February 23, 1861, President-elect Abraham Lincoln arrived in Washington to take the oath of office.

On February 23, 1905, Chicago's Paul Percy Harris, along with three friends, founded the Rotary Club.

On February 23, 1954, the first mass inoculation with the Salk polio vaccine started in Pittsburg.

On February 24, 1785, John Adams was appointed the first U.S. ambassador to Great Britain.

On February 24, 1868, the House of Representatives resolved to impeach President Andrew Johnson for "high crimes and misdemeanors." The Senate, by a margin of one vote, refused to convict him.

On February 24, 1942, the "Voice of America" went on the air for the first time.

On February 24, 1955, the Cole Porter musical "Silk Stockings" opened on Broadway.

On February 24, 1980, Israel adopted the shekel as its basic currency, replacing pound notes.

On February 24, 1980, the U.S. hockey team defeated Finland 4-2 to clinch the gold medal in the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y.

On February 25, 1836, Samuel Colt received a patent for his famous Colt six-shooter revolver.

On February 25, 1901, in New Jersey, J.P. Morgan incorporated the U.S. Steel Corp., creating the nation's first billion-dollar corporation.

On February 25, 1919, Oregon became the first state to levy a tax on gasoline.

On February 25, 1964, Cassius Clay (who later changed his name to Muhammad Ali) defeated Sonny Liston to become the world heavyweight boxing champion.

On February 25, 1983, 69-year old playwright Tennessee Williams was found dead in a New York City hotel room.

On February 25, 1988, the Chicago City Council passed an ordinance permitting limited night baseball at Wrigley Field.

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

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

Harlem Rhapsody by Victoria Christopher Murray (hardcover \$29 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook; 371 pages.)

“This is the gift of Harlem — the dress, the music, the language. It isn’t possible to live here and not begin to breathe and bleed this place.”

February brings us Valentine’s Day and Black History Month. This week, I give you historical fiction that is heartfelt *and* heartbroken. Love can be misplaced, misunderstood or misused; it also is the strongest sense of wonder anyone can experience.

The story covers 1919-1925. A time that unites two people whose passion takes them to Harlem. Murray understands that passion and translates it into a story that embraces a time, a movement and a man and woman looking for equality and understanding.

By 1919, Harlem was the destination for many African Americans heading north from the south amid the Great Migration, and amid the Harlem Renaissance.

We see the birth of the Jazz Age, the beginning of more African Americans getting college-educations, the emergence of black business owners, as well as artists, authors and poets — names like Langston Hughes and W.E.B. DuBois who will not give up the fight for equality.

This story, however, revolves around two people who meet during the whirlwind of all these events — DuBois and Jessie Redmon Fauset. A love story for the ages? Umm, not quite. There’s the song that says “*Looking for love in all the wrong places.*” Maybe DuBois and Fauset are too much alike.

Fauset is a 37-year-old black woman as the story opens in 1919, and DuBois, a founder of the NAACP, has started a flagship magazine, *The Crisis*, which hopes to inspire, educate and entertain African Americans, make them see they can rise up and fulfill their dreams. Education, jobs, even plays are finally allowing them to participate in all things white, even though segregation still exists, sometimes in subtle ways. Why, three men already have doctorates, and even black women are being accepted into colleges and universities.

Fauset is 14, younger than DuBois and a student of his in college. He calls on her to become his literary editor at *The Crisis*, and wants her to help him start a magazine for black children he calls *The Brownies’ Book*. She is delighted and amazed to be called on for such a high position, moving to Harlem

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



into an apartment DeBois picked for her. It’s only a short distance to his house. Convenient, right? Did I mention the man is married with a daughter, too?

The big question is — can Fauset be the literary editor of *The Crisis* and a surrogate wife to Will? (Her name for him). She thinks there is no problem

with that. Oh, is she wrong. When two people meet whose whole world revolves around their beliefs and passion, there will be a meeting of mind and body stronger than a tropical storm.

While she enjoys an intimate life with Will after office hours, she doesn’t want marriage or children. Her life’s work to uplift African Americans is her reason for living. She has a bachelor’s degree from Cornell, a master’s from The University of Pennsylvania, where she was the first woman to graduate Phi Beta Kappa, and studied at the Sorbonne in Paris.

What emerges is a woman of great intelligence and unrelenting work with authors and poets who come to her office. Her failing, of course, is that no matter how she and Will look at their relationship, others will see them as they want,

especially Fauset’s stepmother, a Jewish lady who married her father after the death of her birth mother. She raised her to be a lady in all aspects of her life, and consequently does think much of DuBois.

This is a beautiful story about a fascinating and changing time in America, and a woman who may have stood in the shadows of the great DuBois, trapped by an inner conflict between her literary ambition and her physical love for the man. Which will win out? Can both of those needs be met?

Murray states in her Author’s Notes that this book is a look at Fauset through her eyes, but also her heart. There is no doubt about that.

The final word: Murray is a *New York Times* best-selling author of more than 30 novels, including two historical fiction works co-written with Marie Benedict: *The Personal Librarian*, J.P. Morgan’s personal librarian, the African/American Belle da Costa Greene, and *The First Ladies*, a look at the special friendship between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil-rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune.

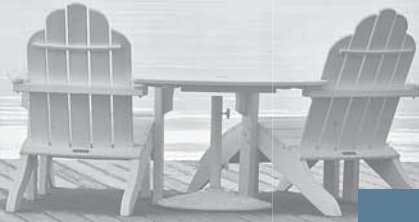
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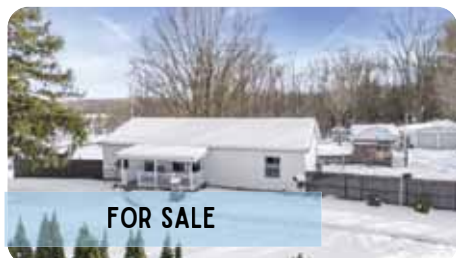
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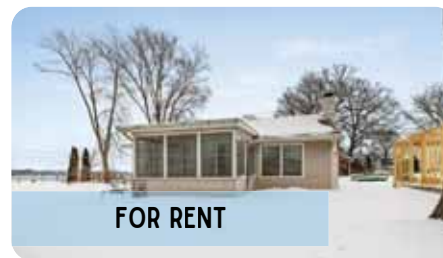


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