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SEEING THE LIGHT

by Andrew Tallackson



Don Dulaney vividly recalls the day Performance Services Inc. revealed its findings on the efficiency of Michigan City Area Schools heating and cooling systems.

For Dulaney, MCAS' school board president, the report was an eye-opener. School boilers and chillers that, in some cases, were 35 to 45 years old. Upkeep and maintenance, Dulaney says, that required steady demands on staff and resources.

"The amount of money we were losing running this old equipment compared to the high performance systems that they have now...we had to replace this stuff,"



Don Dulaney

Dulaney said. "We moved to survey everything we could do to become energy efficient."

That was nearly two years ago. April 26, 2016, to be precise. Now, MCAS is on the brink of unveiling the fruits of its labor with a dedication ceremony at 9 a.m. Wednesday, March 28, at Krueger Middle School, 2001 Springland Ave.

It is a fitting setting, as Krueger is recognized as an outdoor environmental science center. MCAS officials will reveal how seven sites now benefit from solar



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SEENS THE LIGHT

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panel arrays and LED lighting upgrades: Joy, Niemann and Pine elementaries, Barker and Krueger middle schools, Michigan City High School and the MCAS Administration Building.

The undertaking to provide clean, costeffective energy reportedly is the largest for any Indiana school district. Better yet, it is being financed through energy savings, at no cost to taxpayers.

"This is a win-win project in so many ways," MCAS Superintendent Barbara Eason-Watkins said.

The initial and long-term benefits are extraordinary. The ground-mounted solar arrays will provide 2.83 megawatts (DC) of clean, renewable energy. That offsets about 52 percent of combined electricity use at the seven sites. The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions? Consider it

about the same as what it takes to power 292 homes per year.

Projected savings are even more remarkable: \$23 million over 30 years. Down the road, once energy savings have entirely financed the project, the anticipated annual savings is \$704,672.

What's making all this possible? Guaranteed energy savings orchestrated through the Indianapolisbased Performance Services and a 30-year net metering agreement with NIPSCO made official Dec.

15, 2017. Not familiar with net metering? Simply put, it means renewable energy sources like solar panels are linked to a public-utility power grid, in this case NIP-SCO. Surplus power is transferred to the grid. Customers then can offset the power costs drawn from the utility.

Looking back, Dulaney says what was

in place before the renewable energy project was "archaic" at best.

"It's really a tribute to Dave Williamson that he kept things going," Dulaney said.

Williamson is the school district's operations manager/facilities engineer. Maintaining and repairing heating and cooling

systems over the years, he said, became increasingly difficult. For instance, federal regulations per-



Barbara Eason-Watkins





Dave Williamson stands next to one of the new boilers at the high school.

taining to what type of refrigerants can be used, he said, was an issue. Another was the availability of repair parts, particularly when factoring in the age of the boilers themselves.

Williamson says boilers at the high school were only operating at 62 to 63 percent efficiency (72 percent efficiency back when they were installed in the early 1970s). Today, industry standards place efficiency levels at 97 to 98 percent.

In many instances, Williamson said, he and his staff applied the "Band-Aid" approach to repairs and maintenance, doing the best they could with the available resources.

The solar panels, by contrast, free up Williamson and his crew to focus on a broader scope of upkeep throughout the school district.

"There is really not a lot of maintenance on them," he said of the solar panels. "Basically, they have no maintenance, unless you were to have one break, which is highly unlikely because of the material they are made of."

Mowing grass around the panels, and clearing out their inverters are the main focus. Inverters do what they say they do: They invert the Direct Current (DC) into Alternating Current (AC), the standard for commercial appliances.

Dulaney said it was Performance Services' proposal that sold MCAS on plans for renewable energy sources. And it was the cooperative spirit between the company and school officials that made the entire experience flow so smoothly.

That's according to Tony Kuykendall, Performance Services business development manager. He has nothing but praise for MCAS and its administrative team.

"As Michigan City was considering the project," he said, "their leadership, their board, all the folks involved really worked collaboratively together,



Seens the Light

Continued from Page 3



Tony Kuykendall

and they allowed us to move quickly as far as going from the evaluation phase to the bidding phase to the installation.

"It all came together nicely. I appreciated their teamwork. They did a phenomenal job making sure we completed this project on time."

Dulaney emphasized not only that Performance Services was the project's low bidder, but that it also employed local contractors once

the project was under way.

Since 1998, Performance Services has specialized in building and renovating education and municipal facilities, with solar energy systems a key focus.

When the company makes presentations, particularly to school systems, Kuykendall said, the goal is to make everyone fully aware of the challenges ahead.

"Not that they (school officials) have not been paying attention, but they are focused on the students and the curriculum, not necessarily how they can bring more dollars back into the school system," he said. "We provide an unbiased opinion, look at the facilities and provide estimates on what it costs to fix them."

Businesses, school systems and municipalities are more receptive these days, especially during the past five years, to considering renewable energy projects, Kuykendall said.





"Five years ago, the installation costs, the efficiency of the panels, they were not at the tipping point where, now, it makes sense," he said. "Now, we are reaching price and panel efficiency and payback, where it fits really well into what schools want to do.

"And now, there are more conversations...about how this can help the bottom line. School board members are out there asking, 'How can this work for schools'?"

Performance Services also works with the National Energy Education Development project to provide school systems with curriculum that gets students thinking about energy and how it's supplied to schools.

"Renewable energy is the easiest to tie into the curriculum," Kuykendall said, "because the students literally can look out the window and see the solar panels and ask, how does that work? How does it bring power into the building? How does it affect our lives?"

MCAS teachers, he continued, will receive training, attend workshops and receive hard copies of material they can use in the classroom to shed light on the importance of renewable energy.

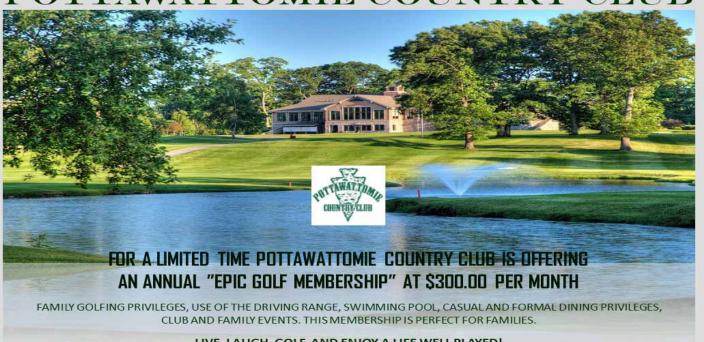
Dulaney, who has served on the board for a little more than nine years, is excited by the possibilities the project has within the classroom. But, there is a broader scope that has been especially gratifying.

"School funding is a really difficult issue," he said. "We've gone through catastrophic funding cuts (over the years) to bring the district in line with what state funding mechanisms provide.

"After all the financial problems we've gone through, the fact that we are able to not only do this at no cost to the district, but also create a revenue stream through savings, that is the thing I am most excited about."







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"Wiley and the Hairy Man" at Canterbury Theatre

Alliance Children's Theater of Indiana and Canterbury Winter Arts Series will present the award-winning children's play "Wiley and the Hairy Man."

Written by children's playwright Susan Zeder, performances are at 7 p.m. Friday, March 23, and 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, March 24-25, at Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St.

The show is the second production of Alliance Children's Theatre, which is headquartered at Canterbury Theatre. Adapted from an American folktale, "Wiley and the Hairy Man"

uses rhythm, rhyme, magic and movement to tell the story of a young, fatherless boy named Wiley who lives in the Tombigbee Swamp with his mother. Wiley isn't afraid of anything... except the legendary and fearsome Hairy Man, who roams the mysterious swamp.

The Hairy Man has taken his father, and now he



Christine Long and Jakob Innes in "Wiley and the Hairy Man."

threatens to get Wiley, too. His mother, "the best conjure woman in the whole southeast county," tries to teach him how to defeat his nemesis with chants and potions, but Wiley just "cain't learn it." Armed with his wits, and the help of his faithful dog, Wiley learns to stand up for himself and face his fear.

Donald Beck (Michigan City) is the director. The cast includes Jakob Innes (Valparaiso) as Wiley, Alexander Bonner (Michigan City) as The Hairy Man, Christine Long (Michigan City) as Mammy and Kali Rasala (Highland) as Dog. The cho-

rus includes Andrea Bertsch and Mark McColley (both of Valparasio), and Kendra Vanderstar and Grace Vanderstar (both of LaPorte).

Tickets, which are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, may be ordered by calling (219) 874-4269. Visit Alliance Children's Theater of Indiana on Facebook for more details.



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Renaissance Academy Lions



The seventh- and eighth-grade Lady Lions (from left): Joline Brinsfield, Simara Jenkins, Xaria Biggerstaff, Sophia McGrew, Brooke Borkowski, Keara Best, Tatyanna Sellers, Shena Fleming, Ava Navarro and Joline Fontaine. Not pictured are: Norah Gartland, Oona Rice, Head Coach Andrew Williams and Assistant Coaches Nick Beatty and Zach Biggerstaff.

Renaissance Academy's seventh- and eighth-grade Lady Lions basketball team (5-4) made school history March 8 by winning its first PAC Championship, defeating the undefeated Lady Irish team of Notre Dame Catholic School 19-16.

The champs were led by Shena Fleming, who had nine points, and Sophia McGrew, who had five points. Brooke Borkowski chipped in four points, while Joline Brinsfield had one point. The team also included: Keara Best, Norah Gartland, Xaria Biggerstaff, Tatyanna Sellers, Simara Jenkins, Jolie Fontaine and Ava Navarro. Oona Rice is the eighth-

grade student manager.

On March 9, the fourth-through sixthgrade boys and girls basketball teams played for PAC championship titles at Marquette Catholic High School.

In the first championship game, the Lady Lions fell to the Lady Irish of Notre Dame Catholic School, 16-12. The girls were led by Fleming, who had 10 points, and Fontaine who chipped in two points.

The team posted a 9-3 record overall, finishing second in the PAC tournament.

The boys A team took on St. Stan's and defeated the Saints, 39-23. Leading the Lions to the school's first fourth-through sixth-grade boys basketball PAC title



The fourth- and sixth-grade Renaissance Academy Lions: front row (from left) are David Castillo, Liam Lilly, Keegan Murphy, Jaden Hart, Christian Lake, Alex Bell, Christopher Plunk, Jerome Foster-Harmon and William Wood. The back row is (from left) Oz Brooks, Nick Beatty, Danny Leffert, Hunter Methner, J'Ven Lewis, Jordan Fleming, Andrew Williams and James McKeever.



The fourth- through sixth-grade Renaissance Academy Lady Lions are: (front row, from left) Asha Forste, Lauryn Snyder, Carmen Navarro and Nina Fontaine. The back row is (from left) Jolie Fontaine, Ava Navarro, Shena Fleming, Ashley Ryder and Head Coach Nick Beatty. Not pictured are Lauren Synder, Oona Rice and Assistant Coach Andrew Williams.

was Jaden Hart, who had 19 points, and J'Ven Lewis, who had 10 points. David Castillo and Hunter Methner had four points each, while Liam Lilly had two points. The Lions finished the season with an overall record of 11-2.

The fourth- through sixth-grade boys basketball team also includes: Christopher Plunk, Jordan Fleming, Alex Bell, Danny Leffert, Christian Lake, Keegan Murphy and William Wood.



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Making a Difference



The students and staff at St. Stanislaus Kostka School joined forces to support the Interfaith Homeless Shelter for Men. Students raised money by buying dress-down passes during Catholic Schools Week and paying for jean day passes, collecting \$1,000. Winter jackets also were collected. On March 15, Principal Chris Evans presented the check and donations to Harrison "Harry" Holtkamp, director of Interfaith Community Public Action to Deliver Shelter.

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Michiana Clowns

Michiana Clowns will present its 12-week Clowning 101, taught by seasoned professional clowns, at First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St.

Classes emphasize the basics of becoming a professional clown, including: the history of clowning, how to apply makeup, how to develop a clown character, costume assistance, balloon twisting and magic. Also explained is the process of skit delivery, timing and showmanship.

The course concludes with a graduation performance of skits.

Teachers include Nettie Belle, Midwest Clown Association Hall of Fame member, and Orky, World Clown Association Clown of the Year 2011.

Call Nettie Belle (Lynette McDonald) at (219) 221-0750 or email Michiana Clowns at michiana-clowns@yahoo.com to register. Classes meet at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

LP Community Concert Association

Lyric Opera of Chicago soloists will perform as part of the next LaPorte Community Concert Association program at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at Kesling Middle School Auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte

Performers include tenor Matt Daniel, bass/baritone Ron Watkins, soprano Sherry Veal-Watkins and mezzo-soprano Colleen Lovinello. They will present duets, trios and quartets by Mozart, Puccini and Verdi, along with pieces by Rodgers and Hammerstein.

Included with the season ticket program, individual tickets at the door cost \$15 for adults and \$5 for students through high school. Call (219) 362-5292 or (219) 362-8262 for details.

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New Buffalo Streetscape Project

New Buffalo, in partnership with the New Buffalo Downtown Development Authority, is in the final phase of making improvements to the community's downtown area.



The work will replace water and sewer lines, and create a new streetscape.

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

Question: As of February, are North Whittaker Street improvements, including sidewalks, curbs and the street, on time and on budget to be com-

pleted by Memorial Day weekend (weather dependent)?

Answer: Yes, they are on time and on budget. The street, curbs and sidewalks are to be completed by Memorial Day weekend.

Q: What will the amenities look like?

A. Renderings of the amenities and landscaping depicting what the completed project will look like are at City Hall. Specific amenities, such as an ash urn, are pictured here.



Monday Musicale

Monday Musicale will host a free open meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, March 26, at St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road.

George Maslankowski will host the program "Brought to You by the Letters S, T & U." Pieces cover 200 years, from the early 1800s to 2015, as well as a variety of instruments, solo performances and ensembles.

Zone 3, a trio that features Paul Brenda (violin), Sandi Brenda (piano) and Maslankowski (clarinet), will play a medley of Latin standards, "*Tico Tico*" and "*El Cumbanchero*," Jay Ungar's "Ashokan Farewell" and others. Felicia Thomas (trumpet) will join Maslankowski on jazz standards "Satin Doll" and "Take the A Train."

Dan Moser will present guitar and banjo tunes, including "Suds in the Bucket" and "The Sound of Silence." Sheila and Bob Thompson will perform selections for hammered dulcimer, guitar and mandolin. Their set list includes "Shenandoah" and "Tennessee Waltz."

Contralto Sue Cassler will sing A.L. Weber's "Tell Me On a Sunday," plus a selection from "Spamalot" accompanied by Bev Griffith on piano. The vocal trio Trilogy, which features Cassler, Thomas and Joe Stewart, will perform a cappella arrangements of "Summertime" and Pentatonix's "Take Me Home."

Sandi Brenda and Griffith have prepared "Spanish Dances Opus 12," four-hand piano selections by Moritz Moszkowski. The evening's finale, shared by audience and musicians, will be followed by social time, with light refreshments served by Phyllis Nowatzke's hosting committee.

Donations to the club's scholarship fund will be accepted. Call Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for details.





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Youth Art Exhibit



The Midwest Museum of American Art, with March being National Youth Art Month, with present its annual youth art exhibit through March 31. Held for the past 39 years, it features work from five Elkhart-area high schools' art education programs. The museum is located at 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours are (all Eastern) 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EDT Tuesday through Friday and 1 to 4 p.m. EDT Saturday and Sunday. Email info@midwestmuseum.us for details.

College Financial Planning Workshop

The college financial-planning workshop "Paying for College: There IS a Way!" is from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, at the Michigan City High School auditorium, 8466 W. Pahs Road.

Panelists include representatives from INvest-Ed, 21st Century Scholars, Michigan City Promise Scholarship, Unity Foundation and Horizon Bank. Families can ask questions regarding early financial planning, and sign up for programs of interest.

The event is free and open to all families with students of any age, especially those in grades 6-12. Public, private, charter and homeschool students and families are welcome.

 $Contact \quad Kendall \quad Martin \quad at \quad kmartin 04@educate MC.net or (219) \, 873-2044, Ext. \, 4341, for \, details.$

Women's History Month

Purdue University Northwest will pay tribute to Women's History Month with events centered on the theme "Living and Working in a Political World."

The PNW Women's Association will present a panel discussion via WebEx, "Gender, Feminism and the Workplace," from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, in Library Student Faculty Building, Room 02.

The interdisciplinary panel of PNW faculty will offer perspectives on issues that have challenged women in the fields of science, humanities, social science and engineering, while also looking toward solutions for future generations.

On Thursday, March 29, the panel discussion "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" is from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Dworkin Student Activities Complex, Great Hall A. PNW alumnae will return to discuss what it takes to be a successful woman in today's workplace. Participants include: Stacy Schmidt, Porter County School Corp. superintendent; Laura Nirenberg, Center for Wildlife Ethics founding executive director; Brandi Lewis, Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City executive director; and Susan Lewis, Regal Beloit Corp. compliance director.

Visit www.pnw.edu/womens-history/ for additional information.

Pet Rescue Benefit

ABRA Inc. Rescue Angels will host a benefit, "Roarin' 20s Rescue Gala," from 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, April 7, at Avalon Manor, 3550 U.S. 30, Merrillville.

The cost is \$75 per person, with all proceeds benefitting dogs and cats in need of rescue. No tickets are sold at the door. They must be purchased by March 25 at abra.ticketleap.com



Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following program is available:

• Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, March 24, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.

Brad Bumgardner, birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society executive director, leads the program. Guests meet at the visitor center, then carpool to the birding spot. No experience is required. Take binoculars, and dress for the weather.

• Fishing in the Dunes from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 24, and 1 to 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.

Fishing expert and park ranger Ryan Koepke will highlight "secret locations" in the IDNL and surrounding areas.

• Fruit Tree Grafting Workshop from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 24.

Working with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and Purdue Extension, participants will graft scion wood to rootstock and plant-grafted trees in pots. The goal is to enhance fruit orchards at Chellberg Farm and Dunes Learning Center. Each participant will take home two to three of the trees he/she grafts, plus a grafting knife.

• A ranger will lead a two-hour tour in one of the park's 16-passenger buses at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, March 25.

The tours meet at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. After a brief introduction, participants board for the tour. Tours are free, but reservations are required by calling (219) 395-1882.

• The deadline for youth workers to apply for summer jobs is April 27.

Positions are available for eight teens through the Youth Conservation Corps, a work-learn-earn program for 15- to 18-year-olds. Participants are paid \$7.25 an hour for the 40-hour work week. Dates are June 3-Aug. 11, and applicants should be prepared to work the entire length of the program.

Jobs include working as a crew to do a variety of manual labor tasks, normally outdoors. The crews perform work such as staining, painting and caulking the exterior of park buildings, and work such as grounds maintenance (mowing grass, picking up trash, cleaning restrooms) and trails rehabilitation.

No experience is necessary. Participants will be selected by random from the pool of applications.

Participants must be U.S. citizens and 15 before June 3, but not turn 19 before Aug. 11. The application form is available through high school guidance offices, the IDNL at (219) 395-8585, Ext. 1772 or at www.bbpnet.com/11b

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



JROTC to Compete at National Meet

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps military drill

team will compete in the National Drill Meet on April 21 at Daniel Boone High School, Gray, Tenn.

The Wolves are one

of 15 schools from

across the country that will compete in five different military drill events to determine the best MCJROTC Drill Team in the country. The trip will be conducted at no cost to Michigan City Area Schools nor the cadets. The Marine Corps will fund transportation and lodging expenses, with the school JROTC

"This is a great accomplishment for our cadets," Maj. Tom Mc-Grath, the senior Marine instructor, said. "With so many good drill teams in our re-

Booster Club providing

meals.

gion of 50 schools, it is really an honor to be one of the three schools selected, and the only one out of the Midwest."

Master Sgt. Jeff Benak, the Marine instructor, lauded the cadets, but also noted they must continue to improve in practice.

"This will be the most competitive meet that any of us have ever been involved in," he said. "Every practice needs to be a solid one if we are to challenge to win the meet and be the best in the country."

The military drill team also earned awards March 3 at the Pike High School Drill Meet in Indianapolis.

Sixteen schools participated, many of which have enrollments twice the size of MCHS.

The Unarmed Platoon, commanded by Cadet Maj. James Steinhagen, earned a second-place trophy. Cadet 1st Lt. Tyler Stockley commanded the Armed Platoon. which earned a thirdtrophy. place Also performing well were the Color Guard commanded by Cadet Gunnery Sgt. Griffin Wyatt,

finishing fifth, and the Armed Exhibition Platoon, also commanded by Stockley, which finished fifth.

The competition was judged by midshipmen from the Purdue Uni-Navy/Marine versity Corps ROTC. Two of the midshipmen are former MCHS cadets

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Above: Cadets are photographed with the trophies and medals earned

at the Indianapolis Pike High School meet. Below: The Armed

Exhibition Platoon conducts its routine.

In the Cyber Patriot event, the corps earned second place in the Gold Tier in Indiana.

Cyber Patriot is the national competition for highschoolers who serve as information-systems specialists. They defend against a fictional cyber-attack.

The MCHS cadets compete against those from JROTCs from all services. There are 44 JROTC schools in Indiana. Three qualified for the Platinum Tier. MCHS, therefore, was fifth overall in the state.





Michigan City Public Library

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

• Paper Circuits at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 25, in the meeting room.

Learn how circuits work while creating a greeting card or other artwork that light up. Registration is required by calling (219) 873-3045. Ask for Dave.

Ozobots at 4:30 p.m. Monday, March 26, in the meeting room.

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

• Great Decisions at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 26, in the meeting room.

The foreign-policy discussion program returns for its 20th season. Discussions involve the media and foreign policy. Reading material is available at the circulation desk.

• Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, and 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 28.

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

• National Kite Day Craft at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, in the meeting room.

The craft program is for children 4 and older accompanied by an adult.

• Allen County Public Library bus trip.

The library and LaPorte County Genealogical Society co-sponsor the April 18 trip. The center has an extensive collection of North American genealogy resources. The cost is \$21. Send a check payable to LaPorte County Genealogical Society, c/o Patricia Harris, 504 Greenwood Ave., Michigan City, IN 46360. Paid reservations are due by April 1.

• Friends of the Library Collector's Breakfast.

Tickets for the annual fundraiser, held April 21 at Full Gospel Church of Deliverance, 2700 Ohio St., are \$25. Martin Papke will share his expertise on collector items. Guests can take one item for appraisal. Portofino Grill will cater breakfast. Tickets are available from Friends' board members and at the library circulation desk.

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

New Friday Hours at The Beacher

The Beacher office now will close at 2 p.m. Fridays. Anyone who needs to pick up print orders, but may be late, should contact the office in advance at (219) 879-0088.



GIRL'S /EEKEN

MARCH 23 — 11AM-6PM

MARCH 24 — 11AM-6PM

MARCH 25 — 11AM-6PM

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Dizziness Discussed Here. Also Fear of Falling. Vertigo. And Unsteadiness.

YOU OR A LOVED ONE SUFFERING FROM THE ABOVE? FREE WORKSHOP REVEALS THE SINGLE BIGGEST #1 MISTAKE BALANCE AND DIZZINESS SUFFERERS MAKE, AND HOW TO OVERCOME IT

Dear Fellow NW Indiana Resident,

There's suffering. There's coping. And then there's overcoming-

--what Nicolas Cage, a star of the movies like Con Air and The Rock, managed to overcome to the point where he has appeared in at least 1 film every year, totaling over 80 movies so far.

--Lebron James, the best basketball player on the planet, overcoming his condition, and winning three NBA Championships.

--and former Indiana Senator Richard Lugar, overcoming, and not allowing his condition to stop him from becoming the longest serving Indiana Senator in history.

Have you ever been out on the streets or maybe just at home enjoying your day when —boom— all of a sudden you feel your equilibrium is off and suddenly feel like you're going to fall?

You get a bit dizzy, unsteady, and you have to sit down.

It's those moments when you look around the people around you and feel like no one else understands what you're going through.

I understand. I know I do. My mom has a bad case of it and I have it too...to the point where I have...

 ${\it ...}$ disappointed my children because I can't attend their volleyball and basketball games because of it...

...missed celebrating my anniversary with my wife because I just didn't feel steady enough to go out...

...felt frustrated because I just didn't feel like myself...

...gotten so concerned because my mom started falling...

But my mom and I overcame. Just like Nicholas Cage, Lebron James, and Sen. Lugar did.

My name is Dr. Arlan Alburo. I am the Founder of Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists.

When patients can't get out there and enjoy the simple things of daily life... they are here at my office attending my Balance and Dizziness Workshop... learning how to overcome their condition.

When patients feel-

...unsure of themselves...unsteady and can't walk a straight path...

...afraid that they might fall...or fall again...

...exasperated due to dizziness when they move their head quickly...

...scared because their world spins as they move or lay a certain way...

...resigned...and hopeless...thinking that they can't be helped...they are here at my office attending my Balance and Dizziness Workshop.

Share my expertise and the expertise of my small army of Balance and Dizziness Specialists. During the workshop--

I will reveal the <u>single biggest #1 mistake</u> most balance and dizziness sufferers make...and how to not make this mistake...and if you make this mistake...learn how to overcome it.

You will learn the $\underline{\text{3 most common causes}}$ of balance problems...dizziness...and unsteadiness.

I will show you a $\underline{\text{sure fire way to pick the right treatment}}$ for the cause of your condition.

And most importantly, you will see what successful treatment looks \underline{like} ...including one amazingly simple treatment that gets you feeling steadier on your feet in no time.

Call my office now at 219-386-4488 in Valparaiso; 219-213-9009 in Crown Point; or 219-380-0809 in La Porte and secure your spot for my Balance and Dizziness Workshop...

- Crown Point office Tuesday March 27th from 6-7 PM located at 11055 Broadway Suite B (just south of Tech Credit Union).
- Valparaiso office Thursday March 29 from 6-7 PM located at 3125 Calumet Ave. Suite 8 (next to the YMCA).
- La Porte Office Tuesday March 27 from 5-6 PM located at 1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B (in the same building as Hair Fitness).

This workshop is ABSOLUTELY FREE but I am only taking 30 attendees for each location…so call 219-386-4488 in Valparaiso; 219-213-9009 in Crown Point; or 219-380-0809 in La Porte NOW to reserve your spot.

Sincerely,

Arlan Alburo

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

P.S. Call 219-386-4488 in Valparaiso; 219-213-9009 in Crown Point; or 219-380-0809 in La Porte now to secure your spot for my Balance and Dizziness Workshop on March 27 Tuesday 6-7 PM in Crown Point, March 29 Thursday 6-7 PM in Valparaiso, and March 27 Tuesday 5-6 PM in La Porte.

P.P.S. This workshop is ABSOLUTELY FREE but I am only taking 30 attendees. Learn how to overcome dizziness, fear of falling, vertigo, and unsteadiness in this must-attend-workshop!



When Irish Eyes Are Smiling

It was a beautiful day as the Michigan City St. Patrick's Day Parade headed through the city's Uptown Arts District on Saturday, March 10. *The Beacher*'s Paul Kemiel was there to catch all the fun.











Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• Bits & Bytes series, Internet Privacy, from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, March 22, in the Thomas Library Serials/Automation Department, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Registration is required by visiting or calling the IT Department at (219) 926-7696, or registering at www.wpl.lib.in.us. Click on the Bits & Bytes link.

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

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

• "50 Years of Photography" from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

The program helps celebrate the 95th anniversary of Dune Acres. From 2 to 3 p.m., visitors will see a presentation from David Larson about his exhibit "50 Years of Photography in the Indiana Dunes." Afterward, guests can view Wayne Sydni's Dune Acres mural and learn about the town's history. Refreshments will be served.

• Teen Movie Night: "Thor: Ragnarok" at 3



p.m. Saturday, March 24, at The Baugher Center, 100 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

The movie is Rated PG-13. Free popcorn is available

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

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

• Intro to the Ukulele from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 25, at the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.

Learn basic chords, rhythm and ukulele history. Ukuleles will be provided, although participants can take their own and should indicate so during registration. No experience is necessary, and space is limited. Register at the Thomas Branch Reference Department or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• Spring Break Cupcakes and Canvas from 10 a.m. to noon or 2 to 4 p.m. Monday, March 26, or 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, March 28, at Westchester Township History Museum.

Children 6-12 can join Museum Educator Susan Swarner as she shows how to create a springthemed piece. No previous experience is necessary, and all supplies are provided. Participants should wear clothes that can get messy. A parent or guardian must accompany each child. Class size is limited to 10. Registration is necessary by calling (219) 983-9715.

• Children's Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays through April 24 in the Thomas Library Children's Department.

Children in grades 3 and older learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. They should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Call (219) 926-7696 to register.

• Marvel Movies Trivia Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, at Westchester Township History Museum.

Teams of 1-4 people can vie for a prize. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

• "I Survived" the Library! from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 28, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.

Fans ages 8-12 of Lauren Tarshis' "I Survived" series can build a boat, battle a war and survive an earthquake using STEAM activities. Registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696 or in person.

Have a story idea for The Beacher?

Call us at (219) 879-0088 or email drew@thebeacher.com

Deep Tissue LASER Therapy Workshop-APRIL 3 and APRIL 5

Learn How the Power of LASER Can Help You Heal Naturally and Relieve Pain Without Medications, Injections, or Surgery

Dear NW Indiana Neighbor,

This workshop is for you if you have been suffering from pain and you're:

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... Deep Tissue LASER Therapy offers a natural safe non-invasive powerful solution.

"Having had severe low back pain for many years, my family doctor had my back X-rayed. It showed severe arthritis. I had actually blamed it on a medication I had taken for years thinking it had caused my low back pain, but no...it was due to my 84-year old body developing arthritis. He said I should go to physical therapy, which I have done for many months. My pain had come down only from a 10 to a 7. I was still in tears with the pain and I had decided to QUIT. Arlan Alburo from OBTS then contacted me regarding a new 'light-type' of therapy that he had acquired. Having had now 5 treatments of this 'new' LASER treatment, I really do feel healed!! It's wonderful not to be in pain as I rise from a seated position or walk or work around my kitchen!!" S.K. of Valparaiso

Here's what you need to do...

Call my office now at 386-4488 in Valparaiso; 213-9009 in Crown Point or 380-0809 in La Porte and secure your spot for my Deep Tissue LASER Therapy Workshop...

- LA PORTE office Tuesday April 3rd at 6:00 PM located at 1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B (across Route 2 from Walmart).
- VALPARAISO office Thursday April 5th at 6:00 PM located at 3125 Calumet Ave. Suite 8 (next to the YMCA).

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

Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

P.S. Call my office now at 386-4488 in Valparaiso or 380-0809 in La Porte and secure your spot for my Deep Tissue Laser Therapy Workshop.

Purdue Northwest Open House

Purdue University Northwest invites prospective students and their families interested in learning more about the university to attend an open house from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 24.

The free event is in the Dworkin Student Services and Activities Complex. Attendees will explore:

- Undergraduate and graduate areas of study.
- Scholarship and financial-aid assistance.
- · Student organizations and campus life.
- Residential housing opportunities.
- Admission requirements.
- Student success support programs.
- NCAA Division II athletic teams.
- Veteran services.

Campus tours will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to pre-register at pnw.edu/open-house

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Students Finalists in History Contest

Eight Barker Middle School students are finalists in the National History Day in Indiana northwest region contest at St. Mary's College.

Students from Lake, LaPorte and St. Joseph counties participated, with finalists advancing to the NHDI state event Saturday, April 14, at Ivy Tech's campus in downtown Indianapolis.

NHDI is a year-long program designed to enhance history education in Indiana's schools. Students in grades four through 12 explore a historical subject, then use their research to create a documentary, exhibit, paper, performance or website. To reach the state contests, students must qualify at one of six regional contests across Indiana.

Local finalists are:

Junior Group Documentary

- Halle Hood and Vionney Taylor, "Day of the Dead: Aztecs vs. Spaniards."
- Ricardo Hulzar, Mason Piper and Jeremiah Clanton, "Jesse Owens: How He Changed the Perspective of African Americans."

Junior Group Exhibit

Vada Kennedy and Lilly Foss, "Conflict and Compromise: Elizabeth Blackwell."

Junior Paper

 Kendra Lamberg, "The Emancipation Proclamation: How Did it Help the North Win the War?"

Life Drawing Open Studio

Life Drawing Open Studio is from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Mondays at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Clothed models of different ages and genders will be provided. Each participating artist should take supplies and clean up afterwards. While not a structured class, some instruction and critique are available if needed.

The cost of each session is \$10, plus a tip for the model. The winter/spring sessions run through May 14. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 to reserve a seat. Visit www.chestertonart.com for details.

Old Lighthouse Museum

A meeting for current docents, or anyone interested in becoming one, is at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at Old Lighthouse Museum in Washington Park.

There are no special qualifications. The focus is anyone who would like to volunteer one day a month or help with special tours. Coffee, tea and cookies will be served after the meeting.

Normal museum hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and closed Monday April 1-Oct. 31. Call Karen at (219) 872-6133 for details.

PAC Tournament Champs



Notre Dame Catholic School's fifth- and sixth-grade girls basketball team won the March 9 PAC Tournament. Pictured are (front row, from left) Maggie McDonald, Bridget Mikowski and Aryana Padron. The back row is (from left) Livia Balling, Sloane Guenin, Madelyn Shinn, Abigail Bartlett, Hailey O'Dell, Elaina Balling, Alyse Thomas, Gerzey Lewalski, Lillianna Armato and Coach Sean Brennan.

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American Red Cross

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

- St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, 818 Franklin St., 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 22. Students who recruit one presenting donor receive a Red Cross medal while supplies last.
- Purdue University Northwest, Library Student Faculty Building Room 144, 1401 S. U.S. 421, Westville, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, March 28. Receive a Chavez Challenge T-shirt while supplies last.

Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org for more details.

River Valley Drama Club

River Valley Drama Club will present "South Pacific" on Friday through Sunday, March 23-25, at River Valley High School's auditorium, 15480 Three Oaks Road, Three Oaks, Mich.

The Rodgers and Hammerstein musical includes classics such as "Some Enchanted Evening," "Younger Than Springtime," "There is Nothing Like a Dame" and "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outta My Hair."

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. EDT Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. EDT Sunday. Tickets, available at the door, are \$8 for general admission and \$5 for children and seniors. Family discounts are available.



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.

African Wax Prints Exhibit

Krasl Art Center will present "Wandering Spirit: African Wax Prints" on March 23-June 17, with a free opening party from 6 to 8 p.m. EDT Friday, March 23.

The exhibit pays tribute to century-old handmade designs and patterns on textiles that originated in Indonesia and were copied and industrialized by Europeans and exported to Africa. It traces the developmental pathway of the African wax print, and tells how these fabrics reflect the stories, dreams and personalities of those who wear them.

The exhibit is curated by Gifty Benson and organized by ExhibitsUSA/Mid-America Arts Alliance, Kansas City, Mo.

In conjunction with the exhibit, a free lecture, "Africa is Present: Wax Prints and African Identity in Art," is from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. EDT Friday, March 23. The speaker is Elizabeth Morton, Wabash College associate professor of art history and chair of the art department. Limited seating is available.

In the center's artlab through June 17 is Emily Stokes' "Undercurrents." The Iowa-based artist explores painting, printmaking, drawing and digital imaging.

Coffee with the Curator is at 9 a.m. EDT Monday, March 26. Deputy Director Tami Miller walks guests through the galleries to learn more about the art on display.

The center is located at 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Visit www.krasl.org or call (269) 983-0271 for details.

SAM Preschooler Program

The School of American Music is offering a new music/storytelling program for preschoolers ages 3-5 at Three Oaks Arts & Educational Center.

Held six consecutive Saturday mornings beginning April 14, the program, "Magical Musical Saturdays," teaches music and storytelling skills, as well as basic socialization skills.

"In a typical class, we will move, sing, play instruments, listen and participate in storytelling," SAM Executive Director Donna Mitchell said. "There will be a musical theme for each week, and the stories chosen will reflect that theme."

Mitchell, a longtime music educator, will lead the program along with Literacy Specialist Peggy Zechel. Each session runs from 10 to 10:40 a.m. EDT. The program requires a minimum of six enrollees and a maximum of 12. Parents are encouraged to attend and participate with their children. The \$30 cost is payable at the first session.

The center is located at 14 Maple St. Email schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com or call (269) 409-1191 to register or for more details.

Eight Prescribed Fires Planned

The National Park Service is planning eight prescribed fires this spring at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

Approximately 1,200 acres are expected to be burned. Fire is used as a tool for the park's long-term restoration and hazard fuel-reduction efforts.

"If we get favorable weather conditions, we will be able to burn over 1,200 acres of park property..." Mel Whitenack, the park's fire management officer, said, "and to reduce fuels which also reduce the threat of wildfires to communities by limiting the amount of materials that could potentially burn in a wildfire."

In Gary, 133 acres are planned in three sections. The most western burn is at the park's western edge, a 59-acre strip of land north of the Indiana Toll Road, between Tennessee Street and Virginia Street. The second unit is in the Miller Beach community, around the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education. The burn will assist with black oak savannah restoration. The third burn in Gary involves 67 acres east of Inland Manor between Fifth Street and U.S. 12, west of County Line Road.

Multiple units will be burned within the park's West Beach, for a total of 114 acres from the entrance to West Beach along Beach Road and defined by the Long Lake and West Beach Trail loops.

Two units will be burned in conjunction with Ogden Dunes. One is in the park's Tolleston Dunes unit, on the south side of town, where a 35-acre strip will be burned north of U.S. 12 between Long Lake and Hillcrest Road. This will aid oak savannah habitat restoration. The other unit is on the east side of town, a 151-acre burn near the Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk and a portion of Portage park property.

A 551-acre burn is planned in the Cowles Bog area between Mineral Springs Road and Waverly Road, north from the Calumet Trail to the south edge of Dune Acres. It aims to reduce hazardous fuels and improve habitat. Sections of Dune Acres property will be burned in conjunction with NPS properties.

The most easterly burn is 285 acres in Beverly Shores, between East State Park Road and Broadway, north of Beverly Drive to Lakefront Drive.

The prescribed fire program is conducted by trained and experienced NPS fire personnel. Smoke dispersal is a primary concern, and park staff do everything possible to limit smoke in the area. However, smoke drifting in and around park lands and roadways is possible.

Before burning, a designated set of conditions must exist, including ideal air temperature, wind speed and direction, and relative humidity. Weather conditions will be monitored to ensure the fire is completed safely.



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Curator's Report

The curator at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., has released the Feb-

Visitors came from nine counties, five states and Scotland. The spring display, "Up, Up and Away: A Look at Aerial Photography of La Porte County," runs through May. Half of the display is on the upper level and the other half on the lower level. Each visitor receives a handout that explains the photos.

La Porte City Police cleaned the W.A. Jones Collection of Ancient Weapons. Historical Society President Bruce Johnson and Curator Susie Richter attended the Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce annual luncheon.

Donations included:

- Toy stove and rag doll belonging to Rachel Martin Osborn, Vicki Osborn McMillen.
- 26-inch bisque doll belonging to Helen Bruemmer Seifert and a wedding gown, the estate of Jeannette Renner.
- Plank Road certificate for \$2, Dan Wineholt.
- Items for the sale table, Claudia Wood and Susie Richter.
- Archival information, Carol Brown DeVorkin.

School field trips are gearing up for the spring, and car groups are starting to schedule visits to the museum. Car groups are asked to park their vintage vehicles in the circle in front of the museum so they can easily be seen from the highway.

The downstairs showcase is being outfitted for spring with children's Easter clothes from the past.

Anyone wishing to volunteer may call (219) 324-6767 and ask for Susie or Janet.

After School Art

The LaPorte Park and Recreation Department continues its After School Art program with "Freedom of Expression, which runs March 22-May 31 at LaPorte's Cummings Lodge.

Children 7-15 explore fine-art fundamentals and a wide variety of media, styles and artists. Projects include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and recycled art. An annual exhibit at the end of the semester showcases the work. Debra Sawyer, arts educator and a designer with a master's degree in arts education, is the instructor.

Visit bbpnet.com/x11a for details.

Notre Dame School Open House

Notre Dame Catholic School, 1000 Moore Road, will host an open house from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28.

Visit school.notredameparish.net for details.

Support those who advertise in the Beacher! Tell them you saw their Ad!

Polish Heritage Scholarship

The Polish Heritage Association of Michigan City again will award scholarships to support students at the high school or college level.

The association formed in November 2011 to increase awareness of Polish and Polish-American heritage. It organizes the annual Polish Heritage Festival at Friendship Botanic Gardens and tends the Polish Garden there, and contributes an annual gift to a charity. It also is restoring the Ignacy Jan Paderewski bust scheduled for unveiling this spring at the Polish Garden.

Applicants are eligible for first place (\$1,000), second place (\$500) or third place (\$100). Those eligible must legally live in Northwest Indiana (Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Starke and St. Joseph counties). Applicants don't need to be of Polish ancestry. They should submit an essay of no more than three pages if single-spaced and six pages if double-spaced on the topic "Ignacy Jan Paderewski and the Re-Birth of Polish Independence in 1918"

Applications should be submitted electronically to Professor Janusz Duzinkiewicz at jduzinkiewicz@pnw.edu, or by U.S. mail no later than April 27.

Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis. Decisions are made by a committee based on how well the applicant's essay addresses the topic. Preference go to essays that directly address the topic, relate the material to their own lives, are well-organized, show evidence of some research, are accurate in content and are clearly written in correct, standard English. All applicants will be notified of the selections at the email address they provide with their application.

Indiana Dunes Birding Festival

Registration is under way for the fourth annual Indiana Dunes Birding Festival, which May 17-20.

The event highlights dunes-area biodiversity and bird-watching opportunities. Organized by the Indiana Audubon Society, it includes Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park as site hosts.

The four-day festival includes more than 65 guided field trips and carpool tours to view migrating birds, more than 50 bird-related programs, from live bird of prey talks to species ID workshops, and special workshops for new bird watchers and educators. Evening events include special excursions for night birds, and a family friendly "birds and brew" social event on multiple nights.

Registration costs for the entire festival run as low as \$42 for adults and \$29 for youth 18 and younger. Registration and program information can be found at www.indunesbirdingfestival.com

Read The Beacher On Line http://www.thebeacher.com/





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Barker Middle School Honored

Barker Middle School has been named a Distinguished School by Project Lead the Way, a non-profit organization that offers hands-on curricula in computer science, engineering and biomedical science.



Barker Middle School students Heather Lewis (from left), Elyanah Goodall and Hanson Huang are photographed with projects they created using a 3-D printer in the Introduction to Engineering Design class.

This year, only 12 Indiana schools received the recognition, which is based on the number of PLTW curricular offerings available to students, the number of students engaged in PLTW and student success in PLTW coursework.

All Barker students take courses in PLTW's Gateway to Technology track, which encompasses topics such as Design and Modeling, Automation and Robotics, the Science of Technology, Green Architecture and Energy and the Environment. Many students also opt for additional coursework in a Problem-Based Technology elective class.

In 2017, Barker earned a five-year certification as a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math school from the Indiana Department of Education.



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.

La Porte County Parks



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

Nature's Tiny Tots

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

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

Parent & Child Discovery Days

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

The schedule is:

• April 11 — When It Rains It Pours.

Senior Lifestyles

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

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

- April 4 "The Art of Aging: Treatment Options,"
 Licensed Esthetician Stacy Bernhardt.
- May 2 "Recycling, Composting, Soil Health," Sacha Gee-Burns of LaPorte County Solid Waste District.

Family Fishing Night

The free, all-ages event is from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 12, at Luhr County Park.

A limited number of poles and bait are available. No fishing licenses are required. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

A minimum of 10 and a maximum of 40 people are required. Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance.

Teachers-Groups-Scout Leaders

Free environmental education programs are offered to groups throughout the year. Programs last one hour or longer depending on the group size and age. Programs can be scheduled at Creek Ridge, Luhr, Bluhm or Red Mill parks.

Easter Bake Sale

A Greek pastries Easter bake sale is Friday and Saturday, March 23-24, at Annunciation & Agia Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church, 18000 Behner Road, New Buffalo, Mich.

The event is sponsored by the Berrien County Orthodox Women's Group. Times are (all Eastern) noon to 6 p.m. Friday, March 23, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, March 24. Pastries range from baklava to appetizer-sized spinach triangles.

Pre-orders are available by calling (269) 469-0081 for a form. Orders can be picked up during the sale.

Zoo 90th Anniversary Program

Washington Park Zoo will host the free event "Celebrating 90 years with the WPA" from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 24, at Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin St.

Free and open to the public, Zoological Society board members will talk about the zoo's history and the WPA buildings on site. Also planned are slideshows, videos and a history timeline.

Visit washingtonparkzoo.com or call (219) 873-1510 for details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

March 23 — Open Mic Night with host Stephen Bruce, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Free. Info: www. acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

March 23-24 — Easter bake sale, Annunciation & Agia Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church, 18000 Behner Road, New Buffalo, Mich. Times (all Eastern): noon-6 p.m. March 23/10 a.m.-6 p.m. March 24. Info: (269) 469-0081.

March 23-25 — "Wiley and the Hairy Man," Canterbury Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Times: 7 p.m. Fri./2 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$5/children. Reservations: (219) 874-4269.

March 23-25 — River Valley Drama Club, "South Pacific," River Valley High School auditorium, 15480 Three Oaks Road, Three Oaks, Mich. Times: 7:30 p.m. EDT Fri.-Sat./3 p.m. EDT Sun. Tickets: \$8/general admission, \$5/children & seniors.

March 23-26 — Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. *Now showing*: "The Post." Rated PG-13. Times: 6 p.m. Fri.-Mon., 3 p.m. Sat.-Sun. All times Eastern. Info: vickerstheatre.com

March 24 — La Porte County Master Gardeners Spring Garden Show, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Michigan City High School, 8466 Pahs Road. Cost: \$10, free/children 12 & younger. Info: (219) 324-9407, www.laportemastergardener.com

March 24 — Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society, 8-10 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

March 24 — "50 Years of Photography," 2-4 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

March 24 — Washington Park Zoo "Celebrating 90 years with the WPA," 3-5 p.m., Artspace Uptown Artist Lofts, 717 Franklin St. Info: (219) 873-1510, washingtonparkzoo.com

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

March 24 — "Behind the Scenes," 5 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Cost: \$15/adults, \$10/seniors, youth 15 & younger. Reservations: Eventbrite, (219) 873-1520, Ext. 5.

March 24-25 — Fishing in the Dunes, Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Times: 10-11:30 a.m. March 24/1-2:30 p.m. March 25. Info: (219) 395-1882.

March 25 — PALM SUNDAY.

March 25 — LaPorte Community Concert Association, Lyric Opera of Chicago soloists, 3 p.m., Kesling Middle School Auditorium, 306 E. 18th St., LaPorte. Tickets @ door: \$15/adults, \$5/students. Info: (219) 362-5292, (219) 362-8262.

March 25 — Paper Circuits, 3 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219)

873-3049.

March 26 — Ozobots, 4:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 26 — Monday Musicale free open meeting, 7 p.m., St. John's United Church of Christ, 101 St. John Road. Donations accepted. Info: (219) 874-3754, (219) 362-1421.

March 27 — National Kite Day Craft, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

March 27 — Marvel Movies Trivia Night, 7-8:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

March 28 — "I Survived" the Library!, 6-7 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton

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

Through May — "Up Up and Away!: A Look at Aerial Photography from La Porte County!," La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportecountyhistory.org, (219) 324-6767.

In the Region

March 23 — Opening party, "Wandering Spirit: African Wax Prints," 6-8 p.m. EDT, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Free. Info: www.krasl.org, (269) 983-0271.

Through March 31 — Youth art exhibit, Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Hours (all Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Info: info@midwestmuseum.us

Support Groups

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

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer St., 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: https://oa.org, (219) 879-0300.

Wednesdays — Alzheimer's/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers, 2 p.m., third Wednesday of each month, Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (888) 303-0180.

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

Want your event listed here?

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



On March 22, 1630, colonists in Boston were forbidden to gamble. A law was passed which stipulated that "....all persons whatsoever that have cards, dice or tables in their homes shall, under pain of punishment, make away with them before the next court convenes."

On March 22, 1874, the "Young Men's Hebrew Association" was founded in New York.

On March 22, 1894, Montreal and Ottawa were the participants in hockey's first Stanley Cup game.

On March 22, 1963, the Beatles' first album "Please Please Me" was released in Britain.

On March 22, 1997, American Tara Lipinski, at 14 years and 10 months, became the youngest person to win the women's world figure skating title.

On March 23, 1743, Handel's Messiah had its London premiere. During the "Hallelujah Chorus," a captivated King George II rose to his feet. The audience rose with the King, and the tradition of standing during the chorus was born.

On March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry, distinguished patriot and orator at the time of the American Revolutionary War, in a speech before the Virginia Assembly, made his celebrated plea for American independence, with these words, "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

On March 23, 1965, America's first two-person spaceflight began as Gemini 3 blasted off carrying Virgil Grissom and John Young.

On March 23, 2001, Russia's orbiting Mir space station ended its 15-year odyssey with a fiery plunge into the South Pacific.

On March 24, 1932, New York radio station WABC broadcast a variety program from a moving train in Maryland.

On March 24, 1949, John and Walter Houston became the first father and son to receive Oscars from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science. The award was for "The Treasure of Sierra Madre."

On March 24, 1955, the popular Tennessee Williams' play, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," opened on Broadway.

On March 24, 1958, singer Elvis Presley was inducted into the United States Army.

On March 24, 2002, at the Academy Awards, Halle Berry became the first black actress to win an Oscar for a leading role for "Monster's Ball."

On March 25, 1867, the cornerstone was laid for Chicago's famous Water Tower.

On March 25, 1958, in Chicago, Sugar Ray Robinson became middleweight boxing's first five-time world champion when he defeated Carmine Basilio.

On March 25, 1973, trolley buses made their final runs on Chicago's North Pulaski and Cicero lines.

On March 26, 1885, the first commercial motion picture film was produced by the Eastman Dry Plate and Film Company at its Rochester, N.Y., plant.

On March 26, 1974, the United States Supreme Court ruled that a candidate cannot be kept off the ballot because of inability to pay the filing fee.

On March 26, 1999, the "Melissa" computer virus began infecting machines across the country.

On March 26, 2000, the movie "American Beauty" won five Oscars, including best picture of 1999, as well as best actor for Kevin Spacey.

On March 27, 1794, acting on the recommendation of President George Washington, Congress approved the establishment of the U.S. Navy.

On March 27, 1884, the first long-distance telephone call (between the managers of the Bell Telephone Co. in Boston and New York) was made.

On March 27, 1902, a Chicago newspaper writer first referred to the Chicago National League baseball team as the Cubs, a name officially adopted five years later.

On March 27, 1920, movie fans waxed ecstatic over the wedding of Hollywood's two most popular stars, Mary Pickford "America's Sweetheart," and Douglas Fairbanks.

On March 27, 1954, Lewis Mumford, in a letter to *The New York Times*, made an impassioned plea to end H-bomb experimentation: "If, as a nation, we have become mad, it is time for the world to take note of that madness. If we are sane, then it is time for the powerful voice of sanity to be heard once more in our land."

On March 28, 1797, New Hampshire's Nathaniel Briggs was granted a patent for an agitator type washing machine.

On March 28, 1858, Chicago's first YMCA was organized.

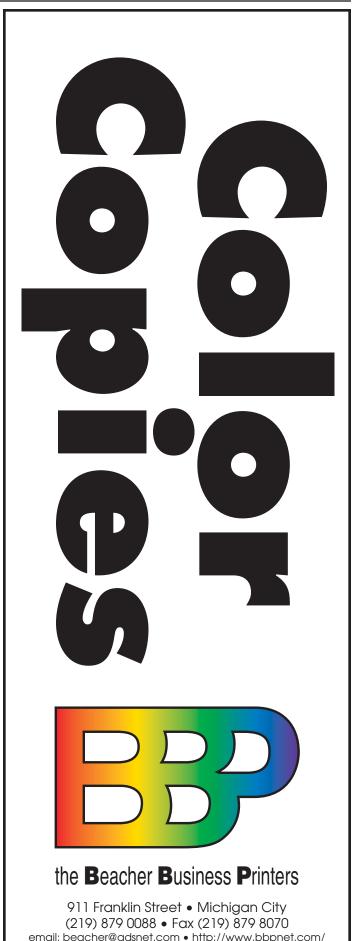
On March 28, 1925, *The Chicago Tribune* moved into the newly completed Tribune Tower.

On March 28, 1930, the names of the Turkish cities of Constantinople and Angora were changed, respectively, to Istanbul and Ankara.

On March 28, 1944, New York City's radio station WQXR banned singing commercials.

On March 28, 1978, in an effort to stem the decline in the value of U.S. currency, the Bank of Japan purchased one billion in United States dollars.

On March 28, 1987, Maria von Trapp, whose life was the inspiration for the musical, "The Sound of Music," died in Morrisville, VT, at the age of 87.



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Miller Pizza By the Beach, 1012 N. Karwick Road, is taking applications for employment. Apply within. No phone calls, please.

Housekeepers Wanted!

Must have housekeeping experience), proactive, self-starters for summer rental season. Must work weekends (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) 10am-4pm June-August. \$20-\$30/hr plus other potential bonuses!

Call (269) 588-9600 for interview appointment.

Looking for part-time, reliable, dependable cleaning lady. Must have a car, experience a plus. Call Rita after 9 a.m. at (219) 878-9311 or (630) 596-6119.

GARAGE SALES, ESTATE SALES, ETC.

Fabulous Moving Sale! March 23-24, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 2519 Glendale Way, Long Beach

Everything must go! Lots of furniture and great finds!

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

REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL - RENTALS/LEASE/SELL

Owner of busy, thriving floral shop in the heart of downtown New Buffalo wants to sell business. \$75,000 for business and inventory. Call Linda at (269) 469-0405.

RENTALS INDIANA

Apartments for rent. Uptown Michigan City, 1/2BR, \$675/mo. and up. Call (219) 898-8871.

Dunescape Condo, 4th floor, 2BR/2BA, available now-May. \$1,100/mo+ utilities. Available June & July at market rate. Call/text Cari @ Merrion Realty @ (219) 898-5412.

Furnished 1BR apartment over garage, quiet wooded setting among \$500K homes, granite, hardwood floors, shared pool, tennis, basketball. Kitchenette. Utilities included. \$800, 1-yr lease, no smoking, no pets. (312) 399-5341.

Summer rental. Stop 37. 4BR/3BA, AC, WiFi/cable. 300 ft to beach access. Contact jmebeachouse@yahoo.com

1BR, freshly painted and new carpeting, spacious rooms and all appl., including W/D in your own utility room. \$695/mo.

Call (708) 404-9482.

A REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDOMINIUM WITH UNIVERSAL APPEAL IN THE SHORES! 2BR/2.5BA/main-floor den, at 2210 Bayview Drive. \$224,500. Sale by owner. Household items, furniture items available by appointment. (219) 393-4609.

Buildable site in Michiana Shores: 5 corner lots (200x130). Call Jim (219) 871-2101 for more information.



Long Beach Women's Bowling

March 13, 2018

March 15, 2016		
TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Diagonal Divas	28	12
2. Bitchin Bowlers/Blind Side	24	16
3. Queen Pins	23	17
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES		SCORE
1. Tammy Nelmar		204
2. Carolyn Wiggins		189
2. Mary Lou McFadden		189
3. Dottie Brinckman		187
4. Lenore Hadaway		167
5. Cindy Beck		163
6. Ann Bogart		152
SPLITS		
1. Janet Miernicki		5-10
2. Barb Macudzinski	4-5	5-7/5-10
3. Mary Lou McFadden		5-6
4. Polly Fletcher		6-7-9
5. Celena Byrnes	1-2-	10/8-10
6. Carolyn Wiggins		4-5
THREE STRIKES		

Tammy Nelmar, Dale Maher, Sarah Blank

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



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

Agent in Place by Mark Greaney (hardcover, \$27 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

This story is so fast-paced, I was on the edge of my seat so much, I almost fell off. Here's why...

Court Gentry, aka The Gray Man. Once doing duty for the CIA, he was bumped out and is now

back in good graces as a contract asset. He flies into impossible missions most men won't, and can't, do. In the halls of Langley, he's legendary.

In this, the seventh book in the Gray Man series, the action all takes place — where else? Syria.

Gentry is contacted by a middle man to do what on the surface looks like a simple job — simple for the Gray Man, that is. His employer is a group of Syrian ex-pats now living in Paris. His job is to enter a Paris hotel and bring out Bianca Medina, mistress of Syrian President Ahmed Azzam, and deliver her to the Free Syria Exile Union.

As the president's mistress, the expats, lead by doctors Tarek and Rima Halaby, believe Bianca has heard things that could lead to his downfall.

Since Azzam has made friends with the Russians and Iranians (behind the Russians' back), his reign has become one of murder and chaos. In the beginning, Shakira was known as the Rose of the Desert. Now, since her husband's unholy alliances, she has become the First Lady of Hell.

Now, the president's wife has other plans for her husband's mistress. Unfortunately for Shakira, she was the one who met Bianca, a runway model, made friends with her and introduced her to Azzam...the rest is history. The affair between her husband and Bianca is bad enough, but Bianca has now given birth to a baby boy, something Shakira can't give Azzam. Shakira wants Bianca killed. Note: Gentry doesn't know about the baby...yet.

At the hotel, Gentry sees the guards sent with Bianca by Azzam, but discovers there are others there who are trying...what? Kill the woman in her room? Kidnap her? In an exciting barrage of gunfire and scaling hotel walls, Gentry and Bianca make it out safely. Back at the Halaby's, Gentry is mad. "Someone in your organization purposefully sent me into that address at the same time ISIS was planning to make their attempt on Medina." But that's not the only bombshell dropped on him that night...

In the Halaby's safe house, Bianca tells everyone about Jamal, her 4-month-old son, fathered by Azzam. Will Gentry go to Damascus and rescue the boy

and his nanny? Sure, no problem... "All I have to do is find a way to explain that to the bodyguards, the cops, the intelligence officials, and the military forces in my way." Sarcasm is one of Gentry's strong points.

How does he get into Syria? By joining a mercenary army group, of course — the Desert Hawks Brigade — "Like working for both Nazis and mafia

at same time." He will sneak away from the group when they reach Damascus and bring out Jamal and the nanny. Wow. This is where the real excitement begins. How Gentry makes his way to Damascus and the safe house guarded by Azzam's men is jaw-dropping exciting. As if getting into the house and retrieving the pair isn't enough, there's a harrowing chase by Azzam's men as Gentry needs to reach the doctor who will keep baby and nanny safe.

The excitement isn't over yet! After all is said and done, Gentry knows Azzam must be eliminated — hundreds of thousands of people have died under his regime, large parts of the country have been burned out or blown apart and refuges flood the roads — it's a country in complete turmoil...

Azzam let his greed and ambition get the best of him; he has no regard for human life other than his own, and Gentry's one man who isn't afraid to face him and die, as long as he takes Azzam with him.

This is action that looks at world events of today through the eyes of those in the middle of it all while we sleep peacefully in our beds. I was blown away by the images of a war-torn country, and the players — the good, the bad and the innocent.

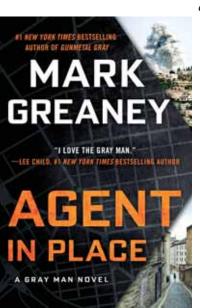
How does it all end? Trust me, it will knock your socks off.

Publishers Weekly (starred review): "Greaney's steady escalation of the risks that Court faces, and the exceedingly clever ways he tackles them, make this entry in the exemplary Gray Man series a can't-miss."

Kirkus Reviews (starred review): "Somehow, Greaney cranks out one winner after another. That's a lot of work for the <u>Gray Man</u> and plenty of vicarious pleasure for thriller fans."

Greaney has visited more than 15 countries to train with military personnel, and learn about "the use of firearms, battlefield medicine and close range combative tactics." That's pretty impressive. Never have I heard of an author going this far to research his writing. And, he has a degree in international relations and political science. His website is markgreaneybooks.com

Till next time, happy reading!







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