Spring Fling: “It’s About Time”

by Paula McHugh

A cat knows how to tell time. The warm rectangle of sunlight from a window is the spot of choice for a cat snooze. And as the patch of sunlight moves, so does a contented feline. Time, for a cat, is a warm, cuddly feeling as the sunshine moves across a room.

A dog knows how to tell time: mailman time, paperboy time, outdoor walk time, and most importantly, chow time. And in a past era, milkman time—lest we forget. A dog knows that time is a series of fun events.

A bird knows when it’s bedtime, because his master or mistress will gently place a cover over his cage and sometimes bid sweet dreams. A bird knows when the day really gets started, because the cover process is reversed and his master or mistress bids good morning. A caged bird measures time by coverings and uncoverings.

We have no expertise to discuss how fish know time, so we won’t even try. Except to remember that fish who swim in the ocean know the rhythm of the tides.

This story is about the caring humans who support the Michiana Humane Society’s mission to protect, day after day, the little creatures who might have lost their way. Because, on the cusp of springtime each year, the Michiana Humane Society puts on its annual Spring Fling and benefit auction. A worthy cause worthy of your time.

And not just any auction, mind you. It can’t be just any old auction when you gather more than three dozen local artists, all with unique visions and styles, and ask them to make something really, really special to raise money for the animals at the shelter. The very

Ten artists gathered at the Framing Station to debut their clocks. The clocks will be on view at 912 Franklin through March 3, and silent bids are being taken all to benefit the Michiana Humane Society’s animal shelter. From left: Mike Bockover, Pat Manning, Sharon Wellman, and Corey Scott Rodriguez. Back row from left: Jenny Trainor, Wendy Kermen, Tricia Meyer, Donna Mason, Anastasia Snyder and Sarah Wojasinski.
Time  Continued from Page 1
first auction featured birdhouses. The second year featured lamps, and last year, chairs of all manner and description caught Spring Fling bidders’ eyes. Today, these one-of-a-kind birdhouses, lamps and chairs grace the homes of the most discriminating art-and-animal lovers from Michigan City and beyond. Yes, time and time again, the Michiana community has rallied its support for the work of keeping the animal shelter running smoothly.

This year, artists have been working their imaginations and their hearts overtime to prepare their auction items for the March 5th event at the Pottawatomie Country Club. The organizers—Shelter director Gail Marsh, committee members Daria Harris, Sue Spitler, Dave Moon, and Sally Golightly—decide on a theme each year, and the artists take that theme and run with it, creating whatever springs to mind. This year the artists were told simply and clearly, “It’s About Time.” But you, dear Beacher reader, already guessed, or knew, didn’t you?

The Spring Fling organizing committee decides on a theme each year. And this year, “It’s About Time.” From left, Michiana Humane Society Director Gail Marsh, Sue Spitler and Sally Golightly. Not pictured are committee members Daria Harris and Dave Moon.

All manner of clocks, each with its own brand of uniqueness, are on display at the Framing Station at 912 Franklin right now. Most will sit ticking and tocking and awaiting admiration and gotta-have-it envy from would-be bidders until shortly before the big Spring Fling dinner and dance March 5th. When the clocks arrive for their big night at Pottawatomie Country Club, their tick-tocks will be syncopating with the doo-wop, and be-bop harmonies of the popular vocal group, “Harbor Lights.” Dinner dance guests are sure to coo and maybe even go cuckoo over the menu being prepared for the food stations this year: a sushi bar, carved roast beef, sautéed crab cakes, chicken Marsala, and martini bar. Attendees no doubt will be going cuckoo over the clocks they can bid on, too.

The clocks on exhibit at the Framing Station are all pointing to party time on March 5th. And the artists who made them, or at least the artists The Beacher had a chance to talk with, had a good time planning and creating their contributions.

Mike Bockover has designed a hand-crafted oak-based mantle clock that he has named, “Obtuse Clock” for its extreme 180-degree angle. Mike, a professional photographer who specializes in architectural prints, admitted that he wants to take up furniture making when he retires.

“The concept (for the clock) just popped into my mind, and it fits a Frank Lloyd Wright Prairie Style design,” Mike explained.

Dana Dabagia said that she “wanted to do something cute and clever,” so she painted a colorful clock in primary colors with a Dalmatian theme. Dog-lover Dana said that her home is a gathering place for all the neighborhood canines because they know she will give them treats.

At this writing, time was still ticking away for Deb Henderson, who told us that she had five ideas rolling around in her head but was not sure which would end up being the “one.” Deb’s daughter, Taylor is her collaborator and helper, she said.

“I’m furiously working to get it done,” Deb said, adding that she is going with a weight-scale themed audio clock. “You know how people say that it’s time to go on a diet? That’s the idea I’m going with.”
JoAnn Finney said that the idea for a small clock depicting the Autumn in the Dunes South Shore poster came to her before this year’s Spring Fling’s theme was even announced. Since the Framing Station is chock full of South Shore posters, JoAnn’s idea was a natural.

Barbara Janeczko, who works with JoAnn at the Framing Station, found her inspiration for a clock in her dad’s workshop. Barbara’s dad, who works with commercial laundry equipment, has a knack for saving odds-and-ends used parts. So Barbara recycled some of his old valves and pipes to create “Time Machine I,” a floor-mounted clock.

Yvonne Wagonblast, another regular contributor of art pieces for the animal shelter benefit, has created a golf-themed clock.

“I found a statue of a golfer and made a bird and a gopher that sit on a pedestal box,” Yvonne Wagonblast said, adding that the idea of the movie, “Groundhog Day” weaves through her inspiration. She calls her clock, “In My Own Time.” Yvonne’s dog, Cliff, was eager to get at the groundhog.

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Time  Continued from Page 3

Sharon Wick of Salem, Wisconsin was challenged by her sister Sally Golightly to create a clock and she used her quilting expertise to stitch a three-dimensional cat she calls “Purrcey.” Purrcey’s timepiece sits upon his nose.

Susan Krauth’s clock features an acrylic painting of large strawberries, and is meant to be mounted in a kitchen or dining nook.

(Above) Anastasia Snyder designed the colorful stained glass “Free Time.”
(Left) Wendy Wilcox Kermen with her “Hickory Dickory Dock” clock.
(Right) Sally Golightly’s “Too Much Time on My Hands.”

Sharon Wellman played with words and with paint to create “Sea Time Flies.”

Corey Scott with her “Time Out” chair/clock.

Gail Marsh with her creation, “Flight Contained.”

Jenny Trainor fashioned a fused glass clock that she calls “Fido Knows.”

Dale Hektor’s Grandchild clock.

JoAnne Finney invites you to the Framing Station to browse the clocks to be auctioned at the Spring Fling.

Sally Golightly’s “Too Much Time on My Hands.”
Donna Mason of The Plaid Rabbit designed a collage she calls “Time Flies.”

Woodworker Dale Hektor has made a Grandchild Clock with a mirror and drawer for jewelry and it’s suitable for sitting atop a dresser, he said.

Pat Manning is a new contributor to the Spring Fling auction, although Pat’s late husband Bill contributed his creations in auctions past. Pat said that her folk-art style clock came out of a one-stroke painting class project that she took with Lea Brumbaugh of Lea’s Painting Studio in Valparaiso. Pat is very attached to her cat, Sweet Willie, and her story of finding him touches the heartstrings of all animal lovers: the black and white tuxedo stray showed up at her door when she returned from her husband’s funeral. And that is why she named him “Sweet Willie.”

Be sure to drop by the Framing Station, 912 Franklin Street, and view these pieces of art before it’s too late. Time waits for no man (nor woman), you know. And be sure to make your reservations for the Spring Fling Dinner Dance and Auction before time ticks away. Reservations are $75 per person and can be made by calling the Michiana Humane Society at 219.872.4499 or pick up reservation cards at the Framing Station.

The artists mentioned here represent just a small portion of those who have agreed to share their creativity for the benefit of the Michiana Humane Society. Others who The Beacher did not have a chance to talk with include: Robert Brady, Joel Brussel, Jane Ellis, Laurel Izard and Edwin Shelton, Max Mangold, Janet Musikantow, Brenda Miller, Pat Molden, Jane Moon, Jim Nova, Melissa Payne, Susan Rosso, Corey Scott, Carol Siegel, Anastasia Snyder, Margaret Sullivan, Sandi Thayer, Jenny Trainor, Sandee Tonsoni, Susan Vissing, Sharon Wellman, Wendy Kernen, Sara Wojasinski, and Jennifer Wilely. Oh, and Sally Golightly and Gail Marsh, too. As if organizing the Spring Fling were not a big enough project from them. Whew! We’re talking lots and lots of time.
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“Honor the Earth” Contest

Purdue University North Central joins Rotary Clubs in Michigan City, LaPorte, and South Bend in sponsoring the fourth annual Honor the Earth design contest. This international project is open to all young people, ages 8 to 18, who want to express their dreams for our earth.

The contest theme is “Vision for the World’s Future: A Wonderful Day 100 Years from Now.” Participants may create a picture or design that illustrates their vision of what the world will look like 100 years from now. Details may include homes, work and play, oceans and lakes, land, air, animals, insects, planets, stars.

Winning entries will receive cash prizes and will be posted on international websites. Designs must be created and submitted directly on contest forms, and must be postmarked by March 21. Entry forms and guidelines are available in English and Spanish at www.mcrotary.org or www.pnc.edu/development.

Winners will be selected by March 31. Entries will be exhibited at a reception on Mon., April 11 at 1 p.m. at PNC. The public is invited to this free event, which will be held in the Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall Room 02.

More information can be obtained by phoning Rita Dagys 872-0257, ext. 5698. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact ext. 5698.

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“Good Bye Lenin” Film Showing

Purdue University North Central, in cooperation with the Michigan City and LaPorte County Public Libraries, will host two screenings of Wolfgang Becker's 2003 film, “Good Bye Lenin,” during February as part of the ongoing Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series. Both showings are free and open to the public.

The film will be shown at the Michigan City Public Library on Sun., Feb. 20th, at 2 p.m., and again on Wed., Feb. 23rd, at 7 p.m., in LaPorte High School's Schulze Hall. Both showings will be followed by commentary and discussion led by Judy Jacobi, PNC Director of Marketing.

“Good Bye Lenin” was named the Best European Film at the Berlin Film Festival. The story is set in the final days before the fall of the Berlin Wall. Alex creates a fictional world for his mother. The mother, after being beaten by police and unconscious for months, was comatose during the fall of the Berlin Wall. Warned that the slightest shock could kill his mother, Alex sets out to shield her from the changing world outside her window, down to producing phony news broadcasts and schemes to explain away the Westernized world she encounters.

Roger Ebert gave the film three stars. The film is rated R and is in German with English subtitles. For more information, phone 872-0527, ext. 5593.

PNC Financial Aid Open Saturdays

The Financial Aid office at Purdue University North Central will be open Saturday mornings, Feb. 5 - 26, to assist current and prospective students and their families in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The PNC Financial Aid staff will be available from 9 a.m. to noon on those Saturdays in Room 38, in the lower level of Schwarz Hall. No advance reservations are necessary.

The priority deadline for mailing the FAFSA is March 1, and it must be received no later than March 10 for consideration for all federal and state aid programs, including grants, loans and work-study. Many private scholarships also require the FAFSA.

“Anyone thinking about going to college next fall or in the spring of 2006 should complete the FAFSA now,” said Gerald Lewis, PNC director of financial aid. “That way they’ll know well in advance what assistance programs they qualify for, and can meet priority deadlines.”


For more information, phone the Financial Aid office, (219) 872-0527, ext. 5493.
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Heartland Film Festival

As part of its continuing effort to showcase films that offer heartfelt visions of life and to make those films more accessible, the Indianapolis-based Heartland Film Festival has launched a new easy-to-use web site -- www.TrulyMovingPictures.org -- to help moviegoers around the world find information about Truly Moving Pictures more quickly and efficiently.

The new site provides users with an overview of Truly Moving Pictures available to the public, interviews with stars and filmmakers and an opportunity to nominate a Truly Moving Picture for consideration. Visitors to the site can find information about the life-affirming films coming to local theaters or being released on DVD or sign up to receive e-mail movie updates.

Additionally, the site directs viewers to the Heartland Film Festival web site -- www.heartlandfilmfestival.org -- where visitors can access Festival news and history, upcoming events or become a volunteer.

Heartland Film Festival, a nonprofit organization, was established in 1991 to recognize and honor filmmakers whose work explores the human journey by artistically expressing hope and respect for the positive values of life. Each October, Heartland screens Truly Moving Pictures from around the world, ranging from dramas to documentaries to animation.

Heartland awards $100,000 in cash prizes and Crystal Heart Awards to the Festival’s top entries, including a $50,000 grand prize for best dramatic feature. The Jimmy Stewart Memorial Crystal Heart Award winners for the best student films and the Crystal Heart Award winners share the remaining money. The Crystal Heart Award cash prizes are given in honor of Max Simon by his parents, Melvin and Bren Simon, through the Max Simon Charitable Foundation. In thirteen years, Heartland has awarded more than $1.3 million to support filmmakers in their quest to create Truly Moving Pictures.

Sousa Concert at VU

Student and community musicians will perform together under the direction of the former conductor of the U.S. Army Band at Valparaiso University’s 7th Annual Sousa Tribute Concert on Sat., Feb. 19th, in the Chapel of the Resurrection on campus.

The concert will begin at 1 p.m. and will feature VU’s Chamber Concert Band, Luce Concert Band and the Community/University Concert Band. Dr. Jeff Doebler, associate professor of music and director of bands, conducts all three bands. Col. L. Bryan Shelburne, retired commander and conductor of the U.S. Army Band of Washington, D.C. will be the concert’s guest conductor. Soprano Kimberly Beasley, adjunct instructor of music, will perform as a soloist with the bands.

Tickets are $10/adults, $5/senior citizens and students. Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at VU’s Box Office, 219/464-5162.
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A 2005 spring adventure sailing vacation may be in your crystal ball. Pier Wisconsin, a Milwaukee, Wisconsin chartering firm, has announced that there’s limited space on the group’s three-masted tall ship Denis Sullivan—one for adults scheduled to sail out of Miami, Florida on March 4. The week-long voyage will end in Miami on March 11.

Two other voyages are also on the Sullivan’s schedule—both for students. The first of these will depart Miami on March 19 and return March 24. The second will sail March 27 and return on April 1.

The March 4 to 11 vacation sail will cost $1,050.00. The student sailing adventures will cost $960.00 per person.

Pier Wisconsin officials stress that all passengers will be welcome to double as crew members. “You can learn to sail or, if you’re more advanced, just enhance your sailing know-how,” said Jeff Phillips of Pier Wisconsin. “It will be up to the individual.”

In the course of each cruise, depending on the weather, the eighteenth-century replica tall ship will make island stops, with the Bahamas as a primary destination.

During all three voyages passengers/crew members will be able to explore the ocean depths while the Sullivan is anchored and to learn to navigate by the stars or using a sextant. Experienced instructors will be on board to provide lessons for those needing them.

“Passengers will be responsible for transportation to and from the ship,” Pier Wisconsin officials said.

Built in Milwaukee in the late 1990s with more than 300 volunteer ship enthusiasts taking part, the Denis Sullivan has an overall length of 138 feet. Deck length is 98 feet and the ship’s beam is 24 feet.

With a maximum mast height of 95 feet, the ship can carry nearly 6,000 square feet of sail. Offering berths for 28 persons, the ship can travel under diesel as well as wind power. The two main engines boast 180 HP each.

In summer the Denis Sullivan becomes a schoolship. Young people receive instruction in Great Lakes ecology, the finer points of sailing, marlinspike or knot-tying skills, and other subjects. Great Lakes balladeers also provide instruction in the art of the sea chanty.

Construction began in 1994. Construction crews cut white oak timbers on site using a portable sawmill called a Woodmiser. A total of 90,000 pounds of lead went into the keel as ballast.

A Three-way Mission

The Denis Sullivan project began with establishment in 1993 of a set of specific missions for the vessel. “First,” the mission statement read, “she will be a tangible link to Wisconsin’s maritime history. Second, she will be used as a floating classroom to educate people of all ages in the history and ecology of the Great Lakes.

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In 1998, with the replica vessel nearing completion, professional shipwrights and apprentices were hired full-time to finish the planking and other jobs requiring advanced skills. Many shipbuilding techniques used 100 and more years ago were employed again in the final phases of construction.

In the summer of 1999 workers completed the hull's planking and fairing as well as the interior ceiling planking. In a christening ceremony the ship received the name Denis Sullivan, “after one of the most prominent Great Lakes ship captains of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.”

Information on the March sailings may be obtained by calling Mr. Philips at 414/276-7700. Reservations may be made at the same number.

“Third, she will be used as a vehicle to teach seamanship, sailing and responsibility to youths and adults.” As a codicil, the project’s sponsors specified that the Sullivan would be a floating symbol and “good will ambassador” for the State of Wisconsin.

During the construction phase the Menominee Native American Nation donated six 160-year-old white pine trees for shaping into the vessel's masts and spars. The gift timber serves those purposes today.

Shipboard cleanliness ranks high on the Denis Sullivan’s “must list”. Passengers serving as crew members may be called on to help.

(Photograph courtesy Pier Wisconsin)

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In the late 1990s the skeleton of the replica sailing vessel Denis Sullivan was taking shape at Milwaukee's Old Harbor.

(Photograph courtesy Pier Wisconsin)
Michael McDermott with special guest Acoustic X will be appearing at CTG’s Chicago Street Theatre, 154 W. Chicago St., Valparaiso, on Sun. Feb. 20th, 7 p.m. Reserved Seating is $20; phone 219/464-1636 or e-mail boxoffice@ctgonline.org and someone will contact you. The theatre also has a web site at www.ctgonline.org

Chicago-based singer/songwriter Michael McDermott is making a return appearance at One Night Jam, touring in support of his latest album, “Ashes.”

“You’ll hear a lot of the old favorites, but you will also hear a lot of new music, performed the way it's done best -- up close and intimate. There are few performers who can captivate an audience with just their voice and a guitar or piano like Michael can, and CST is the perfect place for it,” said Paul Braun, director of the series.

Featuring a cozy, 140-seat layout, Chicago Street Theatre is a non-smoking, no-alcohol venue with reserved seating which allows the artist to perform without all the distractions and interference usually present in a club setting.

First coming to national prominence with his hit “A Wall I Must Climb,” McDermott has developed a rabidly loyal following over the years, and recently has been tapped to sing the National Anthem at numerous sporting events around Chicago. Songs from “Ashes” have been getting regular play on radio across the country and on XM satellite radio, where it sits in the top 25 since its release.

Opening for McDermott will be area artists Acoustic X, most recently seen in their “plugged-in” version Electric X as part of the Midwest Beat’s “Region Rumble” at the Star Plaza Theatre. “They’re extremely talented guys with a very Beatles-esque flavor to their song, and write very catchy and melodic songs,” according to Braun. With the recent release of their third CD, “Radioville,” they will be bringing a lot of new material to the table this time.
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“Musical Chairs” at Footlight Theatre

Standing: Ray Walters.
Sitting: Christine Wiegand and Kathy Hill.

It’s not too late to see this musical comedy, directed by Robert W. Komendera. It is an entertaining show about an audience watching a play. The story revolves around Joe Preston, a playwright who has not had a hit in years and is hoping his new play will revive his career.

Performances continue on Feb. 18-19-20. Curtain time is 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. on Sunday. Doors open 45 minutes prior to showtime. Tickets are $10 and reservations may be made by phoning 874-4035. The Footlight Theatre is located at 1705 Franklin St., Michigan City.

Bookmarks at Noon

The next Bookmarks at Noon will take place on Fri., Feb. 18, at the Michigan City Public Library. Four Souls by Louise Erdrich will be reviewed by Kathleen Mullen.

Fleur Pillager embarks on a path of revenge in this continuation of the Ojibwa saga that began with Tracks, an earlier novel. Fleur journeys to Minneapolis to avenge the lumber baron who stripped her reservation and patiently infiltrates his household. A parallel tale of jealousy and revenge plays out between Nanapush, the aging tribal chairman, and his wife Margaret. The rich detail of Indian culture and community is engrossing in these multiple stories of revenge, redemption, and transformation. The program is free and open to the public.
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**PNC Students Offer Free Tax Service**

Students from Purdue University North Central tax and accounting classes are again offering free assistance to the public in preparing federal and state income tax forms. This program is designed to provide basic income tax return preparation to individuals with low to moderate incomes, individuals with disabilities and the elderly.

Help will be available from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on all Saturdays from Feb. 19 through April 2, except March 12. The service will be in Room 171 of the Technology Building on the PNC campus. Appointments are required for the first two sessions on Feb 19 and 26. Appointments are suggested for remaining sessions, although walk-ins are welcome. Those without an appointment may experience a wait.

This is the 16th year that PNC has participated in the Internal Revenue Service’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which offers free filing help to individuals and families with gross incomes of $45,000 or less.

Thomas Holets, continuing lecturer of accounting and coordinator of the PNC program, said the student VITA volunteers are prepared to help with basic returns, including the 1040, 1040A, 1040 EZ, and the Indiana IT-40. Itemized deductions can be included if other qualifications are met, as can Earned Income Credit (EIC) and basic stock and bond transactions.

The volunteer tax preparers have completed 12 credit hours in accounting, including at least one tax course at Purdue North Central, and passed a rigorous IRS examination on tax rules and filing procedures.

Contact Cecilia Kajer in the business department at (219) 872-0527 ext. 5263 for an appointment. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations should also contact Kajer.

**Free Day at Center For History**

The Northern Indiana Center for History will offer free admission on Mon., Feb. 21, in celebration of Presidents’ Day. Admission will allow access to current exhibitions and Kidsfirst Children’s Museum, however, Copshaholm will not be open that day. The Center is located at 808 W. Washington St., South Bend.


Kidsfirst Children’s Museum features a pioneer village, and Voyages Gallery explores the history of French explorer LaSalle, who first traveled the St. Joseph River in the 1600s, and Pierre Navarre, who built the first log cabin in St. Joseph County.

For more information, phone 574/235-9664 or log onto www.centerforhistory.org
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• Includes private lake rights
• $539,000
• (2448813)

2019 Lake Shore Drive
Long Beach
• Beautiful lake views; just steps to the beach
• Three bedrooms /Two bathrooms
• Marble, wood flooring, & Pella windows
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• (123389)

Spacious home boasts 4 bedroom 4 baths, 3 Fireplaces, built-in cabinetry, shelving & seating. The main bedroom IS a suite!, the bathroom has a sunken ceramic tile tub and a separate shower! The family room has a fireplace & built-in wet bar. The double oven in the kitchen is encased in brick. Formal living room boasts a fireplace & leads to the 3 seasons room. The basement has two stairways, one from the hallway, and the other is more hidden through the utility room. This home has so many unique features and amenities!

HOME WARRANTY. Offered at $450,000
(123745)
A great beach cottage on quiet cul de sac in the award winning Beachwalk community. Currently under construction but will have the best of everything! Granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, hardwood floors. Wonderful front porch. Owner has access to all Beachwalk amenities including seasonal cafe, brand new pool, tennis, basketball, putting green, interior lake and playground. $459,000
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Stunning Lake Michigan views come with this beautiful 5 bdrm, 4 bath home. Construction to be completed in 2005 and now is the time to buy as you can choose your finishes: flooring, cabinets, countertops, light fixtures, etc.

Call Mike or Rudy (800) 958-5030 or (312) 735-2912
Great opportunity to own a charming cottage in the award winning Beachwalk community just steps from the Beachwalk boardwalk. Wonderful open floor plan, lots of deck space for entertaining. Owners get the use of all Beachwalk’s amenities which include brand new swimming pool for summer ’05, tennis, basketball, putting green, seasonal cafe, parks, playground and 26 acre interior lake. Home will be sold fully furnished for all those interested turn-key investors looking for a summer rental property. This one won't last long!!!

Starting at $479,000

Call Rudy @ (800) 958-5030
In honor of Catholic Schools Week, the children in the 1st grade of Notre Dame School had a special day (Feb. 4th) to share with Grandparents/Special Friends. Teacher Mary McDonald has passed them on to us and now we pass them on to you. Here are the children's thoughts, just as they wrote them. Enjoy!

What is a Grandparent? My Grandma always spoiled me and my sister. She probably spoiled my mom. When she did mouse mouse she was tickling me. My Grandma had five girls. She had lots of sister. No boys. She just had girls. She lived in a condo. She has past away. When she spoiled me this is a thing she gave me: Hello Kitty.

Grace Dybing

What is a Grandparent? My Grampa he is. He's funny and he's good at reading. He might be my best Gradpa.

Elizabeth Quinlan

What is a Grandparent? They take us to the park some times. We ride bikes when we bring them. I love playing with my Grandparent. They are very very fun to play with.

Lily Bardol

What is a Grandparent? Well a Nana and Papa help your Mom and Dad worry about you. My Nana's job is at the soup kitchen to help the poor.

Nicole Styczynski

My Grandparents? Play with me. I play chess with my Grandparents. They love me a lot.

Austin Pitchford

What is a Grandparent? My Grandma and Grandparent baby-sit me. I play them at checkers. Next we stay up really late and eat ice cream.

Cole Sandin

What is a Grandparent? My Grandma play with me. We makes sandcastles. She lets go swimming. She lets me sleep over.

Grace Troy

What is a Grandparent? A Grandparent is a person that loves and cares about you. They play with you and never quit. They protect you.

Jack Lesby

What is a Grandparent? They make good foods and always give me five dollars. They love me so much.

Dravyn Patterson

What is a Grandparent? They make good foods and always give me five dollars. They love me so much.

Dravyn Patterson

What is a Grandparent? Grandma is fun to play Chinese Checkers with and Grandpa always gives us five dollars every time we go to their house.

Thomas Walinski

My Grandma is nice person. My Grandma is a dentist. She tickles my teeth. She gives me lots of presents for Christmas. I think my Grandma is the best ever!

Taylor Rodriguez

What is a Grandparent? My Grandma has a pool table. My Grampa has a boat. My Grandma is a Dentist. My Grampa works to help our world.

Alex Prascak

A Grandparent is someone you can go visit and have dinner with. Every time I go she always hugs me. I have a lot of fun there.

Bradley Czarnosich
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Includes Sofa, Loveseat, Cocktail Table and 2 End Tables
PLUS GET A PAIR OF LAMPS FOR $1.00

Sofa Only $399
5 Pc. Living Room Only $1099
Includes Sofa, Loveseat, Cocktail Table and 2 End Tables
PLUS GET A PAIR OF LAMPS FOR $1.00

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Choice of Colors
Get the Second for $1

Rocker Recliner $499
Choice of Colors
Get the Second for $1

Sofa Only $499
5 Pc. Living Room Only $1299
Includes Sofa, Loveseat, Cocktail Table and 2 End Tables
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to invite her favorite teacher to an awards luncheon, she chose Rose.

We left our car in the Lehigh driveway, avoiding a $12 a day parking fee at the port. Dennis drove us to the ship and promised to pick us up when we returned in a week. The process of checking our bags and showing passports and tickets took only a few minutes. On board, we stopped by the information desk for the Tom Milo Band Tour.

I spoke with Fran Milo, singer and wife of band leader and drummer Tom Milo. I asked her if the band had In My Solitude in its repertoire. “I’ll talk to Tom.” Fran replied.

Though the tour was being organized by Wal-Mart Vacations, the Costa Mediterranea proved to be more than a thing but Wal-Mart in its décor. The ten-deck ship glittered with glass and marble and stainless steel. Fine art hung from the walls in corridors with deeply cushioned carpets. A midship atrium rose from the second to the tenth deck. To get to our room on an upper deck, we wound our way past slot machines and roulette tables. Things abounded everywhere where you could order a drink (using your Costa card) and listen to music. Three banks of elevators provided vertical transport for the thousand or more passengers on board. When we reached the deck for our cabin, our electronic voice in the elevator announced in Italian, “Ponte Sette. Deck Seven.” In addition to couch and king-size bed, our room featured not merely a port-hole, but a full glass wall and veranda overlooking the ocean. The Costa Mediterranea functioned like a Las Vegas hotel afloat, more than suitable lodging for Sir Harry and Dame Rose on their first cruise of the Caribbean.

Muster in life preservers

At 4:00 just before departing, we mustered for an offline drill showing us how to board lifeboats in an emergency. “They’ll be showing the movie Titanic in the ship’s theatre this evening,” I quipped to Rose just before a photographer snapped our picture wearing orange life preservers. It seemed that everyone wherever we went, a photographer wanted to take our picture and collect $19.95, payable by Costa card, of course.

Those on the Tom Milo Big Band Tour gathered later in the theatre to meet the band. Tom Milo confessed that the band did not have In My Solitude in its repertoire. Given the number of passengers aboard, it probably was inappropriate anyway.

Rose and I moved to the top deck as the ship sailed onto the ocean at sunset. Other cruise ships, before and after, similarly emerged from the port steaming toward Caribbean destinations. By then, it was time for the first seating of dinner. We had arranged to sit with John and Madeleine Hayes, and also were joined at table by Dan and Sarah McNabb and Ed and Lorraine Frank, also from Michigan City. Sarah’s brother John Burke and his wife Jean occupied the next table.

February 17, 2005

Sir Harry

Continued on Page 26
Continued from Page 25

“Switch in the movie schedule,” I told Rose. “We’ll be seeing *The Perfect Storm.*” We learned later from a couple that had been on two dozen cruises, that this was the roughest weather they ever had encountered.

Although the waves rocked us to sleep, the seas grew progressively calmer as we sailed south. We spent all day at sea Monday, relaxing and reading. I got a truly great haircut from an Italian stylist. We walked the upper deck, each lap a third of a mile. We cased the half dozen buffet tables topside near the pools. We established a calorie-burning strategy of using stairways instead of elevators. Unlike the concrete stairways found in most skyscrapers, the *Mediterranea*’s stairways featured carpeted steps and mirrored walls. We burned additional calories dancing to the music of the Tom Milo Big Band later that evening. Still no *In My Solitude,* but they played a snappy arrangement of another Ellington favorite, *Satin Doll.*

We landed in Puerto Rico Tuesday afternoon and wandered through Old San Juan. A nighttime kayak tour that interested us had been cancelled, so we signed up for a tour promising Latin music. The strongly strummed music of guitarist Juan Carlos enraptured us, but every second number he yielded front stage to a half dozen thong-clad dancers wiggling their tushes. “As much as I love—uhhh—dancing,” I told Rose. “I like Flamenco guitar even better.”

We sailed overnight to Saint Thomas in the Virgin Islands, but took a ferry immediately after landing Wednesday morning to nearby St. John. Waiting for us at the dock was Cliff Stiles and his wife Carol. Cliff is a retired physician from Foley, Minnesota, a classmate of mine from Carleton College. President of the Young Republicans Club, he helped organize a campaign stop by Dwight Eisenhower our senior year. I carefully refrained from discussing politics with him. Cliff and I climbed into the back of a 4x4 truck, Carol driving with Rose beside her as we roller-coaster ed along the island’s steep and narrow roads, stopping occasionally for panoramic views of blue water. At one jewelry shop, Carol asked the owner about a specific type of necklace. “I’ll make you one for next season,” the owner promised. Rose bought earrings for herself and for a friend.

The Stiles occupy a cottage clinging to a hillside, high over a bay and beach, where Cliff can nude sunbathe without being disturbed. Rose and I chose to wear swimsuits for our romp in the surf. Carol made sandwiches for lunch. “No more than 500 calories,” I warned her. Like Joanne Leahy, she failed to meet that limit.

*Strip Show*

Thursday, our ship moored near Catalina, an island off the Dominican Republic. Tenders took passengers ashore to swim at a private beach. We chose instead an Eco-Tour of the main island. This involved taking a tender to shore, boarding a bus for a ride to another beach, where we got into a speedboat that whisked us along the shoreline at 40 mph to a mangrove swamp where we boarded dugout canoes powered by electric motors to view nests of frigate birds. “Eco stands for ecology,” I reminded Rose.

En route back, we stopped at a sandbar along with a half dozen other tour boats. Everyone jumped off to wade in chest deep water while drinking Rum and Coca-Colas and searching for starfish on the bottom. Rose and I hesitated. The tour instructions had said to bring bathing suits, not to wear them. Shamelessly, we changed in the back of the boat hoping nobody had us on video.
Our next port of call on Saturday, after a full day sailing, was Nassau in The Bahamas, where Rose and I had honeymooned. Not much remained from our first visit, including our honeymoon hotel, an abandoned shell when we visited Nassau on our twenty-fifth anniversary, now a shopping center.

We strolled Bay Street looking for gifts, February being a big birthday month in the Higdon family. A store named Del Sol featured T-shirts, Frisbees and nail polish that changed color when exposed to sunlight. That took care of the grandkids. We bought a shirt for our son Kevin displaying the name Kevinston, a rugby team. Rose priced one tanzanite ring, but passed when she discovered it cost $2,500. Even Sir Harry lacked that much cash, and the store did not take Costa cards.

Our last night on board featured a toga party. After returning from shopping, we discovered two fresh sheets at the end of our bed to be wrapped around our suntanned bodies to look like proper Romans. Not everybody on board accepted this sartorial challenge, but all at our table did. “I have come to bury Costa, not to praise him,” I offered as a toast.

Sunday morning we landed in Port Everglades, to be collected by Dennis and Joanne Leahy. Before heading north, we regaled them with tales of our first cruise. We fled north before Joanne could offer us lunch.

We had not seen a bathroom scale all week, that not being a standard piece of stateroom furniture for cruises. But on our return to Ponte Vedra Beach, Rose and I discovered that while the average cruise passenger allegedly gains one pound for every day at sea, we had not gained a single pound. All that walking on deck and up stairs apparently had done its job.

We already have begun to consider destinations for our next cruise, including Alaska, the Greek Islands and Antarctica, where kayaking between ice flows might help us maintain proper body weight. And in the meantime, maybe Tom Milo can add In My Solitude to his band’s repertoire.

Hal Higdon has been a resident of Long Beach since 1964. His latest book, Masters Running, will be published by Rodale Press in March.

Go Guide

Choosing a cruise: If you decide to do a cruise, there are almost too many cruise lines and cruises to list. Check with a travel agent or on the Internet. A quick Google search using the words “Cruise” and “Caribbean” uncovered 6,660,000 listings.

The Tom Milo Band Tour: The Band has done a half dozen cruises, not always with the same cruise line or travel agency and not every year. One couple from Detroit, who spent two years taking dance lessons, said they surfed the Internet to find a cruise featuring dance music—and found Tom Milo. Fran Milo claims it’s too early to know if they’ll cruise again next winter. Check the Band’s Web site at TomMiloBigBand.com. Or wait until spring and call Fran in LaPorte at 362-9011.

Compatibility: If you don’t like overeating, drinking and gambling, are cruises for you? We don’t participate in those activities, but found plenty to enjoy, and sometimes not doing anything is fun. Most people we spoke to said they didn’t realize how much they would enjoy a cruise until they did one. Some cruises cater more to kids; some more to adults. Ask your travel agent.

Dressing Up: Our cruise had two nights identified as “formal.” Some wore tuxedos or elegant gowns. I wore a coat and tie; not everybody else did. If you want to dine in your swimming suit, you can do that too, but in one of the buffet areas, not the main dining room.

Costs: Being our first cruise, we decided to spend extra for a room with a veranda and later were glad we did. You can save money by getting an inside room. Prices vary greatly from hundreds to thousands of dollars per person. Bargains exist, but you often get what you pay for.

Would you do it again? After having spent all our lives cruiseless, we’ve already sent our deposit in for a cruise next winter.
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**TOBA Sets Date For Annual Auction**

The Three Oaks Business Association will hold its annual auction on Sat., March 19, at the Three Oaks Elementary School community room. Doors will open at 9 a.m. (MI time) with oral auction beginning at 10 a.m. A silent auction will be held at 11 a.m.

The annual fundraiser provides the resources to promote the commercial aspects of the village. “This event couldn’t be more beneficial than it is this year when the entire downtown will be under reconstruction throughout the summer months,” said TOBA president-elect Mike Hojnacki. “Our group has already committed $4,500 to get the word out that the businesses in town are operating as usual, that our parades and festivals will continue without interruption, and that the end result will be a beautiful architectural statement that truly says ‘welcome’ to Three Oaks.” The fledgling community radio station, WHCR-LP, will also be hosting a bake sale in conjunction with the auction.

Now is the time to clean out the garage, basement or attic of some of your more unusual items. If you have something of auction value, please contact Karen Gear at 269-756-3121 or Three Oaks Township Librarian Eric Nieman at 269-756-5621.

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**Rotary Club Scholarship**

A one-time scholarship for $2,000 is being offered by the Rotary Club of Michigan City to a high school senior who has been or will be accepted by at least one accredited college or trade school by the date of this award, April 28th. This scholarship gives weight to each of six qualifications: academics, community service, communication, employment, extracurricular activities and leadership.

Scholarship applications are available from guidance counselors of the Duneland Lutheran High School, LaLumiere School, Marquette High School and Michigan City High School. They are also available on-line at www.mcrotary.org or email suzyvance@earthlink.net. All applications must be postmarked no later than March 4th.

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**COTTAGE IN THE WOODS**

Special home on 5 acres with a lovely pond! It resembles a chapel in the woods. Interior offers solid wood doors that are 9’6” high and - rounded. Ceilings are 12’ high and give an open, spacious feeling. Includes fireplace, ceramic heated floors, 2 marble baths, a screened-in ceramic tile room with built-in BBQ grill. Exterior offers a beautiful (lined) pond and 30 x 40 heated & insulated pole barn with gas & electric. Owner very motivated to sell! Drastically Reduced $339,000

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Enjoy deck, screened porch, great room with massive fireplace, large enclosed back porch, sun porch, large foyer, 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths on a large corner lot with total privacy. Lake Shore Drive to Michiana Drive (Stop 37) to Comanche Trail, left to 4043 Comanche.

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foodstuff by carolyn mcconnell

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary...quoth the raven, ‘Nevermore.’

Sound familiar? This’s from Edgar Allan Poe’s poem The Raven, 1845.

Here in Michigan City, 160 years later, you’ll find Nevermore at Karwick Plaza, just off route 12. Owner Isabel Hadaway tells me the name Nevermore was chosen because she grew up reading The Raven over and over. An important part of the classic poem is her own mother’s name, Lenore (whom Poe claims the angels named). The Nevermore shop has been opened almost a year now and, as may be true with other Michigan City-ites, I’ve just walked right past it countless times as I stopped at Karwick for groceries or sundries. I’d admire the window display, but kept on walking. Well, when I actually stepped inside the other day for the first time, I instantly fell in love with all the endless stuff covering the walls, the tables, counters, floor - mainly, of course, the food stuff like plates, decorative or everyday serving pieces, posters of food. There are thousands of goodies in that single large room. My favorites include an adorable molded heart-shaped ring for $2 and an attractive wrought iron wine rack for over $800.

Isabel Hadaway is a young twenty years old and an incredibly smart retailer. It all started as early as eighth grade here in Michigan City - that’s when she decided she wanted to, some day, own a shop. Isabel’s business sense began when she accompanied her mother to Chicago’s Merchandise Mart as Lenore’s co-worker in a drapery shop. These days, as a fairly new owner of her dreamed-of shop, Isabel travels to the Mart for every product she stocks for her customers. Forget the internet, she wants to touch each item she orders, needs to feel its texture and strength. And there she travels through a number of showrooms, taking her time and covering so much territory she often feels lost in that huge building, but happily lost.

I asked if there’s anything that people asked for that’s not carried in the Nevermore. Only one currently popular item, she quickly answered, and her recent order for it will soon arrive - a decorative wine bag to be used as gift wrap instead of ordinary gift paper.

When you visit Nevermore, some of the things you’ll enjoy, aside from foodstuff articles, are:
• animal scotch tape holders - a perfect gift for your child’s teacher;
• walls covered with lots of laminated pictures and decorated plates;
• ‘Good Home Laundry Wine’ for washing clothes - a favorite of many customers;
• reading glasses in beautiful cases - one has olives printed on it, another, fancy shoes;
• shower and tub goodies in many different flavors;
• French milled soap;
• a set of retro dishes, replica of antique dishes;
• apron set, one for mom, one for little girl (one customer had theirs embroidered with their names).
So, go find Nevermore. It’s open Tuesday thru Saturday year-round, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Isabel will accept appointments on Sunday and Monday if you wish. Located at 1014 Karwick Rd, Karwick Plaza, Michigan City. Phone 219-879-4390.

CHUTNEY APPETIZER SPREAD
(would look pretty with Nevermore’s Margaritaville stuff)
8 oz cream cheese, room temp
1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
2 T grated fresh onion
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp pepper
2/3 cup mango chutney
1/4 tsp crushed red pepper
In food processor, blend together cheese, cilantro, onion, salt/pepper. Then stir in chutney and red pepper flakes. Makes slightly less than two cups.
Presidents

The Federal holiday that comes in mid-February is meaningless to most of us. Except, maybe, for sales advertisements. We know about George and the cherry tree and Abe studying in his humble log cabin. Beyond that mostly useless information, what do you really know about Presidents from past history? Me neither. But that’s where the excellent resources on the Internet can help all of us become more literate concerning the past leaders of our country. No bells and whistles this week—it’s all about reading, learning, or relearning.

American President (www.americanpresident.org). This is a great place to start researching our Presidents. The educational website was created by PBS, and its contents are reliable for research. Especially for learning about lesser-talked-about Presidents. Millard Fillmore predated Abe and taught himself to read. He had about 3 years of grammar school and married his mentor/teacher, just two years older than he. Abe was not the only U.S. President with humble beginnings, but then, Fillmore inherited his position when Zachary Taylor died in office. Remember that from history class? Me neither.

Presidents USA (www.presidentsusa.net/index.html). Another good reference website with information similar to the one above. Each name has a separate link, making this website just a wee bit easier to get to the information about a specific President.

Presidential Facts Page (http://fs6.depauw.edu:50080/~jkochanczyk/president/index). You will find things here that won’t be found on the previously mentioned sites. Such as quotes of some of our Presidents’ last words and the names of their houses. Abe Lincoln’s last words are not remembered, but the last words Abe heard were, “Well, I guess I know enough to turn you inside out, you sockdologizing old man trap.” Remember that from history class? Me neither. Trivia buffs will like this site.

History Buff (www.historybuff.com/presidents/index.html). Of all the websites I reviewed about U.S. Presidents, I found this to be most enlightening in the context of understanding the history of our nation. That is because this site includes the inaugural addresses of all the Presidents who delivered one (or more). And within each inaugural address, a history student can get a capsulized idea of the issues of that time period, as well as our nation’s evolution. Here is a quote from Abe Lincoln’s first inaugural address: “I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.” That quote was not mentioned in my high school history book. What about yours?

Carl Gehrman’s Presidents Website (www.presidents.swath.org). Gehrman has taken his college research and put it to use on the Web for the rest of
us, with the caveat to check other sources for accuracy. He also invites others to correct any errors they may find. In his own words and attempting to maintain some objectivity, Gehman summarizes the major social changes, major inventions, and the domestic and foreign policy of each administration. Also, he adds his own subjective analysis of the impact each President had on the nation—up to and including George H.W. Bush. Gehman’s website is the one—if I were to choose only one to read—to gain a more comprehensive understanding of U.S. history from its beginnings up to the past decade.

Send your comments to cyberscribbles101@yahoo.com. Read this week’s column online now at http://cyberscribbles.blogspot.com.

Krasl Winter Video Series

The Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, MI, is continuing its winter video series that complements the current exhibit “Allied Artists of America.” All videos are held at noon (MI time) on Fridays and are free. Take your lunch along; coffee will be served. A discussion led by artist Lorie Jesperson will follow each video.

Fri., Feb. 18. “Willem de Kooning: Artist.” View a selection of 31 works by the artist as he talks about how he develops a painting and his historic and famous friends. “It seems that you have to be rather innocent; if you are too advanced or learned, you won’t be able to paint” - de Kooning. This video is 32 minutes long.

Fri., Feb. 25. “Chuck Close: A Portrait in Progress.” Learn about the more contemporary New York art scene as the artist most famous for his colossal portraits discusses his ability to work through disabilities to become one of the most famous American artists today. This video is 57 minutes long.

Check the March 3rd issue of The Beacher for the last two videos in this series.

Find Books on NoveList

A free workshop will be given by the LaPorte County Public Library on the use of NoveList, an electronic database to which the library subscribes. It will be held on Wed., Feb. 23rd, at 3 p.m.

NoveList can help you: find new titles by a favorite author; use a favorite title to find similar books; get a list of all the titles in a series; find similar authors to your favorite; search for books by describing a plot; and, discover what reviewers and authors are reading.

Class size is limited. To register, or for more information, phone 219/362-6156. You can phone the library 48 hours in advance of the program to request signing for the hearing impaired. The LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave., downtown LaPorte. Visit them on the web: www.lapcat.org
**Monday Musicale Auditions**

The Monday Musicale of Michigan City will be holding auditions for several scholarship awards early this spring. The Junior auditions, which include grades 4-8, will be held Sat., April 16th, starting at 8 a.m. at Barker Civic Center.

The Senior auditions, which include grades 9-12, will be held on Sun., April 17th at 2 p.m., also at Barker Civic Center. Both categories have a deadline of Sat., April 2nd.

Application forms are available from school music directors or music teachers in both private and public schools. For more information, phone 872-8969 or log onto www.MCLib.org and click on community organizations.

The winners will perform at the awards program on Sun., April 24th, at 2 p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, 7th & Pine streets in Michigan City.

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**Gallery Relocates to New Buffalo**

Block Fine Arts, Inc., formerly of Three Oaks, has relocated to downtown New Buffalo, Michigan, at 105-B North Whittaker St.

Block Fine Arts specializes in contemporary and global outsider art and crafts, curatorial services, and the representation of artists and collectors.

An open house with an artist’s reception is scheduled for Sat., Feb. 19th, from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (MI time), at the new location. Refreshments will be served, and in case of inclement weather, the open house will be rescheduled to Feb. 26th.

Information: Ellen Block, 269/449-0177.

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**14th Annual Spring Luncheon**

Members of the Lake, LaPorte, and Porter County chapters of the Share Foundation Service League announce the 14th Annual Spring Luncheon that will take place on Wed., March 16th at 11:30 a.m. in Schererville’s Halls of St. George. The luncheon will benefit the Share Foundation’s residential and camp programs for other abled adults. A donation of $25 per person entitles you to a delicious meal, an array of fabulous door prizes and the great company of many Share Foundation supporters. For the first time, table sponsorship is available for individuals and businesses that want to demonstrate a higher level of support as well as receive recognition in the luncheon program. You can sponsor a table of 10 friends, family or co-workers for a $500 donation.

The Service League would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in showing his or her support of the Share Foundation’s mission to attend the Spring Luncheon on March 16th.

Reservations are required, phone the Share Foundation at 219-778-2585.
"I Tried Scuba" at YMCA

“I Tried Scuba” is a three hour program designed for those people who have always been interested in scuba diving, but aren’t quite sure they “have what it takes.”

In this class, instructors will go over the basics of scuba diving and the underwater world, and then take you into the pool with scuba gear to check it out. The class will be held on Sat., Feb. 26, from 2-5 p.m. Registration is limited, phone 872-9622.

For those interested in earning a scuba certification, classes will start March 17, April 2 and April 21.

The Michigan City YMCA is located at 1001 E. Coolspring Ave., Michigan City.
**“Riches” to be Performed at VU Theatre**

Theatre students at Valparaiso University will direct and perform Lee Blessing’s “Riches” on Fri. & Sat., Feb. 18 & 19, in this year’s 1-2-3-4-5 Production. Performances begin each night at 8 p.m. in the Studio Theatre at the VU Center for the Arts. Admission is free, but seating should be reserved by phoning the University Box Office, 219/464-5162.

Lila Vassileva, a senior theatre major from Valparaiso, will direct the production which was originally performed as “War of the Roses,” a look at the break up of a marriage on the couple’s anniversary.

Jordan Chaddock, a junior English and theatre major from Portage, and Christina Reed, a junior theatre major from Merrillville, will perform the lead roles.

Students who direct and act in the annual 1-2-3-4-5 Production are completing a course in play directing. The production they put together must be no more than one hour long, be given in two performances, be produced within thirty days, and require no more than five actors.

**“A Blast From the Past”**

18 Artists Studio and Gallery will be hosting an art exhibit for the former original owners of the gallery ten years ago. These artists will bring in special pieces to be hung in the Gallery through the month of February. Media on display will include watercolors, oils, oil pastels, fabric, stained glass and bronze sculptures.

There will be a reception in their honor on Sun., Feb. 20th, 1-4 p.m. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited to attend.

**Joint Voice Recital at VU**

A brother and sister from Valparaiso will perform a joint voice recital at Valparaiso University’s Center for the Arts on Fri., Feb. 18th. Soprano Rachel Easton, a senior biology and chemistry major, and baritone Kenneth Easton Jr., a junior music education major, will perform at 7:30 p.m. The recital is free and open to the public.

Accompanists for the recital are pianists Adam Hughes and Matthew Collins, and violinist Rachel Krieg.

**Readers Group to Meet at Library**

**Kite Runner** by Khaled Hosseini will be discussed at the Readers Group at the Coolspring Branch Library, corner of Johnson Rd. and 400N in Michigan City. The group will meet at 7 p.m. on Tues., Feb. 22nd. There is no preregistration and the meeting is free.

The book is a novel about two friends from Afghanistan. It is available for check out from the library. For more information, phone 879-3272. To request signing for the hearing impaired, phone 48 hours in advance of the program to 219/362-6156.
2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach

Little Star Montessori School is having a cookie dough and gourmet popcorn sale/fundraiser now through Feb. 23rd. The cookie dough is packaged in 3 lb. tubs, there are 10 yummy varieties to choose from, it’s delivered fresh but can then be frozen, and makes 4 dozen cookies. The cost is $9 for booth sweet treats and will be available for pick up on March 16th. Stop by Little Star during regular school hours and fill in an order form or phone 219-878-8886. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Dunes Arts Foundation Youth Theater will start rehearsals for their spring production of “The Ransom of Red Chief” on Tues., Feb. 15th. Anyone wishing to join the cast of performers ages 12-18 may register by phoning Joann Saxon at 219-879-8060. Rehearsals will continue on Tues. and Thurs. after school from 4-6 p.m. and Sat. afternoons from 1-4 p.m. No previous experience is necessary and beginners are welcome.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18
7:30-9 p.m. MUSIC HERITAGE SERIES: VERY FEBRUARY. Hurrah for Groundhog Day, President’s Day, Black History Month and Valentine’s Day! Banjoes will be featured including a brief performance by the Banjo Band. Meet at Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19
3 p.m. FEEDING TIME AT CHELLBERG FARM. Experience life on an 1890-1910 era farm by helping Farmer Jim feed the farm animals. Meet at Chellberg Farm barn.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20
3 p.m. FEEDING TIME AT CHELLBERG FARM. For more information, phone 219/926-7561, ext. 225.

Flying Carpet Travelogue Series

“Undiscovered Wales” is the fifth stop on the 2004-2005 Flying Carpet Travelogue Series. Frank Kilcar will present the program on Thurs., Feb. 24th, at 7:30 p.m. The program will take place at the Elston School Theater in the Elston Middle School Performing Arts Center, 317 Detroit St., Michigan City.

Discover Wales by visits to Chepstow and Caerphilly castles, Cosmeston Medieval Village, Tintern Abby and take a cruise on the Llangollen Canal.

Individual tickets for this program are $5 and will be available at the door.
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:
February 16 — Blood Pressure Screening at Michigan City Public Library. 2 pm. Bring a list of your medications and your blood pressure card. Free.

February 16 — Protect & Repair Your Books. Free workshop at the LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., downtown LaPorte. 2-4 pm. Bring several books or magazines to practice on. Free. No registration & all materials provided. Info: 219/362-6156.

February 17-21 — “House of Flying Daggers.” Academy Award nominee for Best Cinematography. Rated PG-13. Thurs & Fri 6 pm; Sat & Sun 3:15, & 6 pm; Mon 6 pm. (MI times).Vickers Theatre, 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, MI. 269/756-3522 or www.vickers-theatre.com

February 18 — Bookmarks at Noon at MC Public Library. Four Souls by Louise Erdrich will be reviewed by Kathleen Mullen. Free & open to the public. Info: 873-3049.

February 18-20 — “Musical Chairs.” Footlight Players production. Fri & Sat. curtain 8 pm; Sun matinee 2 pm. Tix $10; phone 874-4035. Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., Michigan City.

February 19 — Open House at Block Fine Arts’ new location at 105-B N. Whittaker St., New Buffalo. (Formerly of Three Oaks). 11 am-8 pm (MI time). Refreshments will be served.

February 19 — Valentine Dance at the Michigan City Senior Center, Washington Park. Noon-1 pm catered dinner, followed by dancing 1-4 pm to the music of Wil Smaka’s Music Connection. Tix $6/in advance, $8/at the door. Purchase Mon-Fri, 8 am-4 pm. Info: 873-1504.

February 19 — Spaghetti Supper to raise funds for the Amer. Cancer Society Relay for Life LaPorte Chapter. 4-6:30 pm at Countryside Christian Church, 7056 W 450N, Michigan City. Adm. is a donation.

February 19 — 7th Annual Sousa Tribute concert in the Chapel of the Resurrection on the campus of Valparaiso University. 1 pm. Tix $10/adults, $5/sen. cit. & students. 219/464-5162 or purchase at door.


February 20 — Films on DVD Series: “Good Bye Lenin.” 2 pm at the MC Public Library. Free & open to the public. German with Eng. subtitles. Rated R.

February 20 — Faculty Recital at Valparaiso University in the Duesenberg Recital Hall. “Die Winterreise,” featuring Ralph Klapis, baritone, and guest artist John Wustan, piano. Free & open to the public.

February 20 — One Night Jam Presents Michael McDermott. 7 pm at the Chicago Street Theatre, 154 W. Chicago St., Valparaiso. Reserved seating $20; phone 219/464-1636.Acoustics X will open. See story
February 21 — Chasing Vermeer. 1:30 pm at the MC Public Library. Author Blue Baillett will be the library’s guest in April. To get ready for her visit, join this program about how codes are used in the book. A drawing for a copy of the book will be held. Info: Youth Services Dept. at 873-3045.

February 22 — Readers Group at the Coolspring Branch Library, corner Johnson Rd. & 400N in Michigan City. Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini will be discussed. No fee or registration necessary. Info: 879-3272.


February 24 — General Meeting of the Southern Shores Art Association. 7 pm at 723 Franklin St., Michigan City.

February 24 -- Flying Carpet Travelogue Series: “Undiscovered Wales.” Elston Middle School Performing Arts Center, 317 Detroit St., MC. Tix $5 at the door.


Places to Visit:
Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., Michigan City. Adm. $4/adults, $2/kids 18 and under, free/kids under 3. Guided tours Mon.-Fri., 10 am, 11:30 am & 1 pm; Sat. & Sun., noon & 2 pm. 873-1520.

Great Lakes Museum of Military History, 360 Dunes Plaza, Michigan City. Info 872-2702 or on the web at www.militaryhistorymuseum.org

LaPorte County Historical Museum, county complex in downtown LaPorte, IN. Feb. exhibit: Sound the Alarm! Fighting Fires in LaPorte County. Hours 10 am-4:30 pm, Tues-Sat. Adm. free; donations welcome. 219/326-6808, ext. 276 or www.lapcohistsoc.org

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd St., Michigan City. Tues.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat-Sun, 11 am-4 pm. Phone 874-4900.

New Buffalo Railroad Museum, 530 S. Whittaker St., New Buffalo, MI. Mon-Fri, 9 am-5 pm; Sat-Sun, 10 am-3 pm (MI time). Info: 269/469-5409.


Farther Afield:
February 18 — Winter Videos at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, MI. Noon (MI time). Free & open to the public. Take your lunch; coffee will be served. Discussion period at end of each showing. This week: Willem de Kooning: Artist. 32 mins. long. Info: 269/983-0271 or www.krasl.org

Country Western Dance
Amarillo Star’s next monthly country western dance will be Sat., Feb. 19th, 7-10:30 p.m., at the Skwiat American Legion Post in Michigan City. Admission is $5/Amarillo Star members and $7/non-members. Everyone is welcome. There will be line/partner dancing to DJ music. For more information, phone Chris at 874-3624.

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Travels with Charley:

Getting a Hold on High School Wrestling with the Mighty Mustangs

by Charles McKelvey

Mention the word "wrestling," and we immediately think of those over-muscled characters who hurl one another around the ring and work their fans into absolute lathers.

That is certainly one kind of wrestling, and, as a mere youth in Chicago, I saw more than my fair share of it at the old Ampitheater on Friday nights when the likes of Dick the Bruiser and the Crusher thrilled their tomato-tossing fans with their feats of derring-do.

But there is quite another type of wrestling, and it is one you will definitely find at such progressive high schools as River Valley in Three Oaks, Michigan.

Yes, I speak of high school wrestling which, in my opinion, provides the most sports excitement you could ever hope for.

And more!

I write with absolute assurance, because I cover River Valley’s Mustang Matmen for the Southcounty Gazette. Last season I watched four of them go to state, and I am looking for even more to make the journey to the big show near Detroit in a few weeks time. And, yes, this year I plan to make the journey east and take it all in.

Why?

Because high school wrestling -- with its matches of three, two-minute periods -- provides the most dramatic six minutes in all of sports.

So as a means of encouraging you to attend the high school and/or college wrestling meet nearest you, I offer the following dispatch I filed after a recent River Valley home meet that pitted the Mustangs against their arch-rivals from Edwardsburg High School:

(Three Oaks, Mich.) . . . Like Old Man River, the Mighty Mustang Matmen kept rollin' along February 2 by embarrassing Edwardsburg 54-25 at their last home meet of the 2004-05 season.

River Valley’s Mustang Matmen warm-up before their home meet against Edwardsburg.

That impressive win over a Lakeland Conference rival who has battered and bruised them in seasons past came quickly on the hooves of the Mustangs’s impressive 6th place team finish at the highly competitive Southwest Michigan Invitational at Lakeshore High School on January 29.

Although Valley was vanquished by such powerhouses as Lakeshore, Niles, South Haven, Dowagiac, and Cassopolis, they took down Bangor, Buchanan, Watervliet, Coloma, Benton Harbor, Brandywine, Lawton and Covert at the SW Michigan Invitational.

Mike Stein won the 135-pound championship by pinning Cassopolis’s Justin Tucker, and his brother John took a second in 103. Tim Morrissey, John Coniglio, and Zak Kacmar each took a third in their respective class of 160, 171, and 215. And big Bubba Creekmore claimed his 100th career victory at Lakeshore by taking down Hartford’s Carlos Uvalle.

Then, as though that wasn’t enough wrestling excitement for one week, the Mustangs trampled...
the Eddies at the River Valley Corral on February 2 by the aforementioned score of 54-25.

Dustin Smith avenged Ricky Zeiger’s defeat in the opening 152-pound match by making quick work of Kevin Borton in the 160-pound round, and the Mustang stampeded could not be halted.

John Coniglio pinned the Eddies’ Bill Miller in 171; Tim Morrissey took out their Joe White in 189 with a pin, and Zak Kacmar kept the pins rolling by felling Jim Fein in 215.

Then Bubba Creekmore claimed his 104th career win by pinning Eric Meadows in the heavyweight round, and there was no hope ahead for the Eddies, especially after they voided 103 to Dustin McMullin.

John Stein had to battle mightily against Edwardsburg’s Zach Wilfert before felling him in the third period, but Kyle Gordon clinched the Valley victory by pinning Matt Selge in the first period of the 119-pound match.

Ryan Narregan, Mike East, Russell Kittleson, and Jason Ehlert each lost a heart-breaker in the rounds that followed, but then Mike Stein put the winning cap on the night by felling the Eddies’s Tom Westfall in the third period of their 145-pound clash. And to his credit, Scott Peters gave it out as good as he got it in the two JV matches that bracketed the Varsity contest. Unfortunately, Peters lost to Edwardsburg’s Jeff Rogers and Steve Franklin.

The varsity victory was bittersweet for Mike Stein, Zac Kacmar, Bubba Creekmore, and Dustin Smith because it was their final competition on their home mat.

Dustin Smith’s mom, Tonda, spoke for all the parents who were honored that night by saying, “I am so glad Dustin wrestled. This has been good for him.”

The big win over Edwardsburg was good for Coach Rich Weeks too. Especially with the Lakeland Conference Meet looming in the near future.

Pronouncing himself pleased with everyone’s performance at the Southwest Michigan Invitation, Coach Weeks said the win over Edwardsburg was “good, but it was almost like we were the big kid beating up on the little kid on the playground. But they’re rebuilding; they’re down this year. They lost a lot of seniors from last year, but they came out and wrestled us tough tonight.”

The coach said he moved scrappers like Tim Morrissey, Dustin Smith, and Mike Stein up a couple of weight classes so they would face “tougher competition, and everybody wrestled tough. We’re progressing, and the future’s looking good.”

Coach Weeks added that River Valley has “a very good chance to win the (Lakeland) Conference tournament. With Cassopolis on the move and getting better and better, it could give us a chance of pulling off the championship.”

He added that the Mustangs are perfectly poised for some “March Madness” when they plan to march into the Palace at Auburn Hills in the Detroit area.

It’s high time for old “Travelin’ Charley” to file a story or two from Motown, so please stay tuned.
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On February 17, 1876, Maine’s newspapers reported that the first sardine was canned at Eastport. While not specifically mentioned, it is safe to assume that the second and third were canned on the same day.

On February 17, 1972, President Richard Nixon left for China on a trip that would result in establishing diplomatic relations between the United States and Communist China.

On February 18, 1930, astronomer Clyde Tombaugh, while working at Arizona’s Lowell Observatory, discovered the planet Pluto.

On February 18, 1953, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz were given an eight million dollar contract to continue their television show (I Love Lucy) through the 1955 season. This was the highest single TV contract to that date.

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 $18.00 for his efforts.

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

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

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

On February 21, 1885, the Washington Monument was officially dedicated.

On February 21, 1947, the Polaroid Land Camera, which produced black and white photographs in 60-seconds, was introduced by inventor Edwin H. Land.

On February 22, 1819, the United States bought the Florida territory from Spain.

On February 22, 1889, an act of Congress divided the huge Dakota Territory into the area that now constitutes the states of North Dakota and South Dakota.

On February 22, 1980, in a stunning upset at Lake Placid, New York, the United States Olympic hockey team defeated the Soviets.

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

On February 23, 1954, the first mass inoculation with the Salk polio vaccine was started in Pittsburg.
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Valentine Dance at Senior Center

The Michigan City Senior Center in Washington Park is offering an afternoon’s entertainment on Sat., Feb. 19th. From noon- 1p.m., there will be a catered dinner, followed by dancing to Wil Smaka’s Music Connection from 1-4 p.m.

Tickets will cost $6 in advance (buy them 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. weekdays), and $8 at the door. For more information, phone 873-1504.
The Winds of Change by Martha Grimes

There’s nothing like a good murder mystery on a cold winter’s night. Fleeting shadows, a mysterious beautiful woman (she’s derigueur, of course), shots ring out, and the chase is on. Except this week’s book recommendation starts out on a most disturbing note.....

“The blood splatter on the little girl’s dress mixed with the pattern of bluebells as if someone had thrown a handful of petals across her back. Richard Jury was down on one knee in a gutter of a North London street....looking at the body, the face to one side, not quite believing it.”

Wow. That’s a pretty powerful way to grab the reader’s attention. Murder is always disturbing, but the murder of a child is always unthinkable horror. The little girl was no more than five or six, and without a coat, despite the fact that it was only March. Who would want to kill such an innocent? Chief Inspector on the case is Richard Jury of New Scotland Yards and one of author Grimes favorite characters.

“The dead woman lay on a stone bench inside a stone enclosure that looked much like a shelter to ward off bad weather at a bus stop, as if she’d been waiting for one and simply fallen over, her torso on the bench, her legs off, feet dragging on the stone floor.”

Oh my, another murder. Only this one a grown woman in a town outside of London. She was unknown to Declan Scott, owner of the property in which the woman died, and who had enough on his plate as it was. His four year old step daughter had vanished three years ago, and his wife died not long after. How much grief can one man take?

Jury is sent over to follow up on the dead woman on Scott’s property, never guessing that there could be a connection. A talk with Scott reveals that his late wife’s ex-husband, Viktor Baumann had been trying to get custody of his daughter before she vanished. A phone call from Detective Inspector Blakeley to Jury concerns the little girl who was murdered. It seems that Blakeley works in the pedophilia unit and he had been investigating a house in the neighborhood where the girl was found. The police believed that children were being kept there for the pleasure of pedophiles. And, here’s the shocker, the man supposed to run the operation is Viktor Baumann. Of course, there is no direct evidence to connect Baumann to the house which is run by a woman whose cover is that of a coin collector, hence, making the coming and going of numerous men quite logical.

Martha Grimes is yet another mainstream author I have not read before and I couldn’t help but notice a prime difference between her stories and other mystery writers. The cases that Richard Jury investigates seem to fall inside his own life story. In this book, for example, Jury is told of the death of his cousin, a woman he had been raised with after his own parents had been killed in an accident; a cousin he thought resented him. Reminiscing about his childhood seem to become intertwined with his investigations. There is the funeral to deal with, a talk with his cousin’s husband who reveals how much his wife actually loved Jury, and a short diversion to take care of some trouble their son had gotten into. The solving of the crimes is not the end of the story. We see Jury go on with an inkling of what might start the next book.

If I had to pick a fault with Grimes’ writing, it would have to be that she mentions characters from previous books as if the reader would know who they were. I found that to be the only distraction from an otherwise very enjoyable read. You can’t help but like Richard Jury, he’s compassionate, intelligent, and unlike the stereotype dry Englishman, he has a sense of humor, too.

Till next time, happy reading!
BRIGHT, CHEERFUL, and ready to move into! This gorgeous Michiana cottage has 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, a beautiful Great Room with skylights and wood-burning fireplace, private screen porch, deck, hot tub & all the amenities you could ask for in a 12 year new home. Located on an extensively landscaped double lot just off Michiana Drive & ready for you! Call Fran today! $379,000

IT’S THE VIEW! Watch the Chicago skyline and beyond from your master bedroom, living room, dining room or open deck of this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath contemporary perched high above Lake Shore Drive in Sheridan Beach. Three levels of living encompass an open floor plan that takes best advantage of the Lake Michigan views. New carpeting & fresh exterior paint enhance this exquisite home. $548,500

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OPEN HOUSE Sunday 1-3

OPEN HOUSE Sunday 1-3

3711 Powhatan
ALL YOUR DREAMS OF HOME in one property! This 3388 sq ft home has nine bright rooms to enjoy the views of trees, tall grasses and wildlife. There are 3 bedrooms, 2 sleeping lofts, a redwood spa w/hot tub & sauna, and a magnificent fieldstone fireplace. Best of all, it is only a short walk to your own private and marvelous Lake Michigan beach. $779,000

DIRECTIONS: Take El Portal to Hiawatha; go west to intersection with Powhatan

2025 Silvertip
ANTICIPATE SUMMER!!! And the good life you’ll enjoy inside or poolside of this remarkable Dutch Colonial home. Stop in and check out the “extra” touches which make this entire property a showcase of good taste. From the cozy kitchen, with tumbled stone counters & floors, to the landscaped gardens, with gazebo overlooking the heated in-ground pool, you’ll find this home simply exceptional! DIRECTIONS: Lake Shore Drive to Stop 21; go inland to 1st corner & take a right up Silvertip to home.

DIRECTIONS: Take El Portal to Hiawatha; go west to intersection with Powhatan
New Two Story with hardwood floors, well proportioned rooms, and high ceiling party and play room to be completed by the buyer. Three bedrooms, 2½ baths include 1st floor master suite. Short walk to Lake Michigan beach. $329,000

Frequent Buyer - There’s room for everyone in this substantial brick & limestone home with 5 bedrooms and 3 baths. An extra kitchen adds the pleasure of privacy for live in relatives or guests. Master suite opens to spacious deck. Mature landscaping needs minimal care. Two fireplaces, basement, double garage. Easy walk to Lake Michigan. $399,000

Briar Leaf Golf Course View through the trees from like new ranch on large lot in Tiffany Woods. Fireplaces in great room and family room. Tray ceilings, skylights. First floor laundry room. New appliances. Four bedrooms, three baths, basement, double garage. $269,000

Vibrant, Youthful architect designed Michiana retreat with steel beams, ceramic floors, multiple decks. You’ll enjoy the wild life on the large wooded lot only 4/10 mile from Lake Michigan. Just upgraded with new appliances, huge master suite with Jacuzzi tub. $329,000