Indiana Dunes Part Of Ecology Survey

by William F. Keefe

The Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is one of nine national parks in and near the Great Lakes Basin that have been targeted for monitoring designed to “preserve ecosystem integrity.”

Bill Route, coordinator of the Great Lakes Inventory and Monitoring Network of the National Park Service, is leading the effort to locate problems of air quality, water quality, plant and wildlife populations, and land use. These factors or “vital signs” in the Indiana Dunes and the other eight regional parks have been selected by scientists and natural resource managers.

As part of the program, Network members have initiated several monitoring projects since the beginning of 2006. Others are in the planning stage for future years.

One of the programs already launched involves the study of contaminants in the tissues of young eagles as a way to track trends in the parks’ ecosystems. “The park service’s monitoring team and cooperators from Clemson University collected blood samples and feathers from nearly 100 eaglets and sent the samples to laboratories where they were analyzed for DDT, PCBs, mercury, and some new and emerging pollutants,” said an announcement in the “Seiche,” a publication of the Minnesota Sea Grant group.

Among the “emerging” pollutants is perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOs). “Extremely resistant to decay, PFOs have accumulated in wildlife and people from the Arctic to the equator,” said the announcement. “The human health risks of this persistent chemical and others like it are under investigation.”

Much remains to be discovered in the monitoring programs. Attention has focused on both DDT and PCBs, both of which are banned in the United States but which are still in use elsewhere. Like other chemicals, both are released into the environment through human activities – sometimes accumulating in animal tissues in concentrations that may cause reproductive, developmental, and other abnormalities and complications.

Studying the evidence for the presence of the entire range of pollutants in animal life, scientists have found it difficult to show biological and physi-
Survey Continued from Page 1

cal damage from any one of the PBTs, or “persistent bioaccumulative toxins,” in small, short-lived, plant-eating creatures.

“But plenty of evidence shows PBTs can build to harmful - sometimes lethal - levels of concentration in organisms at the top of the food chain, where animals live longer and eat more flesh.”

The latter is a critical factor. For both people and bald eagles the main route of exposure to the various toxins seems to be through eating contaminated meat. Eaglets inherit “very little” contamination from their mothers, but begin to retain PBTs with each feeding after hatching.

Eaglets Tell the Story

The scenes enacted in five of the region’s national parks this past summer indicate how monitoring proceeds where young eagles are under surveillance.

The Sea Grant report notes that “several professional climbers scaled over 60 trees... daring to look over the broad rims of eagle nests swaying slightly above forest canopies. Parent eagles circled and dutifully fusses but didn’t attack as their offspring were gently tucked into handcrafted ‘eagle bags’ and lowered to the ground.

“Touching terra firma for the first time didn’t seem to faze the plump 5-8 week old eaglets. Even when ecologist Bill Route weighed them, then collected a blood sample and clipped a few feathers from their fuzzy chests, most eaglets acted as if such handling were routine, if not dull.”

As short-term captives, the young eagles were serving in the roles Native Americans had assigned them – as conduits or couriers between humans and Nature. As recently as some 50 years ago scientists realized that these birds carried warnings from the environment about the effects of contaminants such as DDT.

As coordinator Route noted, “Even at less than two months old, an eaglet’s tissues harbor contaminant levels that mirror the quantity and type in the surrounding waters. The young birds fit a qualifying profile in several ways:

- They are at the top of the food web;
- PBTs collect in their bodies quickly - and they are highly sensitive to the contaminants;
- Standardized methods of analyzing samples exist, saving time and money, and
- Comparable data from the region date back to 1989, providing a historic baseline.

“Since 2006 marked our first researches in the field,” according to Route, “we so far have few data to share. That will change. The Network is building a Web site at which park managers, scientists, and the public will be able to access the information.

“The results of the eaglet PBT levels will be available in 2007.”

In addition to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the parks that will be included in the ongoing research include Isle Royale National Park, Grand Portage National Monument, the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Those lying short distances from the Great lakes are Voyageurs National Park, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, and the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.
**PNC Brownbag Series on Diversity**

Purdue University North Central will continue its Brownbag Series in the coming months, with PNC faculty, staff and community members leading programs that center on the topic of “diversity.”

The seminars will vary in style and subject, but all will share the intent of presenting topics and issues that can contribute to the development of tolerant, inclusive campus and community cultural practices. Some presenters will feature short film clips or interactive pieces that will stimulate conversation and discussion, others will present ideas for open dialogue and sharing of views and experiences.

The seminars will be presented from noon to 1 p.m., usually in the PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building Room 144. They are free and open to the public. Varying opinions are welcome.

Upcoming seminars will include:

- **Feb 15** - Ronald Brownie, PNC assistant professor of Organizational Leadership and Supervision, will conduct a workshop titled, “Diversity Bingo.”
- **March 15** - Jodi James, PNC disability services coordinator, will present, “Mrs. James Takes over Washington” and discuss her week-long experience in Washington D.C. with a grassroots organization to further the rights of people with disabilities.
- **April 16** - “Ten Tongues,” featuring Cin Salach, a Chicago performance artist and gay and lesbian rights activist, will present a performance poetry and workshop on the Plaza in front of the Library-Student-Faculty Building. The performance is sponsored by the student organization OutLoud.

Information, and for persons with disabilities needing accommodations: 872-0527, ext. 5215.

**Weather Spotter Classes to Meet at PNC**

Purdue University North Central will be the site of free basic weather spotter training classes on Mon., March 12. Two sessions will be offered, meeting at 3 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. in the Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02.

The LaPorte County Emergency Management Office, Michigan City Emergency Management, LaPorte County Skywarn, in conjunction with the National Weather Service, will host the training sessions. A meteorologist will lead the class that will teach participants how to accurately observe weather phenomena such as funnel clouds, tornadoes, squall lines, and others. The two-hour class is open to the public, law enforcement, fire department, EMS and amateur radio operators. There is no fee and advance registration is not required.

It is important to note that the National Weather Service requires weather spotters to attend a weather spotter class every two years to remain active.
THE
One Night Jam Features Kasim Sulton

CTG’s Chicago Street Theatre 154 W. Chicago St., Valparaiso, presents the One Night Jam Series featuring Kasim Sulton in an acoustic evening of music. The concert will be Sun., Jan. 28, 7 p.m. What do Jon Bon Jovi, Todd Rundgren, Mick Jagger, Meat Loaf, Celine Dion, Joan Jett and Hall & Oates have in common? Singer/Songwriter Kasim Sulton has worked with all of them!

Brooklyn-born Sulton began his career playing piano for David Bowie’s publicist Cherry Vanilla, before joining Todd Rundgren’s prog-rock group Utopia in 1976. Kasim played bass and sang vocals in the band for 10 years. During that time, they released 6 studio albums and Kasim took on more of the lead vocals of the group as well. Kasim also wrote their only Top Thirty hit, “Set Me Free.”

Kasim has been a part of Meat Loaf’s band since 1993 and in 1998 became his Musical Director. Kasim also has the distinction of being the only musician, apart from Meat Loaf, who performs on each track of all three “Bat Out Of Hell” albums. In recent years, Kasim has also been making his name as a producer, having produced the Meat Loaf album StoryTellers in 1999, and Rick Reynolds’ album Unstoppable in 2005.

Kasim released his solo album, “Quid Pro Quo,” in 2002 and in 2003, it won the Kweevak.com Viewers’ Choice Award. In January he will release a double compilation CD called “All Sides” which includes new tracks, live tracks and favorites from his other solo albums.

Chicago Street Theatre is located at 154 W Chicago Street. Reservations can be made at 219-464-1636 Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or you may leave a message anytime and someone will return your call. You may also purchase tickets at the door. Reserved seating is $25. Students with ID can buy one ticket and get one free.

You may also email boxoffice@ctgonline.org or visit the website at www.ctgonline.org
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THE

Take three delicious, malicious wives, add three miserable, unloving husbands—and chill. That’s the recipe for this comedy opening at Footlight Players on Feb. 2nd. Directed by Footlight veteran Eric Edson, “The Smell of the Kill” revolves around Nicky (Christine Wiegand – Michigan City), Debra (Anne Nicholls – Crown Point) and Molly (Peyton Daley – Michigan City) who have tolerated one another during once-a-month dinners for years. While their unseen spouses play golf in the dining room, the women exchange confidences for the first time revealing that all three marriages are on the brink of disaster and all three women are facing the challenges of their lives. Nicky’s husband has been indicted for embezzlement, Molly’s husband is stalking her and Debra’s husband is leaving her for another woman. When the men mistakenly lock themselves in a basement meat locker the women are faced with a life-or-death decision—should they leave the men out in the cold—permanently—or let them thaw? One by one the women make their choices with more than a little help from one another.

Presented by special arrangement with Dramatic Publishing. Additional show dates are Feb. 3rd and 4th, 9th thru 11th. Fri. & Sat. curtains are at 8 p.m. with Sun. matinees at 2 p.m. Doors open 15 minutes prior to curtain. Tickets are $10. No credit cards are accepted. Reservations are recommended: phone 219-874-4035 or online at www.footlightplayers.org/reservations.html

Footlight Theatre is located at 1705 Franklin Street, Michigan City, IN.
607 Lakeside St., LaPorte
Fantastic Pine Lake home w/great views of the lake. Home has been completely remodeled. New exterior siding, refinished & new oak hardwood floors in living area w/stone faced gas fireplace. Kitchen has all new cabinets, solid surface counter tops, ceramic floor & new appliances. 3 bedrooms w/ new oak hardwood floors & full basement. Quite a beach house w/nothing to do but move in & enjoy. Beach & boating rights are included through the association.

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**118 Westwood, Michigan City**

Comfy, cozy are we with stone fireplaces in the living room and lower level recreation room, along with an energy-saving wood stove and the even warmth of hot water heat! This place was made for all seasons, with updated kitchen and baths, spacious deck overlooking stream and forest, and private terraced patio to the rear. The master bedroom opens to the deck and dining. Over 3,000 SF with 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and loads of storage for beach, golf and winter stuff. #174802

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**319 Maplewood, Michigan City**

Four bedrooms, two full baths and a full, unfinished basement are yours in this Shoreland Hills home just a few blocks from Lake Michigan. With a 75’ x 100’ level lot and lovely deck off the family room, there is room to roam, build those forts and defend your domain in a hail of snowballs, if necessary. Main floor bedrooms and large bedrooms upstairs allow flexibility for extended families. Call Rick for details. #171097

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Ask for Rick Remijas @ 874-2121 ext. 36

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PRESTIGIOUS BARKER WOODS is where you’ll find this quality home. Gorgeous entry leads to either spacious family room with fireplace and wet bar, or formal living room/office with transom windows. Wonderful kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, new carpet, furnace and central air. Plenty of additional living space in lower level. 3 Car attached garage and beautiful, professionally landscaped yard. This home shows like new. Motivated Sellers! Immediate occupancy. #162718

Ask for Maria Losiniecki @ 874-2121 ext. 35

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Carol Forsythe

Directions: Franklin Street to Barker Rd., to Woodside Drive, home on left.

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904 Lake Shore Dr., Michigan City

Beautiful Lake Michigan views from all levels of this unbelievable abode. Contemporary architectural appeal, light & bright, much bigger than it looks—about 4000 sq ft. 5-7 bedroom, 4 baths, including on-deck master suite, in addition to outdoor enclosed beach shower. Only steps from back door to the beach. Custom design & craftsmanship from granite to glass block & beyond. Sourcing 3-story glass block atrium houses graceful spiral staircase leading to master suite & over 1000 sq ft of ADJ/TO/OUT/ Entertaining space w/jaw-dropping lake views. All new stainless gourmet kitchen. Additionally, lower level has fully equipped kitchen, bath & theatre room ideal for related living, separate rental, or butler’s quarters. p.s. Nice low taxes! #168185

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Christine Faccioponti

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Ask for John Allen @ 874-2121 ext. 27

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Call Steve or Barbara Beardslee @ 874-2121 ext. 37 or 20

Steve & Barb Beardslee

2758 Floral Trl., Long Beach

Imagine living on a dune offering spectacular views of Long Beach Golf Course. If this is your dream, well your home is waiting for you! Offering both privacy & beautiful wooded views on almost 1/2 acre near Lake Michigan. Home has been completely updated & features 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 bathrooms, living room/wineplace & vaulted ceilings, magnificent oak sitting bar w/full oak back bar that is mirrored & lighted, main floor laundry, family room w/view to backyard leading to private deck, updated kitchen w/appliances & 2 car garage, exterior is Indiana limestone & cedar shake vinyl shingles. Extra parking available for weekend visitors. #143719

Ask for Cat Houchins @ 874-2121 ext. 30

Cat Houchins

$450,000

3711 Powhatan Trl., Michiana Shores

Beautiful 3388 sq. ft. home on left. 4 bedroom home, minutes from the beach. Imagine living on a dune offering spectacular views of Long Beach Golf Course. If this is your dream, well your home is waiting for you! Offering both privacy & beautiful wooded views on almost 1/2 acre near Lake Michigan. Home has been completely updated & features 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 bathrooms, living room/wineplace & vaulted ceilings, magnificent oak sitting bar w/full oak back bar that is mirrored & lighted, main floor laundry, family room w/view to backyard leading to private deck, updated kitchen w/appliances & 2 car garage, exterior is Indiana limestone & cedar shake vinyl shingles. Extra parking available for weekend visitors. #143719

Ask for Cat Houchins @ 874-2121 ext. 30

Cat Houchins

$450,000

1400 Lake Shore Dr., Michigan City

Lake views plus walking easement to Lake Michigan’s beautiful beach. Combination living room, dining room with fireplace. Master bedroom with French doors leading to year around heated sun room with views of the lake. Cozy 2 bedroom upstairs with knotty pine paneling. Walk out lower level has family room, second kitchen, large laundry room, full bath plus extra shower. Newer windows and carpeting. This home is ready for you to move into and just enjoy – enjoy!!! #165485

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Ask for Maria Losiniecki @ 874-2121 ext. 35

Maria Losiniecki

2078 Lathrop Dr., Michigan City

Sellers! Immediate occupancy. #189053

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Ask for Rick Remijas @ 874-2121 ext. 20

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12850 Wishard Rd., Michigan City

How about these lake & sunset views! Add in excellent privacy, mix w/45’ of frontage on the esplanade, very cute, well-kept, 3 bedroom, 2 bath beach house can be your little piece of heaven. Lower level walk-out to the beach, w/decks on main & lower level. Living room features a lake view window wall & vaulted ceilings w/brick fireplace. Plenty of parking & room for family & guests w/1 bedroom on main level & 2 bedrooms downstairs. #189153

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Rick Remijas

Serving LaPorte County For 29 Years. Let Our Experience Work For You!
Sawyer grape grower Bob Henrichsen was once asked by one of his grandchildren where he had gone on his senior trip.

Bob, who lives with his lovely “bride” Dawn on a working fruit farm on Flynn Road, knew that he had to impress his wide-traveled grandchildren, so he said: “I went to the Philippines, and my uncle paid for it.”

That got his grandkids’ attention and they wanted to know all the details, so their grandfather added that his trip to the Philippines following his graduation from Saint Augustine High School in Chicago in 1944 was sponsored by the U.S. Army with transportation furnished by the U.S. Navy and funding by Bob’s good, old “Uncle Sam.”

As Bob has so famously said: “One day a school boy, the next day a solider.”

The Henrichsen grandchildren were impressed, and well they should have been, because their grandfather, who celebrated his 80th birthday on November 25, 2006, played a vital part in a successful war effort that made it possible for them to take their first breaths.

Yes, Bob Henrichsen is a surviving member of that vanishing breed of what Tom Brokaw called “the Greatest Generation,” and he was kind enough recently to sit in the sun parlor of the cozy Henrichsen home and share his war story. He admitted at the outset that he is keenly aware of how many of his comrades have already reported to that big muster hall in the sky, and, as proof, he said that he only gets Christmas cards from two of his old buddies. There was a time when he got a whole lot more, but, as he sadly said, those days are gone.

So let your current worries be gone as you read of how an only child from Chicago’s celebrated Back-of-the-Yards neighborhood bravely accepted his Uncle Sam’s invitation to take a “senior trip” to the island of Luzon in the Philippines to, as he said, “assist with the mopping up.”

The young draftee was trained at Camp Fannin in Texas and at Fort Riley in Kansas before shipping out from Fort Ord in California on what he has assured his 8 children, 19 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren was “no luxury liner.”

In fact, he remembers during his first crossing of the Pacific that the troop ship hit swells so huge that the propellers came out of the water. But he also fondly recalls seeing his first flying fish and whales. But the trip with the U.S. Navy across the Pacific Ocean was not all fun and games, because the young private and his mates knew that Imperial Japan was tenaciously defending its shrinking empire, and that the men who had gone before them had experienced horrific fighting to make the Philippine people free.

Meaning that although the Philippines had already been liberated by the time Private Robert Henrichsen and other members of the 6th Army’s 41st Infantry Division arrived there in early 1945, there were still Japanese snipers aplenty waiting in the bush to pick off American troops.

The good private somehow survived that duty, and he claimed a Japanese rifle as proof of his service to the people of the Philippines. He got it out of storage and demonstrated how Japanese soldiers used a hook at the base of a wicked bayonet to pluck rifles away from taller GIs. Bob said the U.S. Army quickly learned from those painful lessons, and he was grateful to have been a beneficiary.

So, yes, he departed the Philippines minus a Purple Heart, but he bore the life-long scars of his bout there with malaria.

He is sorry that he has been unable to donate blood, and he is even sorrier that he didn’t properly secure his mosquito netting on the night that he got infected, because he vividly recalls the weeks of chills, sweats, and sickness that come with the dreaded disease.

“The only treatment was quinine and rest and blankets. The blankets were for when you got the chills, and then you’d throw them off when you got the sweats,” Bob said.

The Army did all they could to help Private Henrichsen recover from malaria, because they had big
January 25, 2007

THE

In the heart of post-war Tokyo with Sgt. Robert Henrichsen (right, now of
Sawyer) and his friend Bill Langlois who died two years ago.

(photograph courtesy of Bob Henrichsen)

Philippines” smiled and said: “We’re in this together
soldier.”

Sgt. Henrichsen, of course, wrote his mother
right away to tell her that he had shared an eleva-
tor with the famous general, and then he honorably
discharged the remainder of his duties until his fi-
nal discharge at Fort Sheridan, Illinois in the fall
of 1946.

He took a job at Liquid Carbonic in Chicago, and
was smitten for a time by a young woman named
Eve until he literally met the Dawn of his life – the
fair Dawn Schultz. She did not let the handsome
young war veteran out of her sights until they were
married on November 25, 1949 at Saint Clare’s
Church in Chicago, and they truly have lived hap-
pily ever after, especially after they moved full-time
to Michigan in 1975.

Well, Bob did have to commute back into Chicago
until 1981 to fulfill his duties as credit manager for
Columbia Pipe, but he knows he is having a won-
derful life, and he is glad to share it in the interests
of history.

Bob particularly remembers how neatly attired
and orderly the school children were, and his favor-
ite occupation memory is of the time he was riding
the elevator at headquarters and the door opened
and in walked all five stars of General MacArthur
himself.

The speechless sergeant volunteered to vacate
the elevator immediately, but the “Liberator of the

plans for him – the invasion of Japan.

Yes, Bob Henrichsen would likely have been one
of the hundreds of thousands of casualties during
what was expected to be an enormously costly as-
sault on the home islands of Japan itself. Bob’s
friend Jim Michaels was one of the original flagrais-
ers atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima on February
23, 1945, so he knew what was in store.

But then came the miraculous word that the Em-
peror had ordered his people to surrender. That was
following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima on Au-
gust 6, and Nagasaki on August 9 in 1945, but the
men in Bob’s company only knew of the surrender.

“We were ready for the invasion, and then came
word that they had surrendered. No one knew about
the bombs until later,” Bob said.

And, as part of the occupation of Japan, Sgt. Hen-
richsen did get to pay a brief visit to Nagasaki but
he did not get close to the blast area because it was
still radioactive.

But, like so many whose lives were spared by the
unleashing of the top secret weapons, Bob does not
regret that they were used, and he prays they will
never be used again.

That might seem like the end of the story, but
it’s not. Sgt. Robert Henrichsen remained in Japan
until September 1946 as part of General Douglas
MacArthur’s staff in Tokyo. He and others worked
successfully to convince GI’s to re-enlist and serve
in the occupation force in a defeated country that
turned out to be surprising hospitable to the vic-
tors.

Sgt. Robert
Henrichsen
poses outside
the Imperial
Palace in
Tokyo to
show that
it was not
bombed
during the
war.

(photograph courtesy of Bob Henrichsen)
**Dance Escape**

Join the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and Music Director/Conductor Kirk Muspratt, *Chicago Tribune* “Chicagoan of the Year,” for a night of Big Band music, “Dance Escape,” featuring Charlie Blum & the Star Orchestra and the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra on Thurs., Feb. 8, at 7:30 pm at the Star Plaza Theatre in Merrillville, IN.

Love of music is in the air as the symphony's Youth Orchestra, Philip Bauman, conductor, takes the stage side by side with professional musicians for the first half of the concert. The symphony is proud for this opportunity to mentor such talented young local musicians who will play their heart out. Then, experience the energizing sounds and rhythms of the Star Orchestra on the second half, led by Northwest Indiana’s own Charlie Blum.

*Chicago Tribune* Arts Critic Howard Reich said, “Charlie Blum’s swing singing is so polished and persuasive that one regrets he works as an entertainment executive.” The combined colors of a swing band and orchestra prove to be an exhilarating moment in time. An audience dance floor is provided for those who like to step out and “swing” the night away.

Tickets for the evening concert range from $25-$60 each and group sales are available at a discount. Phone 219/836-0525 or visit the website at www.NISOrchestra.org to order tickets.

**Coolspring Readers Group**

The Coolspring Readers Group will meet at 7 p.m. on Tues., Jan. 30, to discuss *Twelve Sharp* by Janet Evanovich. The book is a mystery in the popular series starring sassy bounty hunter Stephanie Plum. It is available for check-out in regular print, large print, cassette tape and on CD. Everyone is welcome. There is no charge or registration.

The Coolspring Branch of the LaPorte County Public Library is located at the corner of 400N and Johnson Rd. in Michigan City. Info: 879-3272. You can request signing for the hearing impaired at 219/362-6156. (Must call 48 hrs. in advance.)

**Talk About Love at the Namaste Program**

The Namaste program will take place on Wed., Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. in the LaPorte Hospital Chapel. The evening opens with a guided group meditation led by Bryan Manuele followed by Rev. Rebecca Armstrong’s presentation. This is a free program. Donations are welcome. The mission of the Namaste Center (a not for profit organization) is to provide programs, education and special events, which focus on holistic living and well-being. Everyone is welcome.
Dunescape Beach Club 3 bedroom corner condo! This exceptional unit was custom designed during construction of the high-rise. Bisque oak kitchen cabinets, Corian countertop, new window treatment and carpet, laundry station with tub and modified master suite. The corner location floods this condo with light and offers year round sunsets plus fabulous lake views! Owner will pay all of 2007 assessment.

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Inquiries, call: 269 - 469 - 3604

Carving A Spirit Face
Legend tells us that a wood spirit is Lord of the Forest and Natural Things and seeing one on a stroll in the woods is considered a lucky thing. A class on carving a Spirit Face will be held on Sat., Feb. 10, at 9 a.m. at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center, Rt. 49 at Lake Michigan, Chesterton. Come to the class to make your own spirit face from cottonwood bark, which will be provided along with knives and gouges necessary for carving, under the instruction of Tony Spanley. With safety in mind the class will be limited to 10. A completed spirit face can be produced in three hours of class.
Phone 219/926-7561 ext. 230 to reserve a spot. Field Course Fee $25.00 per person. Sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes

New Classes at Chesterton Art Center
The Chesterton Art Center offers a solution to the winter blahs with an assortment of new classes for all levels, from new to advanced students.
Mark Polomchak will return Feb. 7 to teach an all-day class in watercolors. Students paint along with the instructor and finish their painting in one day. The class runs from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. with a lunch break. Fees are $20 for members, $25 for nonmembers. Bring your own art supplies to class.
Beginning Feb. 8, Leslie Cefali will teach Quilting Gone Wrong, using techniques that ignore all the rules of traditional quilting. Lovers of fiber, color, and funky fun are urged to register. The 3-session class will meet from 7-9 p.m. Thursdays. Fees are $50 for members, $55 for nonmembers.
Becky Graham and Judy Gregurich will return for another 6-week Stained Glass class beginning Tues., March 6. This popular offering introduces students new to the medium the basics of the fine craft, and techniques using both lead cane and copper foil. All supplies are included for beginning students. Also, former students can join the class to finish projects that they started. Fees are $100 for Art Center members and $110 for nonmembers. Prospective students register at 219/926-4711. The Art Center is located at 115 S. 4th St., Chesterton.
The Villas
3 Bedroom, 2.5 Bathroom new construction townhomes in the heart of New Buffalo for only $475,000. Please visit our decorated model and receive a personal tour of our members only Pool and Cabana.

Dunescape Members Only
The Villas and the Cottage Collection both boast ownership in the Dunescape Cabana, a private pool located in downtown New Buffalo.

The Cottage Collection
4 Bedroom, 3.5 Bathroom Cottages in the heart of New Buffalo with main floor master bedroom, full basement and membership into our members only pool and cabana, all for only $499,000.
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Marimba and Viola Featured in Concert

On Sat., Jan. 27th at 8 p.m. MI time at the Box Factory for the Arts, two extraordinary symphony musicians, percussionist Emily Ickes and violist Arturo Ziraldo, will team up to present a once in a lifetime musical experience. From Bach to Bartok they have woven music from the great masters into a program that also features the works of contemporary composers Eric Sammut and Eric Ewazen. Sammut’s “Four Rotations” have become some of the most frequently performed works for solo marimba and Ewazen is perhaps the foremost composer for marimba. The music promises to be both classical in style while a little edgy with catchy rhythms, memorable memories, a bit of swing and some jazzy harmonies.

Emily is currently a senior majoring in percussion performance at Western Michigan University. Her musical studies began at age eight on the piano, and at age ten she launched her percussion career. Although specializing in the marimba, Emily has extensively studied all instruments of classical percussion.

Also a senior at Western Michigan, Arturo is currently pursuing a degree in music performance. Recognized as an intensely passionate performer and sensitive chamber musician, he is active in performing both the standard repertoire and contemporary music. These two young, talented musicians will amaze and entertain as they combine the marimba and the viola to create a marvelous musical experience.

This Around Town is presented by the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra. Tickets for this concert are $20 and are available at 269/982-4030, or visit the web site www.smso.org or at the Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad Street in St. Joseph.

ICF Looking For Host Families

The Irish Children’s Fund (ICF) is recruiting families to host a child from Belfast for one month in the summer of 2007. ICF’s mission is to promote peace in Northern Ireland by building cross community trust, tolerance, and friendship between Catholic and Protestant children and young people, through annual summer programs held in the USA. The need is still great to provide a neutral setting to bring Catholic and Protestant children together. The shorter summer program may be more suitable to your schedule. Only 10 first-time children can be accommodated per area. As meetings are getting underway, phone Northern Indiana Area Coordinators, Danny and Teresa Martin at 219-242-4075 or Mary Jo at the ICF office at 630-833-1910 for an application. If you cannot host but would like to support the families in the area, get involved by attending area meetings, make a donation and/or volunteer to work the area fundraiser.
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Move right into this 4 bedroom, 2 bath home with hardwood floors. Freshly painted throughout & new dishwasher. Family room with fireplace. Deck & patio with luscious landscaping.

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Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2½ bath Karwick Glen condominium. This unit is turn-key with all furnishings & Bose system included. This is one of the larger units mega loft which includes two 1-car garages in addition to two parking spaces.

Offered for $179,900
“On Death & Gardening”

Are we annuals or perennials? Find out at Donna Blue Lachman’s “On Death & Gardening” - A one woman comedy performance in the Lubeznik Center for the Arts’ Hyndman Gallery on Feb. 3 & 4 at 7 p.m.

Tickets $10 for members and $15 for non-members - available online at www.lubeznikcenter.org or at 219/874-4900 or via email at artinfo@lubeznikcenter.org.

Part comedy, part meditation, “On Death & Gardening” explores the transient nature of the world, asking what things we nurture (and what things we don’t) in order to create our own personal gardens.

For the past twenty years, Donna Blue Lachman has been writing and performing her one woman plays on Chicago stages as well as in theaters around the country and around the world. For almost as long, she has been writing and cultivating those plays in her garden in Three Oaks, MI. For even longer (since childhood) she has had a preoccupation with death that she has explored both on stage and in her garden. She now brings all of these together in her new one-woman theatrical production called “On Death and Gardening / A New (Transformational Kind-of) Comedy.”


The Jack and Shirley Lubeznik Center for the Arts is located on the Avenue of the Arts, 101 W. 2nd St., Michigan City.

PNC Books and Coffee Series

Purdue University North Central will continue hosting the popular “Books & Coffee” discussion series during the spring semester. The programs, which are free and open to the public, will meet from noon - 1 p.m. in the PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building, Assembly Hall, Room 02 on the Westville campus.

Each session will feature a review of the book, followed by a discussion period. The books being reviewed are available for purchase from the PNC Bookstore. This semester’s selections include:

Feb. 14 - The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History by John M. Barry, to be reviewed by Dr. James Dworkin, chancellor.

March 14 - What’s the Matter with Kansas? How Conservatives Won the Heart of America, by Thomas Frank, to be reviewed by Dr. Jonathan Swarts, assistant professor of Political Science.

April 25 - The Feel-Good Curriculum: The Dumbing-Down of America’s Kids in the Name of Self-Esteem by Maureen Stout, Ph.D., to be reviewed by Dr. Jane Rose, associate professor of English.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations: contact Carol Connelly at 872-0527, ext. 5267.

Tri Kappa of LaPorte, Indiana

The Tri Kappa Family Sock Hop will be on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2007 at the Civic Auditorium from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Once again Dr. Groovy & the Soul Surgeons will take the stage and provide the evening’s entertainment. There will be dancing contests for all ages as well as costume contests for those in the most unique and original 50’s & 60’s attire. Light refreshments will be on sale and there will be door prizes throughout the night.

“This is the same event that the Healthy Communities of LaPorte County has held in the past,” said event co-chair Stacey Harris. “However, this year they were unable to host the Sock Hop so they asked if we’d like to adopt it and make it our own event. All proceeds from the event will be deposited into our Philanthropic Fund and redistributed later this year in the form of grants and donations to area organizations.”

Tickets are $5 per adult and $4 per student (6-18 years of age). Children 5 years old and under are welcome free of charge. Tables of 8 may also be reserved in advance so that larger groups can guarantee seats together. Reserved tables are $20 per table and do not include the cost of the individual tickets. Tickets may be purchased by any Tri Kappa Member, the Civic Auditorium Box Office or at Kabelin’s Ace Hardware at 502 Andrew Avenue in LaPorte. Advanced Table Reservations may be purchased by calling either Stacey Harris at 898-8767 or Katie Talbert at 362-9537. Tickets will be available at the door on the night of the event.

Big Band Era Dance at The Acorn Theater

On Fri., Jan. 26, The Acorn Theater will bring back the Eddie Knight Band for “Steppin’ Out,” an evening of dancing to music of the big band era.

From 6-7 p.m. EST dance classes will be offered followed by live music from 7-10 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to dance up a storm or enjoy watching and listening.

“It’s a wonderful way to spend a winter evening and it’s good exercise, too,” says Adele Lanan, organizer of the dance, “We encourage couples, singles and wallflowers to join us in waltzing, jitterbugging and tangoing.”

Tickets to the dance are $15. Drinks and refreshments will be available. Dress is optional. A portion of the proceeds of the evening will be donated to COPSMART, an organization serving law enforcement families of Berrien and LaPorte counties.

Tickets can be reserved by phoning Lanan at 630/248-3843 or purchased at the door. The Acorn Theater is located in the historic Featherbone Factory at 107 Generations Dr. For maps, directions and other upcoming programs at The Acorn Theater, visit www.acorntheater.com.
2522 Oriole Trail
IN THE HEART OF LONG BEACH sits this quad level home. 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths provide room enough for year round living or plenty of vacation visitors. The kitchen is white & bright. The fireplace will keep you warm through winter. Keep your car clean of winter snow or use the one car garage for bikes & beach toys. Call to see the best value in Long Beach today! $275K Bonnie “B” Meyer

2211 Maryben – Long Beach
THE TRADITIONAL LONG BEACH COTTAGE. This 4 bedroom/3 bath cottage has been updated with knotty pine floors, beadboard walls, maple kitchen, fireplace, & a newly renovated basement. It is 1.5 blocks from the beach at Stop 23 & 2 blocks from the Long Beach Country Club. The perfect summer retreat for your family or for a rental income property. $439K Lori Osmanski

4357 Sawyer Rd. - Sawyer
TOTAL PRIVACY with this 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home in Sawyer. Long winding drive, park like setting & lovely spring fed pond. A beautiful home with high ceilings, bright open spaces, cherry floors, decks & gardens. $969K G. Lowrie or D. Jacobson

19714 Lakeside - Lakeside
BEAUTIFUL CUSTOM HOME on a private twelve acre site nestled in the woods. This is your perfect country estate! Private pond & charming cabana complete this haven for peace & quiet. $920K Teri Maki or Gail Lawrie

221 S Townsend – New Buffalo
SECLUDED RETREAT - Darling little log home comes nicely furnished and ready to use. This romantic 1 bedroom has a stone fireplace, loft for guests, large screened in porch & relaxing front patio. Short stroll to Lake Michigan, shops & fine dining. Wonderful gardens & perennials mean no maintenance. Great rental potential! $239K Betty Ramsey

22 S Whittaker – New Buffalo
SCHOOL HOUSE CONDO. This stunning contemporary 3 bedroom/3 bath condo home has an interesting history: It started life as the gym for the New Buffalo High School. The beautiful terrazzo staircase is one of the many vestiges of this terrific property. $495K G. Lowrie or D. Jacobson

51226 Main St - Grand Beach
ROOM TO ROAM in this 3400+ sq. ft. home with lake views & a short stroll to one of many beach accesses. Great space for entertaining with the large kitchen, family room & screened porch. Finished lower level adds additional 1000+ square footage for children’s playroom or recreation room. $849,900 Debbie Jacobson

14610 Red Arrow - Lakeside
2 BEDROOM/2 BATH on the lake side of Red Arrow. Easy walk to galleries, antique shops, dining & Cherry Beach. Great floor plan for entertaining with hardwood floors, stone fireplace, new master bath, screened porch, patios & decks. Lush landscaping, weeping willows, tall oaks & more shroud the home for a great escape. Oversized garage & play house included. $420K Bonnie “B” Meyer
Symphony Center and Gallery

“Nature’s Influence – 3 Ways” will be the next exhibition at the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra Center and Gallery, 614 Lincolnway, LaPorte. The exhibition will run Feb. 2 – March 17.

Opening Reception will be held on Feb. 2, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.. The event is free and open to the public.

This exhibit celebrates nature through the talent of three artists each using different mediums. Val Nepsha works with paper maché. Doug Schmidt and Karen Marken of Schmidt-Marken Designs use clay as their medium. Lou Ann Dixon is a photographer.

Schmidt-Marken Designs is the name of the husband and wife artistic partnership between Doug Schmidt and Karen Marken, officially established in 1987. We work in collaboration on most of our functional pieces, signing our pots with this name. We make the pottery in our one hundred year old barn which we converted into a studio and gallery/shop at 3403 S. Wozniak Rd., LaPorte. Doug travels the nation to about 30 art/craft shows during the year. We have two children, Alissa and Evan, who help out with the summer art fairs. Before moving to this area, we lived in Chicago for five years while working at Prints Unlimited Gallery.

Lou Ann Dixon, of New Carlisle, IN is an Artist – Photographer – Interior Designer – Tri-athlete

Lou Ann is a graduate of New Prairie High School and attended Ohio University in Athens, OH where she received a BFA in graphic design with an illustration emphasis and minor in photography. While working in Chicago, she acquired an AAS in interior design at Wm. Rainey Harper College in Palatine, IL.

While taking landscape pictures for future painting, this unique combination of talents and her attraction to the elements of graphic design and the beauty of nature has led her here to this collection. She hopes that you enjoy the photographs as much as she enjoyed taking them.

Val Nepsha is a native of LaPorte, graduated from LaPorte High School in 1976 and joined the US Army. After serving one tour, she moved to New York City and returned to LaPorte in 1984.

Ms. Nepsha developed her technique of paper-maché relief sculpture in 2004. She uses the lakes and rivers of Indiana and lower Michigan as her subject matter. She thinks of her landscapes as mandalas: A place where the eye can rest so the mind can heal from the stresses of the day.

She won a Purchase Award at ArtComp 2004 in Chesterton, and was a 1996 Emerging Artist grant winner from the Michiana Arts and Sciences Council.
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Unit C Lot 3
Model Home
$236,900
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**NEW EXHIBIT FEATURES REGIONAL ARTISTS**

The Lubeznik Center for the Arts will host an opening reception for the “Regional Juried Art Exhibition 2007” on Sat., Jan. 27 from 7-9 p.m. First, second and third place awards will be announced at the opening. The exhibition will be on display from Jan. 27 through March 25.

The Lubeznik Center is delighted to present 59 outstanding artworks by 56 artists. The response was significant with 101 submitting artists and 291 works of art.

Artists living within 150 miles of Michigan City, Indiana were invited to submit both two and three dimensional artwork. Individuals 21 years or older from areas including Chicago-land, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend and Sheboygan, WI were eligible. This year’s juror was T. L. Solien, a painting professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Viewing this display is a phenomenal opportunity to take inventory of regional talent. Edwin Shelton, Director of Education at the Lubeznik Center, remarks that, “This exhibition represents the rich diversity of visual mediums from this region and reflects the judgments, prejudices, and preferences of the juror.” The beauty of a juried show is the selection changes based on the juror. Artists that are not selected for one exhibit may be awarded in another. A variety of media including painting, charcoal, glass, fiber, photography, ceramics, steel and crayon are represented in this temporary collection.

Regular gallery hours are Tues.-Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and weekends from 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Jack and Shirley Lubeznik Center for the Arts is located on the Avenue of the Arts, 101 W. 2nd St. More information at 219/874-4900, artinfo@lubeznikcenter.org or www.lubeznikcenter.org

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**CALUMET ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY**

The Calumet Astronomical Society invites you to explore the wonders of the universe when they present their popular free public programs. Volunteers will guide visitors in the use of telescopes and astronomical binoculars as they observe the majesty of the skies. Star charts, club information, and astronomy-related activities. The programs are outdoors, so dress for the weather. More information about CAS may be obtained at www.casonline.org. Programs are naturally dependent on cloud cover and weather conditions.

On Sat., Jan. 27, a program on Public Stargazing will be held from 7-10 p.m. at the Conway Observatory at Buckley Homestead, located 4.5 miles west of I-65, just south of Rte. 2. Exit I-65 at Rte. 2 toward Lowell to Hendricks Rd., then south to the “T” at Belshaw. East (left) on Belshaw to the first right (Chase St.) and south for one mile.
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Berrien County Historical Association

The history exhibit *The Greeks of Berrien County*, Michigan, has opened at the History Center at Courthouse Square (1839 Courthouse Museum) in Berrien Springs. It will run through Feb. 10. Exhibit hours are Mon.-Fri. 10 a.m.—5 p.m. MI time.

The exhibit features photographs and narratives about the Greek immigrant experience and continues an ethnic studies research program that the Historical Association began in 2002. It focuses on the development of Greek institutions and the contributions Greeks immigrants made to Berrien County.

The exhibit is partially funded by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information, contact the History Center at (269) 471-1202.

Artists and Teachers Exhibition

Over twenty Chesterton Art Center instructors are featured in a month-long exhibit at the Art Center gallery. The variety of mediums in the exhibit include watercolor, pastel, rug hooking, ceramics, bookbinding, and much more.

The public is invited to the Opening Reception on Sun. Jan. 28 from 2-4 p.m. Those who have been thinking about taking an art class will have a chance to meet and ask questions of any of the teacher/exhibitors. Instructor emeritus Gladys Oberlin will also be on hand to chat with former students at the reception.

The Artists and Teachers exhibit runs through Feb. 26.

More information at 926-4711. The Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 South Fourth St., one-half block south of Broadway at Fourth St.

Basket Weaving Class at Library

The Michigan City Public Library will host a Basket Weaving class on Sat., Jan. 27, 9:15 a.m.

Margie Warner will teach this one session class. Each person will make a basket to take home. The class includes all materials. A $10 non-refundable deposit is required. Actual prices vary according to size of basket. The basket is on display and sign up is at the library circulation desk.

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Donna Iwamoto 269.469.8726
www.RubloffHarborCountry.com
That was the name of my first public writing job. I’d returned to Indiana, my original home, when I retired from my Chicago employment. I came just across the border to Michigan City, as my kids live in Chicago and west of Chicago and I wanted to stay close with them. I’d worked and kept busy for many many years, beginning with a little job at age 12 – that of answering my dad’s phones at his gas station in Logansport. Worked, yes, but writing? I never wrote anything but endless letters to family and friends.

Didn’t take long ‘til I found retirement (that is, not working) boring as hell. That’s when I began writing a newsletter for my condo neighbors about six years ago. I named it Good News Newsletter and told them that they’d have to send their bad news to members on the Board, as I’m only interested in good news. And, of course, with my everlasting interest in food, many recipes were included, as well as household tips. Following, you’ll see what fun I finally started having as a retiree.

One Good News feature was an interview of someone in our complex: Are you a real Hoosier? Are you jolly, a loner, short tempered, uncommonly good-looking, gregarious, then a blank for a fill-in. Which local restaurant is your favorite and what do you order there? At the end of the interview I ask: If, say, George Clooney came to your door, dragging a keg of Bud, would you let him in? – or to a male interviewee, If, say, Sigourney Weaver knocked on your door with a bottle of cold champagne in her arms, would you let her in? (My neighbor Gerald Maroney answered that one: “In a heart beat!”)

Another feature, “Odds & Ends or It’s a Good Thing, Martha” included things like “The best way to dry lettuce or other greens, if you don’t own one of those $35 spinners from Crate & Barrel, is to put them in a big mesh bag (like grapefruits come in), take them out the back door and swing the bag around a few times. You can water the plants or the passersby with this technique, besides getting really nice dry greens for your salad.”

Some of the tidbits included: Cure for the common cold: 1/2 cup tawny port, 1/2 cup orange juice; To unclog a drain, clear the sink drain by dropping three Alka-Seltzer tablets down the drain, followed by a cup of Heinz white vinegar. Wait a few minutes, then run the hot water; Use air freshener to clean mirrors – it does a good job and better still, leaves a lovely smell to the shine; I’m told if you keep that roll of plastic wrap in the refrigerator, it’ll unwind and cover whatever you’re covering with a great deal of ease – no sticking, no ripping.

Then there was Hoosier Neighbor? where I wrote a paragraph about one of my neighbors. One of my faves was about Clyde, Latchford’s dog (you may have read this funny story in the Beacher, back in 2002). “Let me introduce myself. I’m Clyde, the friendly brown and black dog with the curly tail that you see when I’m walking Pat Latchford around the condos. I’m nine months old and I’m from Portland, Oregon. People often ask, “What are you?”: Well, my mom (aptly named Rascal) is a miniature schnauzer and dad is a roaming pomeranian. Mom gave me my bark and dad gave me my tail. I came to Long Beach Pointe to join Bonnie, a sweet yorkie, in the Latchford home. I love everyone I’ve met, especially children and a certain beautiful white dog named Mimi. My favorite pastimes are chewing anything I can get into my mouth, and stealing things from my new parents. I’ve taken all kinds of things from Pat’s pockets, including a dollar bill and a $5 gift certificate. Yes, of course, I chewed them up.

One night I stole a pack of cigarettes from Ted (Pat’s husband then) when he wasn’t looking. I took them out on the patio and shook a few out of the package. I’ve watched Ted enough to know what to do. I stuck the cigarette in my mouth and sauntered back inside. “Bad dog!” said Pat. She took it away, but I had plenty more. If I haven’t met you yet, stop by and visit. I’ll give you a cigarette and show you my baby book – its great!”

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**CATFISH NUGGETS**

2 lbs catfish nuggets (prettier, neater if you buy fillets and cut them up yourself)  
1/4 cup cornbread stuffing, crushed with rolling pin then mixed with  
1/2 tsp chili powder

Preheat oven to 400. On waxed paper, sprinkle nuggets with half the cornbread mixture, press to stick. Turn over, repeat with remaining mixture. Place on lightly oiled baking sheet. Spray lightly with cooking spray. Bake, turning once, for 25 to 30 minutes until golden brown. Serve with bottle tartar sauce or horseradish sauce.
It all ended with comments from the condo Board, such as things like NIPSCO info, and listed the board members’ names.

Yes, of course, lotsa recipes from me or my neighbors. Good ones. One of my own favorites: Do you and your kids/grandkids like catfish nuggets?

HOMEMADE GRAPEFRUIT JELLY
2 cups grapefruit juice, either reconstituted frozen or bottled
4-1/2 cups sugar
1 box Sure-Jell fruit pectin

Rinse clean plastic containers and lids with boiling water. Measure grapefruit juice into large bowl. Stir sugar into juice. Let stand 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Mix water and pectin in small saucepan. Bring mixture to boil over high heat, stirring constantly. Continue boiling and stirring one minute. Stir pectin mixture into juice. Stir constantly until sugar is dissolved and no longer grainy, about 3 minutes. A few sugar crystals may remain. Fill containers QUICKLY to within 1/2 inch of tops. Wipe off top edges of containers. Cover with lids. Let stand at room temp 24 hours. Jelly is now ready to use. Store in refrig up to three weeks or freeze extra containers up to one year. Thaw in refrig. Makes about five 1-cup containers.

From former neighbor Betsy Klaus, “Do you like Italian Meatballs?”

ITALIAN MEATBALLS
1 pound ground lean beef, 1/2 pound ground veal, 1/2 pound ground pork
2 large eggs
1 cup grated Pecorino Romano cheese
1-1/2 T chopped Italian parsley
1/2 small garlic clove, minced
2 cups bread crumbs
2 cups lukewarm water
salt/pepper to taste
1 cup fine quality olive oil

Combine the meats in a large bowl. Add eggs, cheese, parsley, garlic and salt/pepper. Using your hands, blend ingredients together. Blend bread crumbs into meat mixture. Slowly add water, 1 cup at a time, until the mixture is quite moist. Shape meat mixture into balls (2-1/2” to 3”). Heat oil in large saute pan. When very hot but not smoking, fry meatballs in batches. When bottom half of meatball is very brown and slightly crisp, turn and cook top half. Remove from heat and drain on paper towels. Serve with your favorite marinara sauce or gravy, over pasta or on their own.

Yes, that’s how my writing career began, just before I moved way way up to The Beacher. I’ve enjoyed every writing moment enormously.
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Trekking the Globe

Wintertime is a good time to dream about traveling, and a good time to research your next trip. We could also mention that since off-season rates apply to many destinations, it’s a good time to actually take that trip now. Many people dream of quitting their jobs and taking off a year to explore as many countries as they can. The Internet reveals that many dreamers have turned into doers — those who have taken the leap, and done without regret. This week’s column looks at a few of such adventurers. They’ve built in a blog or website ahead of time to report back to us armchair travelers all the wonderful places they’ve been, and all the interesting people they’ve met. I want to add that taking the time to read these travel journals can result in extracting golden tidbits of information that can be useful for your trip to these same destinations.

Wired 2 the World (www.wired2theworld.com). Kristine Johnson and David Franke amazed the staff at the New York Times for their digital reports from London, Paris, Sicily, Costa Rica, Spain, and Hawaii. That was back in 1999, when ‘round-the-world travelers reporting their journeys on the Web was a relatively new idea. Today, there are huge numbers of travelogues available online. Since I had been to Paris, that is the section I chose to read. And I found invaluable information, presented informally, that could help anyone planning a trip there: comments on restaurants, hotels, interesting streets and markets, less well-known museums, etc. Reading the journals here is more involved than looking at a review on, say, Tripadvisor. But expect more detail.

Mad Nomad (www.madnomad.com). Greg Butansky set off on a global trek to West and North Africa, the Middle East, India, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Burma, Nepal and Japan. He took with him lots of digital equipment so that he could provide us with video and audio clips in addition to his images. Gary sought out less glamorous places, away from well-worn tourist paths. He was interested in the have-nots — he reports his experiences within little-known third-world villages. His is a deeply personal journal.

Worldwide Wanderers (www.worldwidewanderers.com). Thirty-somethings Scott and Laura Kruglewicz followed their dream of visiting as many places as they could around the globe within one year. Their 365-day adventure covered 36 countries and 100 cities. Their journal is organized into three sections: Chronicles (journal), Stories (of people they met) In Their Words (interviews) and Souvenirs (curious signs, trinkets, etc.). While in Amsterdam, Scott lost his fanny pack—stuffed with digital equipment—on a train. After a panicky day tracking down leads, they recovered the pack at a station’s lost and found. That made Scott a believer in miracles and in the goodness of people. The reunion with his lost equipment also made it possible for the pair to continue reporting their treks via their website. Their site is “old,” too. They made their trip back in 1998-99.

Our Really Big Adventure (www.ourreallybigadventure.com). Here, we have another pair of thirtysomethings, in fine shape with a penchant for rock climbing, back-packing their way across India, Southeast Asia, New Zealand and South America. These Irish men stayed off the beaten path and often found themselves among other (international) travelers on their own adventures. Their photos are not as good as some at the other mentioned sites. I enjoyed learning about their “truck days,” when they and other vagabond travelers covered long, dusty miles across forlorn-looking landscapes. These aren’t the kind of folks who would consider checking into the Ritz or Four Seasons anytime soon.

Visit my website: dunesartmedia.com

VU to Host Lecture Series

Some of the nation’s leading scholars in fields ranging from psychology to theology will visit Valparaiso University this spring as part of the Christ College Symposium series.

The presentations are held each Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Christ College Refectory in Mueller Hall, with the exception of the Feb. 15 talk, which will take place in the Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources. Each presentation in the series is open to the public without charge. Call Christ College at (219) 464-5022 for more information. Topics and guests include:

Jan. 25 - “Compassionate Care: The Church’s Surprising Legacy,” Judith A. Shelly, an expert on Christian involvement in health care and director of the Nurses Christian Fellowship Press;

Feb. 1 - “Opposite Sexes or Neighboring Sexes? C.S. Lewis, Dorothy Sayers and the Psychology of Gender,” Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen, professor of psychology and philosophy at Eastern (Pa.) University;

Feb. 8 - “China’s Economic Explosion: Echoes at Home and Abroad,” Dr. Thomas G. Rawski, professor of history and economics at the University of Pittsburgh and a leading scholar of the modern development of China’s economy;

Feb. 15 - “The Church’s Heart for Learning,” Richard John Neuhaus, founder and editor of the influential journal First Things and one of the nation’s leading Catholic intellectuals;

Feb. 22 - “Christ College Student Scholarship Symposium,” featuring the analytical, critical, creative and research projects of current Christ College students.
Seeking Photos, Original Art for Guide

Photography buffs and artists who have captured the many charms of Harbor Country are asked to share their special shots and artwork for the new edition of the Harbor Country Guide now in production. Both color and black-and-white pieces are welcome to be considered for the cover art and inside illustrations. Subjects can be anything that portrays the flavor of visiting or living in the area. The deadline for submission of photos is Sat., Feb. 17, and for cover art Fri., March 16.

Practically any good nature shot such as beaches, surf, sunsets, woods, farms, vineyards, rolling country roads and dunes are on the “most wanted” list. Shots of people having fun and at leisure along with families at play are in high demand. Don’t overlook those cute pictures of the kids on the beach or sledding. Every season needs to be portrayed in full glory as well. Shops, boats, marinas and special events all contribute to the rich fabric of Harbor Country that needs to be illustrated. Businesses also are encouraged to send pictures of their establishments in action.

Garasic added that the photographer or artist of every picture used will receive a byline and all photos submitted will be returned, providing a stamped, self-addressed envelope is included. Garasic cautioned that anyone easily recognizable in a photograph must give his or her permission for the picture to be published in the Guide. If shots of children are submitted, their parents must approve the picture being used.

Anyone interested in submitting photos for consideration should send or bring them to the Harbor Country Chamber Office at 530 S. Whittaker St., New Buffalo, MI 49117 or e-mail them to chamber@harborcountry.org. Contact Chuck Garasic, 269/469-0332, with any questions.

The Guides are distributed throughout Harbor Country and also are sent to the thousands of people who contact the Chamber asking for information about Harbor Country. Guides also are available at visitor centers throughout the state.

Children’s Hour at Library

The Michigan City Public Library offers the following children’s programs:

Library Story Times

Story Times are for children 2-5 years old with a parent/adult. Programs will be held on Tues., Jan. 30 and Wed., Jan. 24 and 31 at 10 a.m. For more information, phone 873-3045.

Baby TALK Lapsit

This is a series of programs for babies 12-24 months featuring music, fingerplays, and stories. Registration is required; phone 873-3045.

You can also check out the library’s website at www.mclib.org.

Women’s Tools Demo at Library

Women’s Tools Demo at Library

Since tools are often too heavy or awkward for a women’s smaller hands, Lorraine Frank, sales consultant for Tomboy Tools, will be at the Michigan City Public Library to present a hands-on demonstration of a new line of tools designed especially for the woman. She will also speak on basic home improvements.

The program, which is free and open to the public, will be held Sun., Jan. 28, from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

“Front Row Center” Film Classics

Beginning in January and continuing for the next two years, WNIT Public Television will present 100 of the greatest films of all time. The “Front Row Center” series of movie classics opens with “Invasion of the Body Snatchers” (1978) this Fri. Jan. 26 and continues with “Cocoon” on Feb. 9.

Each film will be aired on Friday night at 9 p.m (EST). and repeated the following Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. The series is hosted by Dr. Paul Rathburn, professor emeritus at the University of Notre Dame.

“This is a fantastic series and I am excited to be part of it,” Dr. Rathburn said recently. “It opens with the celebrated 1978 version of “Invasion of the Body Snatchers,” which film critic Pauline Kael described as the ‘best movie of its kind ever made.’”

After “Cocoon” on Feb. 9, Front Row Center presents “Elmer Gantry” on Feb. 16 followed by “King of Hearts” on Feb. 23. The 100 movies in “Front Row Center” will air throughout 2007 and 2008 and into 2009. Here’s your chance to see some of your old favorites or perhaps catch a movie that you missed when it was first out.

WNIT Public Television is a not-for-profit organization celebrating over 31 years of providing quality programming to the communities of northern Indiana and southwestern Michigan.
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- Mikail Pinette
It's almost Christmas and I must go
Encircle the Earth with my Ho, Ho, Ho.
This bag of toys seems so heavy this year
Things aren't too good on the Earth I hear.
Nations are angry; taxes too high
Everyone wants pie in the sky.
Not too long ago, an orange was dandy
To find in a stocking, but now even candy
Has to be just right or out it goes
Oh, the world is only a labyrinth of woes.

For certain this year, it's a fast trip I'm making
For no one appreciates the risks that I'm taking.
Look out Dasher! Don't you see that jet?
One of those babies will wreck us yet.
It's the same old story every year,
It's a helluva ride with those crazy reindeer.

But Santa looked down--
What's that by the lake?
Lose altitude, Rudolph--a better look I'll take.
It's a town, by gum--so light and bright
It's magic makes the world all right.
As Santa looked down at the Carsten's home
A beautiful tree in the window shone
Lievense's tree, so sparkling and gay
Merry Christmas, McGee's tree was thought to say.
To Koester's house where Jacki did all
Schaub's twinkling lights made Santa want to call
Jacobson's tree is bright at 29 Stop
Oberlink's steps are bright to the top.

Elmendorf's trees and reindeer so gay
Smith's lights so beautiful across the way.
Weidner's tree is really a treat
Tip's tree is grand just up the street.
Schumakers have children, it's plain as can be
They have a Santa with reindeer for all to see.
Houle's have lights of blue and green
Bonnie's window makes a lovely scene.
Russell Anderson's window with lights aglow
Rhett's Santa watches where you go.
The red candles at Kermen's are so cheerful
and right
The beauty at Hill's lights up the dark night.

Balady's place is so exciting at Stop 22
If you're at the wheel, it's no place for you.
Santa paused to look at lights at Tony Dargis'
With gleaming lights, it's one of the largest.
Crossing to Taylors with Santa and sleigh
Choir boys sang Santa on his way.
Rosinia's bright home so high on the hill
Has stained glass windows like a cathedral.
Schliephake's Doll House is worthy of note
Phil Dwyer's blue and green trees got Santa's vote.

Trask's silver tree glitters up on the hill
Cook's flashing lights gave Santa a thrill.
Carroll's house is very new but prettier ones are very few.
McKinney's new home in this glorious season
Is cheerful and gay and all with good reason.
Matt and Anne's home, friendly always
Santa looked and wanted to stay.
Pleimlings' new house with windows of gold
Is a fairy story come true from books of old.
The bright star at Cloyd's seemed to say
Follow the wise men -- we'll show the way!
Bruce's lights are a delight.
And Bricker's home is done just right.
A lantern in a wreath is Mihalick's theme
While Tell's Santa and lights make a good team.
The Wolf's candy canes and the Elliott's trees
Stephenson's lovely doorway are "quote Santa"--the Bee's Knees.

Gilbert's lights are to be praised
Sturm's trees and steps are ones to be gazed.
The lighted creche is lovely at Bluhms
While in the distance the Boat House looms.
Over by the golf course Santa saw himself
Sitting on a rocker on Stahoviak's porch.
Checking off his list by the aid of a torch.
Mershon's decorations are one of the smartest
It's easy to see that Pat is an artist.
Bards have gone, but Robbins there be
Christmas lights in the windows and on the tree.

Lights brightly circle the home of the Armstrong's
Charlotte Casey's pretty place will be remem bered long.
Chern’s Santa and lights would take much time
To mention them all and make it rhyme.
Just then he came to Stop 23
Bob and Helen’s candles are big and bright
And over the door are soft blue lights.
Santa was taking too much time, that he knew,
But sights such as Long Beach at Christmas are few.
And there on a corner was a joy to see
Even fairies must dance in the lights of the Bow
man’s
Gremlins and witches know a good omen.

Brownell’s new home was pretty to see and
Kelley’s blue lights and silver tree
West’s framed their window with lights of red
And centered a white tree tres elegante, ‘tis said.
Salak’s house is outlined and makes a reflection
It’s so pretty to see from all directions.
Fairbairns’ trees and lights at the door
Santa beamed, “Now this, I adore.”
Ullrich’s is oh, so pretty
Worth more than this little ditty.
All the Westphal’s homes are great
E.R.’s H.C.’s and Norm’s do rate.
Hess’ trees framed in a circle
Lucille has done almost a miracle.

There’s a real sleigh on the O’Brien’s lawn
Santa just may exchange it for his before dawn.
There’s a circlet of lights at Lantern Hill
Lights run down the steps--they can’t be still.
Hacksteps’ huge Santa guards the door
Kratzers and Honchell’s have lights galore.
Knotts have lighted deer on the roof
Zelenka’s are gay; Roth’s lights are clever
Brighter lights than Elmer’s have been seen never.
Bietry’s house is one of splendor
And there are more.

Santa was feeling much better now,
To those who gave pleasure, he’d make a bow.
Then the lighted cross at Connell’s came into view
Santa knew then what he had to do.
At the windows framed in dazzling light
He shouted “Ho, Ho, Ho,” with all his might.
He’d tell the world to be of good cheer
The secret here is very clear.
Work, play and pray as the Beachers do
And all good things will come to you.

---Finis---
It was a bit early to make the rounds
But the paper can’t wait and so we’re bound
To leave out many who tomorrow may glitter
Nevertheless, it’s better not to be bitter in winter.
MC Community Chorus Concert

The chorus will present songs celebrating the season of winter. There will also be a few sacred songs, and songs of fantasy such as “Toyland” and “When You Wish Upon a Star”. There will be a tribute to the music of Leroy Anderson. Two guest performing solos will be by Sara Miller on the violin, and Ralph Odle on the trumpet.

The concert will be Sun., Jan. 28 at 3:30 p.m. at Grace Church, 2722 Wabash St., Michigan City. There is no admission charge for this concert. The chorus is directed by Lee Meyer and the accompanist is Marge Hammond.

Specialty Goods at ND Bake Sale

The 8th grade students & parents of Notre Dame School announce the “Help us go to Washington, D.C.” Bake Sale on Sat., Jan. 27 at 5 pm (after 4 pm mass) and Sun., Jan. 28 at 10:30 am (after 9:30 mass) in the Notre Dame Church Vestibule, 1010 Moore Road, Michigan City.

Your support of this fundraiser will assist the Notre Dame 8th grade class on their spring trip to Washington, D.C. to learn how our government works, meet Chief Justice John Roberts and much more. Coffee and specialty goodies by Munchee Doodles and other fantastic bakers will be available. Questions? Phone ND Church at 219-872-4844.

Valentine Tea

The United Methodist Women cordially invite all women of the community to their annual Valentine Tea on Sat., Feb. 10 at the church located at 7th and Pine Street.

The tea starts at 1 p.m. with tea, sandwiches, and good fellowship. Invite your friends and neighbors, as a good time will be had by all.

BabyTALK Lapsit

A BabyTALK Lapsit, a free read and play time, will be held for children aged 0-36 months and their caregivers on Tues., Jan. 30 at 9:30 a.m. at the Coolspring Branch Library. The library is located at the corner of Johnson Rd. and 400 N., Michigan City.

Please phone 219/362-6165 to request signing for the hearing impaired 48 hours in advance.
“First Fridays @ 5”

The Lubeznik Center for the Arts will be hosting “First Fridays @ 5” in the coming months.

Each evening from 5-8 p.m., there will be music, appetizers, and drinks with a different theme. On Feb. 2nd, the theme is “Cabaret.”

Other dates in the series are March 2 - “Irish Music,” and May 4 - “Kentucky Bluegrass Bash.”

Admission is $5 and there is a cash bar. The Lubeznik Center for the Arts is located at 101 W. 2nd St., Michigan City.

Computer Class for Absolute Beginners

Purdue University North Central Office of Continuing Education will offer a beginning computer course to introduce the basics of using a computer and get individuals started on the path to computer literacy.

“So You’ve Never Touched a Computer” will meet at PNC - Porter County, 600 Vale Park Road, Valparaiso, on Wednesdays, Feb. 7-21 from 1-3 p.m. or Thursdays, April 5-19, from 6-8 p.m. Registration is $79. A recommended book is available for $26.

This non-credit course will cover topics such as using the mouse, browsing the internet, how to use email, and the basics of computer hardware and software.

To register, phone (219) 531-4200, or visit http://www.pnc.edu/ce.

Technology Classes

The following computer classes will be held at the LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte:

**E-mail Basics** - Tues., Jan. 30, 1:30 p.m.

**Introduction to the Internet** - Tues, Jan. 30, 9:30 a.m.

**Morningstar** - Tues. Jan. 30, 6:30 p.m.

For more information, phone 219/362-6156

Great Books Discussion Group

The next Great Books Discussion Group will be held on Sun., Jan. 28, 2 p.m., at the Michigan City Public Library. The selection this month is Catch-22 by Joseph Heller. New members are always invited.

To confirm the book to be discussed each month, phone the Circulation Desk at 873-3042, or Public Relations 873-3049.

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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

January 27 -- Regional Juried Art Exhibition opening reception. 7-9 pm at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd. St., MC.

January 27-28 -- Notre Dame Bake Sale. Sat 5 pm; Sun 10:30 am in the church vestibule. Fundraiser for 8th grade trip to Washington, DC.

January 28 -- Great Books Discussion Group at the MC Public Library. 2 pm. To be discussed: Catch 22 by Joseph Heller. Free & open to the public.

January 28 -- Artists and Teachers Art Exhibition at the Chesterton Art Center, 115 S.4th St., Chesterton, IN. Opening reception 2-4 pm. Open to the public. Exhibit runs thru Feb. 26. 219/926-4711.

January 28 -- MC Community Chorus Concert. 3:30 pm at Grace Church, 2722 Wabash St., MC. No adm. charged.

January 30 -- BabyTALK Lapsit at Coolspring Branch Library, corner of 400N & Johnson Rd., MC. For children to 36 months and caregiver. 9:30 am. 879-3272.

January 30 -- Coolspring Readers Group. 7 pm at Coolspring Branch Library, corner 400N & Johnson Rd., MC. To be discussed: Twelve Sharp by Janet Evanovich. Free & open to the public.

February 2 -- “First Fridays @ 5” at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, MC. 5-8 pm. This month’s theme: Cabaret. Music, appetizers, and drinks. Adm. $5; cash bar. 874-4900.

February 2-4, 9-11 -- “The Smell of the Kill.” Presented by Footlight Players. 8 pm curtain; Sun. matinee 2 pm. Tix $10; 219/874-4035. Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., MC.

February 3-4 -- “On Death & Gardening.” A one woman show by Donna Blue Lachman at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd. St., MC. 7 pm. Adm. $10 for members, $15/non-members. 874-4900.

Every Monday -- New Buffalo Chess Club. 6 pm (MI time) at the New Buffalo Public Library, 33 N. Thompson, New Buffalo. Open to all ages and skill levels. Info: John Calo, 269/469-6507 or email jscaleo@localnet.com

Places to Visit:

Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St., Michigan City. Adm. $4/adults, $2/kids 18 & under, free/kids under 3. Guided tours--weekdays 10 am, 11:30 am & 1 pm; weekends noon & 2 pm. 219-873-1520.

Great Lakes Museum of Military History, 360 Dunes Plaza, Michigan City. Open 9 am-4 pm, Tues-Fri; 10 am-4 pm Sat; closed Sun & Mon. Adm. $3/adults, $2/vets & senior citizens, $1/ages 8-18, and free to under 8 and active military personnel. Info 872-2702 or www.militaryhistorymuseum.org

LaPorte County Historical Museum. 2405 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. Adm. $3/Lap. Co. resident; $5/out-of-
Writing Your Memoirs Class

Love to talk about the “good ole’ days” with your grandchildren, tell tales of back home or revisit your own childhood with your children? Take your stories one step farther than the family-get-together. More and more people are writing down the memories of their past and you can too. “Writing Your Memoirs” will help you get started.

This eight-week class held at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd St., Michigan City, includes instruction on how to get started, choose a topic, uncover memories, organize your ideas, make your stories interesting, do revisions and get published. The class is held from 6-7:30 p.m. on Thursdays from Feb. 8th-March 29; cost is $65.00. Register for the class at 874-4900 or by visiting www.lubeznikcenter.org

Instructor Kim Nowatzke has 17 years experience in marketing and writing. She currently writes for the Savy senior section of “The News-Dispatch” and is Editorial Director of the regional parenting magazine, “Family Ties.” Kim holds a bachelor’s degree in English with a minor in business.
**Upcoming Events at LaPorte County Parks**

Mark your calendar! LaPorte County Parks has a lot to offer in the next few weeks.

**Jan. 27th, Breakfast with the Birds** will be at Luhr Park Nature Center from 8:30-11 a.m. This free program is open to all ages. Registration is not required. Come and learn about our feathered friends and enjoy breakfast treats. The Audubon Society and a park naturalist will be on hand to answer your bird questions.

**Feb. 2th, Skywatcher** will be held at Red Mill County Park from 7-8:30 p.m. A park naturalist will teach you about the constellations and take you on a dark night hike to explore the skies. This program is free and open to all ages, but is most appropriate for 7 and up. Registration is not required. Dress very warmly and be on time.

**Feb. 8th, Family Fun Night: Let it Snow** will take place at Luhr Park Nature Center. Does your family have what it takes to succeed in several snow challenges? This program is for families with children aged 6-13. Cost is $5 per child. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required three days prior.

**Feb. 15th, Family Fun Night: Nature Jeopardy** will be at Luhr Park Nature Center. Compete against other families to be the Jeopardy champs! This program is for families with children aged 6-13. Cost is $5 per child. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required three days prior.

To register or for more information, phone 219/325-8315 or visit www.laportecountyparks.org.

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**Bridal Show Looking for Vendors**

Enchanted Evening proudly announces the return of the Bridal Fair and Fashion Show for its 8th year. The 2007 show will be held on Sun., Feb. 18, from noon-4 p.m. at the Patrician Banquet Center, 410 E. US Hwy. 30 in Schererville. If you are interested in securing a booth to promote your business specializing in products and services geared toward weddings and brides-to-be, phone Mary Galloway at 912/531-4790 for details or visit www.enchantedeveningwear.com.
La Lumiere President’s Day Open House

La Lumiere School will open its campus to prospective sixth, seventh and eighth grade students and their families this President’s Day, Monday, February 19.

Prospective students will experience a “mini” class day, meet current students and faculty members, tour campus, and finish with a panel Question and Answer session and reception in the School library. The informational program starts at 11 a.m., includes lunch, and concludes at 3 p.m. Registration is required. Phone 219/326-7450 or e-mail admissions@lalumiere.org with questions or to reserve your spot.

Directions from US 20 eastbound at Highway 39: After 1 mile, watch for a green “La Lumiere School” sign on the right side of the road indicating a left turn. Turn left onto Wilhelm Road. At the first intersection (Wilhelm/650N) turn right onto 650N. After the “S” curve, turn into the second gate on the left (labeled “Gate 1”).

PNC Intro to QuickBooks Course

Purdue University North Central Office of Continuing Education will offer a three-day non-credit course on the basics of QuickBooks.

“Introduction to QuickBooks” will be offered at PNC - Porter County, 600 Vale Park Road, Valparaiso, on Thursdays, Feb. 1 to 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. The course fee is $79 with an additional book fee of $26.

This course will teach students how to use QuickBooks to set up a chart of accounts, reconcile checking accounts, create and print invoices, receipts and statements. The course will also cover how to track payables, inventory and receivables.

To register or to obtain Information about this or other courses available through the PNC Office of Continuing Education, contact PNC - Porter County at (219) 531-4200, or visit http://www.pnc.edu/ce. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact PNC - Porter County.

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Travels with Charley:

Super Sunset “Cruises” from the Front Porch All Winter Long

by Charles McKelvey

Natalie has a notion in her noggin for curing cabin fever on a daily basis now through whenever spring really arrives – sunset cruises from our front porch.

By that, Natalie the Navigator means her famous “Youngren Road Walk.”

All right, it’s famous here at our house but not really anywhere else, but her point is that anyone can overcome cabin fever this winter by simply dressing for the weather and hoofing around your neighborhood at sunset time.

Granted, the clouds don’t always cooperate, but an evening walk will do in just about any condition, except, of course, force five hurricanes.

As we are not expecting any of the latter any time soon, we are resolved to keep cabin fever at bay all winter long by setting forth regularly on Natalie’s patented Youngren Road Walks.

Did I just say “patented?”

That’s what Natalie always says; “Who patented this? I sure didn’t.”

All right, Natalie’s Youngren Road Walks are in the public domain.

Free of charge.

So go for it.

And go for it we did the other evening when we noticed that the sun was beginning its daily descent toward Chicago on the other side of the lake.

So we suited up for the day’s brisk weather and headed off from our porch through the Prairie Club’s sublimely sylvan Camp Hazelhurst in which we live, and then we set south on Prairie Road to the Red Arrow Highway which was actually devoid of traffic.

What a contrast to summer, we thought.

In summer, you see, the Red Arrow is streaming with happy visitors in search of sun, sand, and the newest old stuff at the antique stores.

But on the winter’s evening of our crossing, the Red Arrow was just a curving band of unused asphalt.

Basking in the off-season quiet, we passed peacefully past the Judith Racht Gallery at the corner of Prairie and Harbert roads, and duly noted that it had once served as the local schoolhouse.

We continued south on Prairie, and, after looking both ways, crossed the CSX Railroad tracks. Freights and two Amtrak trains regularly roll along that right-of-way, so we always cross with care, and we hope you will too.
Then we headed south into deepest Harbert where we couldn’t help but notice the flooding in some of our neighbors’ yards. The heavy rains and wet snows had overwhelmed the drains and left certain yards looking like – well – like lakes.

After lamenting the soggy lots of our neighbors, we strolled to the intersection with Youngren Road itself and turned west into the setting sun.

To say that our experience was sublime is to put too soft a word on it. We simply enjoyed the play of light through the trees and wondered if money could buy a better sunset cruise anywhere.

Definitely not, we decided, for as Dorothy so famously said in *The Wizard of Oz*, “There’s no place like home.”

And with a hearty home-cooked supper at home at home in our minds, we followed Youngren Road around the curve to where it meets those same CSX tracks we had crossed on Prairie Road. Only this time, the setting sun and rails were collaborating to create a truly captivating work of outdoor performance art.

All I can say is that you had to be there to enjoy it, but I did snap a few shots of it in the hope that my trusty digital camera would do it justice. You be the judge, but, better yet, take your own sunset cruise and see for yourself.

We did see for ourselves that the sun was sinking below the Sears Tower by the time we got to the platform at Cherry Beach in Chikaming Township, and so we paused to bid fond farewell to another great day in Harbor Country.

And then we hoofed it back along the beach and got home just in time for an amazing home-cooked meal in our little cabin that was completely fever-free.

And to think that we had all that for a whole lot less money than one of those fancy cruises to somebody else’s sunset.
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On January 25, 1759, Scotland’s poet Robert Burns, author of “Auld Lang Syne,” was born in the Scottish village of Ayrshire.

On January 25, 1959, the “jet age” opened in the United States when American airlines scheduled the first transcontinental flight (from New York to Los Angeles) of a Boeing 707.

On January 26, 1837, with the signing of a statehood bill by President Andrew Jackson, Michigan was formally admitted as the 26th state of the Union.

On January 26, 1967, the “Great Blizzard of ’67” began piling up snow (eventually totaling in excess of two feet), and bringing many midwest cities, including Chicago, to a virtual standstill.

On January 26, 1988, the Andrew Lloyd Weber musical “Phantom of the Opera” opened at Broadway’s Majestic Theater.

On January 27, 1880, Thomas Edison was granted a patent for an incandescent light.

On January 28, 1878, in New Haven, Connecticut, the first telephone switchboard went into operation.

On January 28, 1878, the first daily college newspaper, the Yale News, began publication in New Haven.

On January 28, 1915, the Life Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service were merged to form the United States Coast Guard.


On January 29, 1861, Kansas became the 34th state to be admitted to the Union.

On January 30, 1933, the first episode of the Lone Ranger was broadcast on Detroit’s radio station WXYZ.

On January 30, 1964, the U.S. launched Ranger 6, an unmanned spacecraft carrying television cameras. As planned, it crash-landed on the moon.

On January 30, 1981, 2 million New Yorkers turned out for a ticker-tape parade to honor the 52 Americans who had been held hostage for 15 months in Iran.

On January 31, 1875, western novelist Zane Grey was born in Zanesville, Ohio.

On January 31, 1958, the United States entered the Space Age with the launching of Explorer 1, its first successful launching of a satellite into orbit.

On January 31, 1971, astronauts Alan Shepard Jr., Edgar Mitchell and Stuart Roosa blasted off aboard Apollo 14 on a mission to the moon.
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The Boleyn Inheritance by Philippa Gregory

Chick lit alert! Men, it’s time for you to step aside and let the ladies check out this week’s book recommendation. Ladies, whether you are in a reading group or just enjoy reading on your own, I encourage you to consider this fascinating account of life in the 16th century from the perspectives of three different women; three women who, theoretically, should have had the world by a string. And all three got a piece of the Boelyn inheritance… but we all know about “be careful what you wish for”, don’t we?

The year is 1540, the story takes place in Tudor England, and King Henry VIII (uh huh, he of six wives) has already gone through three of them— one abandoned (Katherine of Aragon), one beheaded (Anne Boelyn), and one dead after childbirth (Jane Seymour). As the story begins, Henry’s advisors are in negotiation for wife number four -- Anne of Cleves. She is one of our narrators and a real sheep in the wolf’s den. Anne, a German, came to England not even knowing the language, and met her future husband when he surprised her by appearing in one of his disguises he liked to spring on people. Anne did not know who the stranger was and pushed him away from her in disgust. This didn’t start off their relationship very well and when you see the events unfold through Anne’s telling you can’t help but feel much sympathy for this young woman who was merely doing her duty to her brother by making this alliance with England.

Narrator number two is Jane Boelyn, sister-in-law to the beheaded Anne Boelyn. It was Jane’s testimony that helped convict her husband George, and Anne, of incest and sent them to the chopping block. But, because of her quick wit and tutoring by her uncle the Duke of Norfolk, she managed to save her life and title, although she lost the family home. Listening to Jane’s voice part of you will say what a self-serving woman, but part of you will see how her situation was almost impossible to maintain what with living up to the dictates of her kinsman the Duke of Norfolk, and living with the guilt of causing her husband’s death.

Narrator number three is Catherine Howard, the silly, simpering girl sent to be a maid-in-waiting to Anne of Cleves, and, of course, eventually wife number five to Henry. She is only fifteen years old and wild and full of life. All that matters to her are fancy clothes, parties and dancing. Her narration shows very clearly how young and uneducated she was.

Each of these women was under the control of a man: Anne of Cleves first by her brother, then Henry, Jane and Catherine by the Duke of Norfolk. Not one of them actually had any say over what would eventually happen to them.

And then there was Henry VIII himself. By now, a grossly overweight middle aged man with swollen legs that leaked pus and smelled terribly, he still clung to the illusion of being young and handsome. Fear and backstabbing were the mainstay of his court.

I found this story to be a real page-turner. The author made these women flesh and bone, and learning of the day to day turmoil of their lives gives the reader a chance to understand historical happenings at the deepest, most personal level. History isn’t just marked by dates and battles, it is made up of the people who lived and survived the best way they could. Author Gregory did mountains of research to learn as much as she could about these women, how their upbringing and experiences took them to their eventual individual fates.

Just how much did these women contribute to those fates? As you will see, some of what they did certainly sealed their future, but most of what happened to them was way beyond their control. This was a time when women were a convenience, perhaps a means to an end like a political alliance through marriage and children. What did the Boleyn inheritance get these women? In the end, deceit, denial, abandonment and death. Anne of Cleves did end up outliving Henry and got to make a life for herself in England, far from her brother’s, or any other man’s, iron hand. I guess that must have been a form of revenge? What do you think, ladies?

Till next time, happy reading!
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