ART ATTACK Season in Harbor Country

Spring fever is in the air, and Harbor Country artists expect its gentle breezes to blow away traces of a truly tough winter – in time for Art Attack weekend – May 1, 2 and 3.

“Whenever the sun comes out we have a good day,” proclaims eternal optimist Rick Ott, who co-owns WOW Gallery and Ozzie’s eatery with his artist-wife, Angela Reichert. WOW is one of the 14 galleries and artist studios at the heart of the cooperative pep rally that gets the season off to a roaring start.

New faces and new players will be greeting participants in Harbor Country’s 16th annual art & entertainment event, centering in New Buffalo and meandering cross-country to Three Oaks and Sawyer, Michigan.

“We had a good year,” says Elizabeth Coyne, a New York artist who opened a contemporary art gallery on Sawyer Road, just in time for last year’s Art Attack. Coyne and her husband, an engineering prof, moved into Michigan when he took a teaching position at Notre Dame U.

“Weathering the Storm,” a painting by Rick Ott at WOW Gallery, expresses the exuberant mood of Art Attack participants.

Elizabeth Coyne is showing her contemporary paintings, Saturday and Sunday afternoon, at her gallery on Sawyer Road.
Art Attack  Continued from Page 1

Edwin Shelton, a familiar face in the Michiana art scene, is revealing a new side of his personality: abstract paintings, based on multiple foreign languages and intimations of the occult. Shelton, who previously marketed whimsical ceramics under the name Izwin (with his wife, Laurel Izard), was invited to display his “spirit-driven paintings” at Dinner’s Ready, a dining and catering place on U.S. 12, New Buffalo.

“Altogether we have 36 businesses sponsoring Art Attack,” says co-chairman Rita Cochran. This includes the restaurants and real estate developers who schedule special art-related events over the weekend; also interior design studios, clothing shops, and a variety of new venues – such as Harbor Country for Progress, which is showcasing outsider art based on images of President Obama.

Other new hot spots include Elizabeth Nuti’s studio in Lakeside, where she will show her surreal paintings of chickens and eggs. Fitzgerald’s, a new restaurant on Sawyer Road, has invited photographer Richard Hellyer as its guest artist. Carrie Lin, local artist and interior designer, has opened her studio in a new location – on Merchant Street in New Buffalo.

Beachtails, an upscale pet shop with such novelties as crocheted dog collars, zen toys, doggie breath freshener and fortune cookies, will feature pet portraits during Art Attack weekend. Animal Crackers is the theme for Fritz Olsen, who will have a menagerie of hand-sculpted pets in his Holloway Road studio. A portion of Olsen’s proceeds will go to the Humane Society of Southwest Michigan; he calls the event “A Cause Four Paws.”
Most of the shops will be open on Friday, May 1, until 6 p.m. (Michigan time.) Then, at 7 p.m., Marina Grand Resort hosts a gathering of the clan – Ad Fest and Feast, a splendid buffet supper and screening of last year’s funniest TV commercials – straight from New York. The cost of Ad Fest is $40./person, with proceeds funding scholarships for local art students. For reservations: 269-469-9900.

Saturday afternoon, May 2, is the date for most gallery receptions and demonstrations by artists. Courtyard Gallery has oil painter Trish Weeks. Roger Harvey is showing his own paintings, plus photographs and sculpture by guest artists. Local Color Gallery, in Union Pier, will feature Julie Schwarz’ photographs, Ronald Stec’s landscapes, and stained glass by Tom Sourlis and Twyla Butler. Lakeside Gallery presents Blue Spin artists Christina Root and Dennis Olson. At Gintaras Resort, where Lithuanian artists and friends congregate all weekend, photographer Algimantas Kezys will be autographing his books on Saturday afternoon.

There are at least two good reasons to head for Three Oaks: Todd Keller’s photography show at the Acorn Theatre’s Wine Shop, and “Spring for Green” at Studio b, where Bridget Verdun has brought together a nice assortment of items made from recycled materials.

Susan Henshaw, another artist having a great year, has invited several colleagues to show their work at the 30-acre historic property she inherited from her great-grandmother, on Kruger Road in Union Pier.
Art Attack  Continued from Page 3

A new Art Attack participant, City Flowers & Gifts of New Buffalo, is staging demos of fondant-making. The art of throwing pottery will enliven the scene at Outpost Sports; guest artist is Rich Papaleo, pottery instructor at Indiana U., South Bend. Customs Imports is offering container gardening workshop, with a great variety of containers available. A watercolor exhibition will take place at another popular spot, New Buffalo Inn & Spa.

Several developers are also getting in on the action. Merchant Street Cottages has photography exhibits by Cousandra Armstrong and Lou Ann Dixon, and demos of pressed herbs and flowers by La Porte artist Sandy Fairman. Camp Buffalo Cottages are featuring Brenda McKnight’s spectacular, one-of-a-kind hats – one of which will be auctioned off. At Vineyard Lofts, in Harbert, there will be demonstrations of digital audio and how it is being used by contemporary musicians.

So that Art Attack visitors can spend the afternoon dashing from one special event to another, the New Buffalo Fine Arts Council is sponsoring a drop-off center for children K-5, at New Buffalo High School from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Diversions include face-painting, storytelling, Kinder-music, paper making and more. Free, but donation suggested.

Burnison Galleries are mounting special exhibits for Art Attack weekend: landscape paintings by John Downs from Toma, Wis.; 20th century photography; and a textile show with an amazing array of items: Scandinavian needlepoint, African bead-work, a Hawaiian quilt, blouses done by the Cuna Indians from Panama, an American hair weaving from the Civil War era, a 19th century Venetian cap with seed pearls, an American Indian ceremonial apron, and more. The galleries will be open from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Later on Saturday, Vincent Tables is running a reception from 4 to 10 p.m. Craig Smith is holding forth from 5 p.m. to 12 midnight. Casey’s Bar & Grill is hosting R.J. Karlstrom and his water-scapes, through the evening. The Acorn Theatre in Three Oaks is bringing in “Blame Sally,” an all-female band that does pop-folk music, at 8 p.m. Tickets: $20. At 11 p.m., Fitzgerald’s of Sawyer converts from a restaurant into a nightclub, open until 2 a.m.

Entertainment continues on Sunday afternoon, with Dan Moser and Jack Collings presenting “Homemade Jam” at Local Color Gallery; a jewelry-making demo at Harbor Country for Progress; a stained glass demo at Gintaras; and a performance by Joel Brussel, host of WRHC’s “I Hate Poetry Hour,” at Susan Henshaw’s studio, from 2 to 4 p.m. Most participating businesses remain open through the afternoon. Sunday evening ends up with the traditional Mystery Dinner at Hannah’s Restaurant: “Gamble With Death.” Tickets: $35.

For details on times and places, phone 877-469-3822, or visit www.harborcountry.org.

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4th Street Theater Presents

“The Sisters Rosensweig,” a play by Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning playwright Wendy Wasserstein will be performed at the 4th Street Theater, 125 N. Fourth St., Chesterton.

Once again the 4th Street Theater continues to offer the Northwest Indiana theatergoer an opportunity to see an undiscovered gem of contemporary theater. “The Sisters Rosensweig”, written by the late Pulitzer and Tony award winning playwright, Wendy Wasserstein will be produced in the intimate 4th Street Theater on Friday and Saturday, May 1 & 2, and May 8 & 9 at 8:00 p.m. Sunday matinees will be performed on May 3 and May 10 with a 3:00 p.m. curtain.

“The Sisters Rosensweig” is Wendy Wasserstein’s captivating look at three uncommon women and their quest for love, self-definition and fulfillment. Unified by their sisterhood, they are as different as only sisters (or brothers) can be, as each tries to live up to an image imposed by her family. At the same time, each performs her own act of rebellion—or is it penitence? The play offers sharp truths about what can divide relatives and what can draw them together. It is steeped in Jewish culture and humor, but the emotional subtext is broader. None of the sisters can find happiness. They have all been nurtured in a family in which heartbreak has been confused with heartburn. With effort, the women arrive at a new understanding. Bonding as siblings, they can anticipate a more promising future. Because of their disparities, they are heroines to one another.

The 4th Street Theater’s production features from Highland, Leslie Evans; from Porter, Steve Rohe; from Valparaiso, Amy Bannister, Mary DeBoer, and JT Hanaway; from Crown Point, Christina Hughes; from Michigan City, Eric Edson. Adam Woolever serves as both the assistant director and actor. The production is directed by Mark Ladd of Wheatfield and produced by Sandy Assarian and Kevin Doler of Chesterton. Lighting designer is David Piňko of Chesterton; costumes by Martha Sul lens; set design by Kevin Doler and properties Jude Tanter.

The 4th Street Theater is located at 125 N. Fourth St. in Chesterton. Tickets may be purchased by telephoning the box office at 219-926-7875. Reservations are recommended due to limiting seating.

Family Fun Night at MC Public Library

Tues., May 5 -- 5:30 p.m.

Presented by Youth Services and the Michigan City Area School’s Baby TALK program for families with children birth to 5 years old. Enjoy stories, songs, finger plays, and a craft. Each child receives a free book and older siblings are always welcome. More information at 873-3045.
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122 Hazelwood Trail • Shoreland Hills
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4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. A lot of front windows for extra sunlight. Lower level family room with wet bar. Newer furnace & hot water heater. Rear deck overlooking wooded fenced yard with storage shed. Cute cottage very close to beach with deeded beach rights to Stop 31 beach.

10 Marine Drive A-3 • Marina Park South
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321 Pinewood Trail • Shoreland Hills
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420 Oakland Drive • Michiana Shores
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201 Elmwood Drive • Michiana Shores
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Thrifty Times Series at Library

Vegetable gardening for the home cook is the topic of the first session of a new seven-part series offered by Westchester Public Library.

“Thrifty Times: Sharing Ideas for Saving Money” is an interactive series developed by the WPL staff to assist and support community members who are out of work or who want to economize during the current downturn in the economy. The staff hope that those who attend the programs will bring their own ideas for saving money to share with others who come to the sessions.

Tim Miller and Bob Block, both life-long gardeners, will lead the first program, scheduled for 10 a.m. on May 2 in the Bertha Wood room at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. The presenters will focus on helping area residents prepare a vegetable garden, especially if they have never gardened before.

Tim Miller, WPL groundskeeper and a member of the Duneland Garden Club, will teach those who attend how to prepare soil for a garden, how to save money by germinating seeds, how to care for the vegetable garden and finally how to harvest the vegetables. Seed catalogs and other handouts will be available.

Bob Block will complete the program by discussing food processing, including instructions for freezing and dehydrating garden produce. He will also provide recipes for salsa, fried zucchini and green tomatoes, refrigerator pickles, pepper poppers and more.

Future programs in the series will include: Thrifty Cooking (May 16); Shopping to Save (May 30); Family Fun on a Budget (June 20); Home Repair Basics (July 11); and Basic Car Repairs (July 25). The date for the Selling on E-Bay session will be announced in the coming weeks. More at 219/983-9715.

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1st Fridays @ Five at Lubeznik Center

May 1, First Fridays @ Five hosts Meg Rodgers, a harpist with the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra. YES! Showtunes - on a harp! Meg’s repertoire includes everything from Beethoven to Metallica, but this Friday, there’s no business like show business at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts.

Stop in and mingle with a glass of wine and a bite of cheese and listen to the unique sounds of Meg Rodgers who comes from a varied and unique musical background: She started piano lessons at the age of 4, flute lessons at 9, harp lessons at 13, and the trombone at 14.

Meg went on to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Harp Performance from DePauw University and a Master’s Degree in Harp Performance from Northwestern University. She also studied in Vienna, Austria with Adhelaise Blovsky-Miller, Principal Harpist of the Vienna State Opera as well as spending a summer at the Salzedo Harp Colony.

A Seasoned Performer - Meg Has Wide Ranging Career

Meg has performed in ensembles for artists such as: Amy Grant, Dennis DeYoung, the Three Irish Tenors, and most recently, Clay Aiken. She is a member of the LaPorte Symphony and performs also with the South Bend Symphony, Holland Symphony, and Rockford, IL Symphony. Meg is active as a freelance harpist (known for playing Metallica on request) in Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois and as a private instructor in Southwest Michigan.

Continue a weekend tradition with First Fridays at Five at the Lubeznik Center by enjoying the entertainment - or just mingling with friends, old and new. The time is always 5-8 p.m. (Chicago time). Admission is $6 for LCA members and $8 for non-members and includes light appetizers and entertainment. Beverages will be available for an additional cost.

1st Fridays @ Five Continue

Future First Fridays at Five will feature live performances spanning the spectrum of musical and performance genres. Mark your calendar for June 5, when the evening will feature railroad inspired tunes and appetizers in conjunction with the “Interurban Trains & Tourism” exhibit.

The Lubeznik Center is located at 101 W. 2nd St. in Michigan City. For more information, visit www.lubeznikcenter.org or phone 219-874-4900.
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Birdie the library dog will be at the LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte, on Sat., May 2 at 10:30 a.m. Children in grades K-5 can come and read to the dog. This is a “pawsitively” wonderful opportunity to practice reading. There is no charge and reservations are not taken. More information at 219/362-7128. Phone 219/362-6156 two days before the event to request signing for the hearing impaired.
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The organization is again hosting the Mainstreet Trunk Sale in 2009, and spaces are available for individuals or groups to sell new and/or used items. The fee per space is only $20 or $35 for two spaces. Each of the Trunk Sale events will be held at the corner of 8th and Franklin Streets, behind St. Paul Lutheran Church from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Roger Potratz, president of the MCMA and owner of dh2w architectural firm, said, “This year we will host the Trunk Sale on three separate occasions. The first date is Sat., May 30th in conjunction with a Perennial Plant Exchange we’re hosting. The second date is Sat., July 18th, the date of the Shake, Rattle and Roll Car Cruise and Swap Meet. The last Trunk Sale will be held on Sat., Sept. 5th, during the Labor Day weekend and during the Labor Dayz Festival held in Washington Park.”

Trunk Sale applications can be found at www.mcmainstreet.com and at the Mainstreet office at 813 Franklin Street, at the LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau at Marquette Mall, the Michigan City Public Library, Feallock House, Station 801, and the Mainstreet Theatre. Questions should be directed to Mike and Donna Howard, Station 801, 801 Franklin Street, mkhw171@yahoo.com, or to 219/872-4976.

Mother’s Day Tea in Three Oaks

The Library Friends of Three Oaks will present author Whitney Ferre’ at the 2nd Annual Mother’s Tea fundraiser scheduled for Sun., May 3, 1:30 p.m. MI time, at the First Congregational Church, U.S. Hwy 12 in Three Oaks.

Ms Ferre’ is the author of The Artist Within: A Guide to becoming Creatively Fit. In addition to an author chat and book signing, Ms. Ferre’ will lead the audience in interactive exercises to discover their untapped creative potential.

Tickets are $15 and may be purchased from Ellen Block, Sharon Flick, Martha Franklin, Barb Doepker or Elna Rogers. More information from Lil Lewis, 269/756-3724.

Writer’s Rendezvous

Thurs., May 14 -- 6 p.m.

This group meets at the Michigan City Public Library each month. Writers share their work and new members are invited to attend. Info: 873-3049.
April 30, 2009

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THE St. Mary of the Lake Registration
Kaleidoscope Preschool and Child Care Center is accepting registrations for the 2009/2010 school year. Registration will be held on Thurs., April 30, at St. Mary of the Lake School, New Buffalo, from 6-8:30 p.m. Bring your child’s immunization record, birth certificate and $50 registration fee per family.

All day child care slots are available for children 2-1/2 thru 5 years. Kaleidoscope preschool and child care is a fun and enriching program that has been serving Harbor Country children for over thirty-five years. More info: phone Amy Fidler, 269/469-1515.

Anne Hills in Concert
Popular singer/songwriter Anne Hills returns to the Box Factory for the Arts on Sat., May 2nd at 8 p.m. MI time. Tickets are $15 general admission and $10 for students and seniors, age 60 and older. Children 12 and under admitted free.

Anne’s musical colleague and long time friend Tom Paxton has said, “Anne Hills is such an exquisite singer that it’s understandable that people might be swept up in the pure beauty of her voice and thereby overlook her writing. That would be a mistake. For me, Anne’s writing, in songs like ‘Follow That Road’ and many others, is as direct, melodic and deep as any work being done today. She is quite simply one of my absolute favorite songwriters.”

Not only is Anne a prolific songwriter, she has recorded numerous CDs which will be available for sale during the concert.

For more on Anne’s work and appearances, visit her online at www.annehills.com. For more on Box Factory events, visit www.boxfactoryforthearts.org or phone the office at 269-983-3688.

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Trivia Night 8 PM
$7 Pitchers

TUESDAY
$2 Domestic Bottles
$2 Cheeseburgers
(Open Mic 9 PM)

FRIDAY
All You Can Eat Perch

SATURDAY
Live DJ
10 PM - 3 AM

WEDNESDAY
$5 You Call It Martini

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Trivia Night 8 PM
$7 Pitchers

TUESDAY

$2 Domestic Bottles
$2 Cheeseburgers
(Open Mic 9 PM)

FRIDAY

All You Can Eat Perch

SATURDAY

Live DJ
10 PM - 3 AM

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Dr. Dali's office is located at HealthPartners, 1225 East Coolspring Avenue in Michigan City.

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To schedule an appointment, please call 219-879-6531.

★ Christopher D. Powers, M.D., FACC

Dr. Powers' office is located at HealthPartners, 607 Jefferson Avenue, LaPorte, IN 46350

As an added convenience for patients, appointments to see Dr. Powers are available at HealthPartners, 1225 East Coolspring Avenue in Michigan City on Tuesdays.

To schedule an appointment, please call 219-325-9671.

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A historic Great Lakes identity puzzle, now 330 years old and counting, may soon surrender its secret.

Discovered in the deep waters of northwestern Lake Michigan, the shipwreck may be the waterlogged remains of the barque Griffin, known to many histories as the first commercial vessel to sail on the “inland seas.” Built by Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, the Griffin sailed from Niagara, at the eastern end of Lake Erie, on August 7, 1679.

With LaSalle in command of a small flotilla and 34 men, the Griffin reached St. Ignace, near the Straits of Mackinac, without incident. In search of forest wealth, including mainly furs, LaSalle continued on to a safe anchorage in present-day Green Bay.

Loaded with some 6,000 pounds of furs, the Griffin left for the return voyage to Niagara on September 18, 1679. According to Father Louis Hennepin, a priest who was accompanying the expedition, the three-masted ship fired one cannon shot as it left Washington Harbor on what is known today as Washington Island.

Father Hennepin suggests that the Griffin may have been the victim of imprudent navigational decisions. Writes the priest: “The ship came to an anchor to the north of the Lake of the Illinois where she was seen by some savages who told us they advised our men to sail along the coast and not toward the middle of the lake, because of the sands that make...navigation dangerous when there is any high wind. Our pilot, Luke, as I said before, was dissatisfied, and would steer as he pleased, without hearkening to the advice of the savages, who...have more sense than Europeans think at first.”

Sailing into what soon became severe storms, the Griffin and its crew and cargo disappeared, presumably before it left Lake Michigan. Over many years, repeated expeditions organized to find the wreck have reported success only to have later evidence disprove the early findings.

Assembled by veteran Great Lakes explorer Steve Libert, the Great Lakes Exploration Group, LLC, announced the discovery of an “anomaly” on the Lake Michigan bottom in 2001. The anomaly, on initial on-site examination, proved to be a wooden barque that fits some of the known characteristics of the Griffin.

As insurance against possible errors of interpretation of historic facts, findings, or events, Great Lakes Exploration is working with professional historian Richard Gross of Schaumburg. Using rare original documents, Gross has researched in depth the circumstances surrounding the construction and eventual loss of the Griffin.

Gross' consultations have closely involved the Great Lakes Exploration Group and associated Lakes archeologists like Dr. Scott Dernel, Ph.D., of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

Gross has assisted with analysis of the findings from a second deep-water series of dives on the Lake Michigan wreck that was undertaken in 2006. He has begun assisting on preparations for a third
expedition that may be scheduled for the summer of 2009.

To ensure the most thorough possible analysis of evidence that may surface this summer, Great Lakes Exploration has contacted the Center for Maritime and Underwater Resource Management (CMURM) and its president, Ken Vrana, of St. Johns, Michigan.

**LaSalle’s Hidden Agenda**


“The French plan was initially to establish a supply route tying together all the French possessions and posts between the eastern Great Lakes and the mouth of the Mississippi.”

LaSalle did his part, Gross adds. “He built the *Griffin* to specifications that called for a 50-foot barque. Made of wood harvested near the Niagara River, he constructed the 40-ton ship with a beam of about 13 feet.” As armament, the *Griffin* carried five small cannon.

The *Griffin*’s loss in September, 1679 negated LaSalle’s program. To make matters more complex, not only did the ship vanish; it went to the bottom of Lake Michigan with a birthright that included the blessing of the French king.

“At some point now; with the French government already indicating interest in the wreck, the question of ownership may become very important,” notes Gross.

“Other claims of ownership were to be expected. One comes from Canada. The other, filed according to self-generated laws giving states ownership of historic shipwrecks under specific circumstances, has come from Michigan.”

The State of Michigan and the Great Lakes Exploration Group have sought adjudication of their conflicting claims, according to published reports. “The state has demanded that the Exploration Group reveal the exact location of the shipwreck’s remains. On appeal from an adverse decision on that issue, Exploration Group won in a landmark decision granting federal admiralty jurisdiction over historic Great Lakes shipwrecks.

“The decision cleared the way for Exploration Group to continue alone in its efforts to establish whether the wreck is the *Griffin,*” says Gross.

**A Years-Long Search**

By his own admission, Steve Libert has been searching for the wreck of the *Griffin* for at least 28 years. And today he has come close, as Gross points out, to establishing a collaboration that would undertake a joint effort to determine whether the wreck is LaSalle’s “first European-owned vessel to sail the Great Lakes.”

The collaboration would come into existence if Libert’s initiative should succeed.

“Following the ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit,” notes Gross, “Libert in the persona of the Great Lakes Exploration Group has, according to press reports, called for creation of the first truly cooperative endeavor of its kind for many years—probably since passage of the Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987.

“To be included in a joint effort would be scientists and archeologists from France, Canada, the State of Michigan, and Exploration Group’s own experts.”

Gross adds that such a collaborative effort would mark a new direction and a new opportunity.

“It would enable us to explore the wreck with the latest underwater research tools, among other things. Among these would be both side-scan sonar and sector-scan sonar. The latter can deliver three-dimensional images. There would be other high-tech apparatus.

“We’ve already been able to utilize the C-14 carbon dating system as performed by Beta Analytic Laboratories of Miami, Florida and the University of Arizona. The results have been promising, but not conclusive.”

Like his colleagues in the *Griffin* project, Gross believes confirmation of the Lake Michigan wreck’s identity as the *Griffin* would open a new and exciting chapter in the early history of French activities in the New World and of the Great Lakes region as a critically prominent factor in that epic saga.

As Gross adds, “Behind the whole story stands the dreamer LaSalle. His private ambition, as historians have clearly established, was to find a route to the storied Orient. Practically, however, and more immediately, he wanted to establish a French empire in the heart of the continent.

“For LaSalle, the Lakes had to be the nucleus of any future plans. As French writer Berton states, LaSalle would need a ship in the western Lakes to launch his imperial design. He would need a barque patrolling the Great Lakes unfettered by the historic barrier of Niagara Falls.

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Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

The Michigan City Lions Club will hold a pancake breakfast on Sun., May 3, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. The event will be held at the Senior Center in Washington Park, Michigan City. Tickets, available at the door, are $5/adults, $3/children 4-10 yrs. and free to children under 4 years of age.

Pipe Organ Concert at St. Paul Church

Fri., May 8, 8 p.m.

As part of National Music Week, St. Paul Church, 818 Franklin St., Michigan City, will be offering a special organ concert featuring their Austin pipe organ. Guest organist will be Martin Ellis, a 1990 graduate of DePauw University with a major in keyboard performance and minors in orchestration and composition. He is organist and Assistant Director of Music and Handbells at North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis and serves as Senior Staff Organist/Pianist and Staff Arranger for the Indianapolis Children’s Choir and Youth Chorale. He has appeared as organ soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony and Carmel Symphony Orchestra. Martin has many published pieces for choir and instrumentalist with Hal Leonard and Colla Voce Publishing Companies.

The first part of the program will feature classical organ repertoire and the second part will feature theatre repertoire. Martin is a highly acclaimed artist in both styles of music. The event is free and open to the public.

Public Forum on Future of Chellberg

The Chellberg farm site of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore has seen many uses over the years. As the National Park Service plans for the future of this site, we are looking for public input. What ideas do you have for this site and the areas around it? We want to hear from you.

Come on out to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Visitor Center May 5, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. to find out. The visitor center is located on Highway 49 between U.S. Highway 20 and Interstate 94 in Porter Indiana.

“Many people have strong feelings for the farm, its past and what happens next there, “said park superintendent Constantine Dillon, “we want to hear from those people.”

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore is one of 391 units of the National Park System ranging from Yellowstone to the Statue of Liberty. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore includes 15 miles of the southern shoreline of Lake Michigan and 15,000 acres of beach, woods, marshes, and prairie in the northwest corner of Indiana. More than 2 million visitors come each year. More at www.nps.gov/INDU
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<td><strong>PLOCKY’S</strong></td>
<td>2 for $6</td>
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<td><strong>D.L. JARDINE’S SALSA</strong></td>
<td>$5.99</td>
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<td><strong>GERANIUMS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>HANGING BASKETS</strong></td>
<td>Pomegranate</td>
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<td><strong>PERENNIALS</strong></td>
<td>6-7 ft.</td>
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<td><strong>RIVER BIRCH</strong></td>
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<td><strong>HEATHER</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BLACK MONDO GRASS</strong></td>
<td>$17.99</td>
<td>1 gal.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PINK WEEPING CHERRY</strong></td>
<td>$69.99</td>
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Grant Received by Three Oaks Museum

(Front L-R) Sally Klute, Harold Russell, Chuck Sittig, (Back L-R) Roger Barksdale, Judy Jackson, Julie Sittig and Senator Ron Jelinek review blueprints for a new museum facility.

The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) has awarded the Township of Three Oaks, on behalf of The Region of Three Oaks Museum, a grant in the amount of $200,000.

Senator Ron Jelinek, Chair of the Museum’s Board of Directors, explained, “This is our second state grant. The first award was used to plan a facility. During that project period, the Board developed a site plan. This award will be used for the actual construction of a new museum. We have secured property within the Village and are excited to begin the work.” Board member Allen Turner added, “We are extremely pleased to have been awarded this MCACA grant. The Museum will be a great asset for the region.”

Perennial Swap to be held May 2nd

The Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department will host a Perennial Swap in Washington Park at the Dodgem Building on Sat., May 2, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Spring Perennial Swap is a new way to increase or change your plant varieties by “swapping” with others. Pot your perennials, identify them and bring them to the plant swap to exchange for others. Please bring empty containers for plants that can be divided and exchanged. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer any questions. International Friendship Gardens will also have Master Gardeners available for advice and guidance. In addition, the Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department will be accepting perennial donations to enhance the Washington Park area.

Share a piece of your cultivations with the whole city by making a donation to the beautiful Washington Park area. All donations are appreciated and can be brought to the Perennial Swap. For more information, contact the Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department at 219-873-1506.
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Notre Dame Pre Schoolers Help the Earth

On Earth Day (April 22nd) the Notre Dame Pre Schoolers took charge and cleaned up their school and church property. They were each equipped with a bag and gloves and they ran and ran from end to end loving every minute of their job. After all the garbage was collected, any items that are reusable were set aside. The students plan on creating a junk art collage.

The children have realized that taking care of our planet Earth is not just a one day thing. In March, they learned how to recycle and they continue to be green at school and at home. Now they understand how important it is to never be a litter bug. What great life lessons that they have learned!

---submitted by Mrs. Kate Bobillo, pre school teacher
Proceeds benefit 2 BigHearts Foundation, dedicated to increasing awareness and education of heart disease in women.
Greenhouse Tours Offered

Save the Dunes Conservation Fund will offer tours of its one-of-a-kind solar greenhouse to the public to learn about the construction of the greenhouse and why native plants are important.

The purpose of the Solar Greenhouse is to demonstrate solar power and energy conservation. The 576 square foot greenhouse space is used to grow native plants from seeds collected at local natural areas. The plants are used for restoration projects and rain gardens.

The greenhouse will be open every Saturday from now until June 13, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The greenhouse is located on the grounds of Save the Dunes Conservation Fund, 444 Barker Rd., Michigan City.

Phone ahead to schedule large group tours with Carol Cook at 219-879-3564 or 219-210-8013.

National Music Week May 3-10

National Music Week is sponsored by the National Federation of Music Clubs. The objective is to create an understanding and appreciation of the value of music in the home, the community, the nation, and the world. This year’s theme is “Music... Poetry of the Heart.” The following events are free and open to the public.

**Sun., May 3.** 11 a.m. Special Music & Hymn Fest, 1st Congregational Church, 561 Washington St., MC.

**Sun., May 3.** 2 p.m. Awards, Scholarships & Concert. Monday Musicale’s monthly scheduled program. Chairman James Guerucci. Junior Competition-4th thru 8th grades. Senior Auditions-9th thru 12th grades. 1st United Methodist Church, 121 E. 7th St., MC.

**Mon., May 4.** 7 p.m. A Music Week Concert. Chairman Lee Meyer. Presented by members of Monday Musicale and including organ and vocal solos & duets. 1st Congregational Church, 561 Washington St., MC.

**Tues., May 5.** 1:30 p.m. 65 and Over Talent Show. Open to any performer, vocal or instrumental, an accompanist is available. More information with Chairman Ange Benz 874-3754. Senior Center, Washington Park, MC.

**Fri., May 8.** 8 p.m. Organ Concert. Featuring organist Martin Ellis and including classical organ & theatre organ repertoire. Co-sponsored by the Northwest Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 818 Franklin St., MC.

**Sun., May 10.** 3 p.m. Annual Spring Tea. Featuring Donna Mitchell, soprano, Dan Moser bass, Marge Hammond and Lee Meyer 4-hand piano. Sponsored by the Artistic Outreach. 1st Congregational Church, 561 Washington St., MC.


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Blues Musician at Library

Sun., May 3 -- 2 p.m.

Meet at the Michigan City Public Library for a free concert featuring blues musician Keith Scott. Keith is one of Chicago's most vibrant musicians. For the past twenty years he has built his reputation as a sizzling blues guitarist, dynamic performer, noteworthy songwriter and band leader. He has toured the world and has performed at Chicago Bulls' basketball games, at the Chicago Blues Fest and at the Hard Rock Café.

Free Film at Box Factory for the Arts

“Breaking the Mayan Code,” is the free May film presentation at the Box Factory for the Arts. The film by David Lebrum is based on a book by Michael Coes. Shown May 8th at 7:30 p.m. MI time. Refreshments, including chocolate, will be served.

For almost 2000 years the ancient Mayans of central America recorded their history and ideas in beautiful hieroglyphic script. In the 16th century Spanish invaders burned their books and ruthlessly extinguished hieroglyphic literacy.

By the 18th century when stone inscriptions were discovered buried in the jungles of central America no one on earth could read them. Breaking the Mayan code is a story of a 200 year struggle to unlock the best secrets of this ancient civilization.


This amazing detective story, filled with false leads, rivalries, and colliding personalities, takes the viewer from the jungles of Guatemala to the bitter cold of Russia, from ancient Mayan temples to dusty libraries of Madrid.

The heroes of the are an extraordinary group of men and women, linguists and mathematicians, artists and adventurers, archeologists and eccentrics, each finding a different piece of the puzzle.

For more on this and other Box Factory events, visit www.boxfactoryforthearts.org or phone the office at 269-983-3688 during normal gallery hours of 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon.-Sat. or Sun. from 1-4 p.m.
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K of C Tootsie Roll Drive

The Knights of Columbus will be conducting their annual ‘Tootsie Roll Drive’ May 1–3. All proceeds from the drive benefit handicapped children and adults in the Michigan City area. The organizations which benefit from this drive are: Michiana Resources, Share Foundation for the Handicapped, Barker Woods Enrichment Center and the Social and Learning Institute.

Volunteers will be shaking the can in front of a number of local businesses that weekend; any donation is greatly appreciated. You may also mail a check to: Knights of Columbus, PO Box 9387, Michigan City IN 46361

VU Chamber Band Concert

The Valparaiso University Chamber Concert Band will recognize the institution’s 150th anniversary and the 200th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln’s birth during a Fri., May 1 concert.

The Chamber Concert Band, which recently completed its second tour to the Mediterranean nation of Malta, will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel of the Resurrection. Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for senior citizens and students, and may be purchased at the door or by phoning the VU Box Office at (219) 464-5162.

The concert will begin with John Philip Sousa’s “Sesquicentennial Exhibition March” to celebrate Valpo’s founding in 1859 and continue with Vincent Persichetti’s “A Lincoln Address,” which showcases President Lincoln’s second inaugural address. Dr. Marcia Lewis, associate professor of music, will act as narrator during the latter performance.

Other works being performed are Johann de Meij’s “Symphony No. 1: The Lord of the Rings,” Claude Thomas Smith’s “Fantasia for Alto Saxophone and Band” featuring senior Jessica Kindschi, Frank Ticheli’s “Blue Shades” and Andrew Boysen Jr.’s “Alchemy.”

Leadership La Porte County Golf

Leadership La Porte County will hold its annual golf outing fundraiser on Thurs., May 21 at Briar Leaf Golf Course. The 4-person best-ball scramble begins at 11 a.m. with registration and lunch. The shotgun start begins at noon. There will be special contests and prizes available all day. Cost is $75 per person with special discounts for golfers who also purchase tee signs. For information or to register, contact Abbey at 219/325-3207 or abbey@leadershiaplacounty.com.

Leadership La Porte County is a non-profit training organization that provides leadership training, information, and services to area businesses and non-profits.
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I am a believer who believes in celebrating all 50 days of Easter, from April 12 to Pentecost Sunday on May 31, so I am not in the least hesitant to offer the following two trips down the bunny trail for your continuing Easter joy:

(Lakeside, Mich.) . . . Janet “the Sandcastle Lady” Schrader did another fine job of hosting an annual Easter Egg Hunt in Lakeside on Holy Saturday that featured the finding of four golden eggs, each worth $10 in cold cash on a sunny but cold spring day.

As she has done for the last ten years or so, Janet organized the egg hunters into four age groups—four and under, five and six, seven through eight, and ten. And, after asking each age group to sing “Hopping Down the Bunny Trail,” she launched them on their hunts by blowing on her “egg whistle.” Well, it sure looked like a real egg.

And if that wasn’t enough fun for one day, Tarik El-Naggar of Valparaiso won the jar of jelly beans by coming closest to guessing the exact number of beans, which was 1,154. Tarik’s wife Susan texted him the figure of 1,050 just before the hunt, and he went with that because she was last year’s winner.

Everyone went away happy and with all the treasures they found hiding in their plastic eggs.

**Lakeside, Michiana Easter Egg Hunt**

Children await the blowing of the egg whistle. Janet Schrader blows her egg whistle to signal the start of another hunt. Janet Schrader awards Tarik El-Naggar of Valparaiso the jar of jelly beans.

*Hailey Kirkwood, 2, came all the way from Huntington Woods, Michigan.*

*Sydney Moore, 9, of Three Oaks was in the hunt all the way.*

*Brianna Schrader, 4, and her great-aunt Janet Schrader had lots of fun.*

*Clare Corley, 3, of Union Pier found one of the four golden eggs in Lakeside.*

**Beverly Neighborhood, Chicago, Easter Egg Hunt**

And if that wasn’t enough fun for one *Beacher* correspondent, he took his dear wife Natalie on Easter Sunday itself to the Beverly neighborhood of Chicago for a truly gala holiday with the family that is duly noted in the following report:

(Chicago, Ill.) . . . Prior to assembling at Mom’s house for a sit-down Easter feast featuring the family silver, we gathered next door at my sister Missy’s for my niece Annie Wright’s first-annual Egg Show. Now, at the Wright house they do Easter right every year by staging a highly competitive Easter Egg Hunt, but my totally creative niece decided it was time to step it all up a hundred notches this year by challenging her family to decorate eggs for judging in one of the following four categories: religious, abstract, creative, and names. And, by virtue of being an ace Teach America teacher in Miller Beach, Annie decreed that the four judges should also award a Best of Show and a 1st Runner-up.

And for four judges, she appointed her sister Sara and her friend Tom Carroll, Aunt Natalie, and her aging uncle who still has most of his faculties. After enjoining us to take our jobs seriously, Annie cleared the dining room of all lobbying family members, and let us do our work.

Well, it wasn’t easy, especially with the rest of them craning their necks in the living room to see and hear what we were up to. But we four made our
six choices, and here, for your continuing Easter joy, they are:

-Nephew Jim Wright, who is a freshman at the University of Illinois, took Best of Show for his dazzling creation in blue dye of an abstract image that he created with a wax crayon and a rubber band.

-Egg Show organizer Annie Wright was 1st Runner-up with her geometric wonder that she created with a Sharpie marker and purple dye.

-Niece Meg Wright, who will be graduating shortly from the University of Wisconsin and speaks fluent French, had the best religious expression with her masterpiece made from blue dye and black marker.

-Meg’s friend Marty Drumm took the creative category by ten miles with his true and lifelike drawing of a woman’s face on his egg. Amazing, Marty!

-And Annie Wright took a second prize by boldly coloring her name in red on a green egg to claim the names category.

Then we went next door for a truly delicious feast of fresh fruit, salad, assorted breads, meat and vegetable lasagna, fried chicken, and niece Abby McKelvy’s dessert of layered brownies, strawberries, and whipped cream.

We were all so satisfied that we had to work off our calories with an Easter egg hunt at the Wright house, which Abby McKelvy won by bagging 19 eggs. And then we retired to the driveway for a best-of-three bags tournament. And if I have to explain bags to you, then I’ll know you’re really not from the South Side and that you’ve never been to a Sox game.

Suffice it to say that yours truly just might have been on the winning team with his nephew and southpaw tosser Jim Wright, but I truly want you to continue your Easter joy in a non-competitive fashion, so I’ll just say: Happy Easter, y’all!
April 30, 2009

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Cyberscribbles
by Paula McHugh

After galavanting around all over the Internet, I returned to sites whose content is related to Indiana. I like using the word “galavanting” and don’t get many opportunities to use it. Meanwhile, as you read this, I am galavanting around northern Arizona playing tourist. I know the northern part of the state fairly well now.

Virtual Globetrotting (www.virtualglobetrotting.com). Before I reined in the possibility of scouring the earth for Google street view shots of Timbuktu and beyond, I wanted to see if this website lived up to its name. It does. It is heavy on celebrity homes, which may or may not interest you. Here is your chance to peek into non-public spaces and do it without guilt.

Indiana Traveler (www.indianatraveler.com). Web guru Bill Holden established this site over ten years ago. It is similar to the state’s tourism site, but the Indiana Traveler is more compact. It does an especially nice job of listing bed and breakfasts around the state.

Indiana County History (www.indianacountyhistory.com/). At first I thought I had struck gold, or at least a wealth of historical information. It’s a fact that you will find tons of information, ranging from over 7000 pictures of Indiana’s past to 76,000 biographies. The catch is that certain areas of the website are restricted to members only. You can access any information you want here for the low access fee of $10.

Civil War Indiana (http://civilwarindiana.com). If you are a Civil War buff or if you are tracing your family’s roots, this site was made for you. First I need to warn to that when you access the home page, be prepared for a loud rifle shot welcome. Better yet, turn down your volume. Some items of particular interest include regiment lists: Indiana men who were on the Sultana (steamboat that blew up in the Mississippi), and those who endured imprisonment at Andersonville. There are lots of accessible pictures on the website, too.

Indiana From A-Z (www.geocities.com/states_az/Indiana). You can tell this site has been around for awhile, at least that was my guess when I saw that Geocities hosts the web pages. I don’t get around those free sites much these days, since (free) blogging has more or less trumped web pages. And twittering, of course. I can say ha!, I beat Oprah to that latest fad.

Crawfordsville Crinoids (http://fossilmuseum.net/fossil_galleries/crawfordsville_crinoid). Lake Michigan has its crinoid seekers, but those really into fossil collecting know that there are other parts of the state with different subspecies of crinoids. If you have never seen images of the entire crinoid
“skeleton,” here is your chance to see them.

**Indiana Ghost Towns** ([www.ghosttowns.com/states/in/](http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/in/)). New Durham and Door Village are among those listed here. So are Asphaltum, Byron, Old English and Weddleville. Some still have remains visible. This is an interesting website.

**Indiana State Poem** ([www.fulco.lib.in.us/state-poem](http://www.fulco.lib.in.us/state-poem)). It was here that I learned that Indiana has an official State Poem. It was written by Arthur Mapes of Kendallville and adopted as the official Hoosier poem in 1962. I immediately took to the verse, since it describes the pleasure of hiking outdoors. I felt like an official Hoosier after reading it.

**Free State Park Admission**

Get your carload of family and friends in the gate of any Indiana state park, lake or state forest without spending a dime on Sunday, May 3, as part of the annual Welcome Back Weekend, the traditional lid-lifter of the spring recreation season.

Even veteran park-goers will notice something new or updated at most properties. For a complete list of improvements and additions, see [www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Property-Updates2009_Successes2009.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/files/sp-Property-Updates2009_Successes2009.pdf).

Normal weekend gate fees for most properties are $5 per day for an in-state vehicle and $7 per day for an out-of-state vehicle. During the week, most fees are $4 for in-state and $7 for out-of-state. All other fees will be in effect. The only thing waived is the daily entrance normally charged for any car, truck, bicycle or pedestrian. The entrance fee for Historic Prophetstown at Prophetstown State Park remains in effect.

May 3 is the second consecutive day you can enter a state park or lake without paying a gate fee, but there’s a condition. That’s because May 2 is annual INShape Indiana DNR Day. Registered INShape participants will be e-mailed a coupon by the end of April. That coupon, when shown at the gate, gets the carload in free on Saturday, May 2 to participate in walks and other activities.

To register as an INShape participant, see [www.INShape.IN.gov](http://www.INShape.IN.gov). To see scheduled walks and activities, visit [www.dnr.in.gov/healthy](http://www.dnr.in.gov/healthy). Information about INShape Indiana is also available at 1-800-433-0746. The INShape coupon is not valid for entrance or camping on Friday night, May 1 or at state forest properties.

**Great Decisions Discussion Group**

*Mondays, May 11 & 26 -- 6:30 p.m.*

This foreign policy discussion program meets twice a month at the Michigan City Public Library. It is free and open to the public. Phone the library at 873-3049 for reading material. This month’s topics are “Cuba” and “Human Rights.”

**Run for the Roses at La Lumiere**

The La Lumiere School Parents Association will host their annual spring auction Sat., May 2, at 4:00 p.m. Central time at Whittaker Woods in New Buffalo. Inspired by the Kentucky Derby, this year’s event will have the traditional charm of the Derby experience. Assorted hats, Derby cuisine, and naturally, race track action will highlight the evening’s festivities.

The proceeds of this event will benefit the faculty of La Lumiere School. It is the people at the head of the classroom, on the playing fields, and in the dormitories that have the greatest impact on the students’ experience. The earnings provide faculty development opportunities and assist in recruiting and retaining high quality faculty.

Ticket prices are $75 per guest. For more information, contact the School at 219.326.7450 or go to [www.lalumiere.org](http://www.lalumiere.org).
La Porte County Symphony Orchestra

Golf Day!
Briar Leaf Golf Club -- Tuesday, May 5th

In this coming season of Symphonic Surprises, you never know what might happen when the orchestra is involved.

Time to warm up that golf swing at a fun, casual day to take some friends out to golf a bit and support the orchestra at the same time. All cart fees that day will be donated to the orchestra.

To reserve a tee time phone Jay Williams, 219-326-1992. Rain date is May 12th.

Course on Presentational Speaking

Purdue University North Central Office of Continuing Education will offer a non-credit course on presentational speaking.

“Presentational Speaking for Results” will meet Wednesdays, May 6-20, from 6-9 p.m. at PNC – Porter County, 600 Vale Park Road in Valparaiso. The registration fee is $109.

Participants, whether a business person, community volunteer, student or professional, will gain confidence and develop skills for giving presentations.

For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education, 872-0527, ext. 5343, or visit www.pnc.edu/ce

At Fernwood Botanical Gardens

Spring Wildflower Identification
Sun., May 3, 1–5 p.m. & May 17, noon–5 p.m.

Learn how to identify the spring ephemerals in two classes taught by Dr. Dennis W. Woodland, Professor of Botany at Andrews University. The May 3 class covers the early bloomers found at Fernwood. On May 17, carpool to the protected property of the Edward Lowe Foundation in Cass County in search of the late spring wildflowers. Class size is limited; advance register by Fri., May 1. Fee $15 each session (Members $12). 269/695-6491. Fernwood Botanical Gardens is located in Niles, MI.

Vision Board Workshop:

Inspiration to Create Your Life by Design
Sat., May 9 10:00 a.m.

The Michigan City Public Library will host this program and Ms. Randi Light, MS, CH of New Buffalo Hypnosis, will guide you through an inspirational meditation to help you clarify what you want to manifest, what you want to accomplish, and how you want to look and feel. This will lay the groundwork for creating your Vision Board. The entire experience is fun and effective. For more information, contact Randi Light at 269-469-9636 or www.newbuffalohypnosis.com. Register in the Youth Services Dept. or phone 873-3045. For ages 16 years and up.
Oh Ladies the Spring Girlfriend Sale is bigger and better than ever before! Our rooms and racks are packed with the most fabulous things. We have continued with the “Specialty Room” loaded with all those designer labels you love and also with new merchandise brought to us from some of your favorite boutiques. You won’t want to miss this one!!! The Sale is this weekend May 2nd from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. followed by our famous half price sale day Sun., May 3rd from noon-4 p.m. with a “bonus 1/2 price sale day” on May 9th from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Call all your friends and meet them at the sale for big shopping fun and incredible bargains! Please pass it on...

Indiana University South Bend Center for Professional Development and Life Long Learning is offering a series of programs designed to improve reading and study skills over the summer break and to stimulate a greater interest in reading for ages 4 years to adults. For more information or to register phone 1-800-978-9596.

Mary Chandler invites you all to a free dance class on Tuesday May 5th from 6-7 p.m. It’s the perfect time to come give ballroom dancing a try and to meet Mary and her assistant dancers. The class will be followed by a dance party from 8-9 p.m. Admission is just $5 and pizza and refreshments will be served.

The new six week series of Ballroom Dance Classes begins May12th with a Basic Lessons from 7-8 p.m. and May 13th from 7:15-8:15 p.m. for Advanced Instruction. For more information and to register phone Mary at 219-680-9261.

Larry Payne, Choreography dance class is held on Thursdays from 5:30-6:45 p.m. followed by Jazz Dance Class and Beginning Latin class on Monday evenings at 5:45 p.m. For more information phone Larry at 219-707-7391 or visit his web site at http://www.LarryPayneDance.com

Lake Shore Group, closed, step, AA meeting is held on Monday evenings. There is an open speaker meeting every 4th Monday. Our Side of the Beach Al-Anon Family Group meeting is held every Wednesday evening. Both groups meet at 7 p.m. in room #10 and use the Fitness Center entrance.

Keep in mind we have the perfect rental space to have a party, teach a class, hold a meeting or open a business. It’s not too soon to reserve your space for a summer celebration.

---submitted by Susan Vissing
Artist Lynn Retson Exhibit at SSAA

“It’s those ordinary, usual things we pay no attention to, that I seek out for my work.”

When artist Lynn Retson of Porter turned her eye to the northern Indiana landscape, she couldn’t help wondering about those rectangular, triangular or square ponds all along our Interstates and others main highways.

Paintings and drawings of these ponds, called “borrow pits”, fill the Southern Shores Arts Association in Michigan City. The show runs from May 2 through May 24. The public is invited to a reception with the artist Friday, May 8 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm.

Retson received an Individual Artist Grant from the Indiana Arts Commission to support this work. Retson is also an Indiana Artisan, and recently participated in the Off The Wall show at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis.

The Southern Shores Arts Association is located at 724 Franklin Street in Michigan City. The Gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon till 5:00 pm. For more information, contact the Southern Shores Arts Association at 219-861-0186 or jimmyduke@comcast.net. Artist Lynn Retson can be contacted at retson@comcast.net

Laughter Yoga at MC Public Library

Sat., May 2, 11 a.m.

Combining laughter with deep breathing exercises can strengthen your immune system and boost the “happy” chemicals in your brain. Join certified Yoga Laughter instructor Tenaz Bamboat for an hour of relaxing and energizing fun. For all ages. No experience, spandex, or sense of humor required.

Middle of the Month Craft

Wed., May 6 -- 4 p.m.

This program at the Michigan City Public Library is a bit early this month so everyone can make a Mother’s Day hand-traced flower photo frame. All materials provided. For children ages 6 years and up. More information at 873-3045.
Michigan City Mainstreet Association

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association (MCMA) announced that the organization has a physical presence in the historic downtown which it represents.

Roger Potratz, president of the MCMA and owner of dh2w architectural firm has donated an office in his 813 Franklin St. location for the organization.

The Mainstreet Association sponsors the Farmers Market which will open May 2, 2009 as well as the Winter Wonderland events.

The Mainstreet Association office will be open on Tuesdays by appointment and on Fridays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Appointments may be made by phone at 219/363-1407 or email: info@mcmainstreet.com.

The Michigan City Mainstreet Association’s website (www.mcmainstreet.com) includes a list of all Association members and their contact information as well as these sections for tourists and developers: Restaurants, Entertainment & Attractions, Professional Services, Shopping, History & Historic Sites, and maps of Michigan City and the downtown area. Businesses, site selectors and developers are interested in the areas devoted to available properties, entrepreneurs, marketing and promotions.

Questions about the Michigan City Mainstreet Association may be directed to info@mcmainstreet.com or by phone to 219/363-1407.

Lakeshore Woman’s Club

The next meeting will be held on May 9th, at Station 801, Michigan City. The program will be Dan McNabb, speaking on The Messiah (held each Christmas season by community artists at the First Presbyterian Church).

The Fine Arts Department will meet on May 18 at Feallock House. Vilma Carlsson will present a program on her tour of Greece.

The American Home & Garden Department will meet on May 19 at Feallock House for show and tell - members’ hobbies and collections.

A bake sale will be held on Sat., June 20, at the Farmer’s Market, 8th & Washington streets, Michigan City.

Lakeshore Woman’s Club is open for membership for all women in LaPorte County and nearby. For further information on the club or either of the departments, phone Nancy Ryding, 871-0775.

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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

April 30 -- Chess Club at MC Public Library. For anyone 10 yrs. and up to learn and play. 3:30-5 pm every Thursday afternoon.

April 30-May 4 -- At the Vickers Theatre: “The Great Buck Howard.” Starring John Malkovich and Tom Hanks. Rated PG. Thurs/Fri 9:00 pm; Sat/Sun 4 & 9 pm; Mon 9:00 pm. Also showing: “The Class.” Academy Award Nominee Best Foreign Language Film and Winner at the Cannes Film Festival. Rated PG-13. French with Eng. subtitles. Thurs thru Mon at 6:15 pm. All times MI time. Vickers Theatre, 6 N Elm St., Three Oaks, MI. 269/756-3522 or www.vickerstheatre.com

May 1 -- First Fridays @ 5 at the Lubeznik Art Center. 5-8 pm. Lite bites, libations and music. This month’s theme: On Broadway. Featuring harpist Meg Rodgers. Adm. $6/LCA members or $8/non members. 874-4900 or www.lubeznikcenter.org

May 1 -- View the Night Sky through telescope at PNC Westville campus. 8:30 pm. Free, open to public. If inclement weather, program is repeated Sat., May 2, 8:30 pm.

May 1-3, 8-10 -- “The Sisters Rosensweig.” 4th Street Theatre, 125 N. Fourth St., Chesterton. Award winning play by Wendy Wasserstein. Fri/Sat 8 pm; Sun 3 pm. Reserve tix at 219/926-7875.

May 2 -- Adopt-a-Beach Program. 9 am-noon at Washington Park, MC. Volunteers report to the Dodgem Bldg. to help clean up the beach. Info at 873-1506 or email season@adsnet.com


May 2 -- Perennial Swap at Washington Park, MC. 10 am-2 pm. Bring plants to swap and empty containers. Or donate plants to the Parks & Recreation Dept. 873-1506.

May 2 -- Parents without Partners 1950s Sock Hop. 7:30-11:30 pm, St. Joe Club, 2001 Franklin St., MC. Singles & couples welcome (adults only). Donation $7 with prize for best outfit. 219/326-8096.

May 3 -- MC Lions Club Pancake Breakfast. 8 am-1 pm at the Senior Center, Washington Park. Tix at the door: $5/adults, $3/kids 4-10 yrs.

May 3 -- Blues musician Keith Scott in concert at the MC Public Library. 2 pm. Free, open to the public.

May 3-10 -- National Music Week. See schedule of events elsewhere in this issue.

Places to Visit:

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

Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery,
THE

525 Broadway, Beverly Shores, IN. Sat-Sun, 1-4 pm. 219/871-0832.

Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St., Chesterton, IN. Gallery hours are 11 am-4 pm weekdays; 1-4 pm weekends. 219/926-4711.

Creative Concepts Art Gallery & Studio at Michigan Resources Inc. (serving disabled adults), 4315 E. Michigan Blvd., MC. 7:30 am-3:30 pm Mon-Fri. Free adm., donations accepted. 219/874-4288.

Great Lakes Museum of Military History, 360 Dunes Plaza, Michigan City. Open 9 am-4 pm, Tues-Fri; 10 am-4 pm Sat; noon-4 pm Sun; closed Mon. Adm. $3/adults, $2/vets & sen. cit., $1/ages 8-18, and free/under 8 yrs. & active military. 872-2702.


LaPorte County Historical Museum. 2405 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. Adm. $3/LaP. Co. resident; $5/out-of-county; $3/kids 12-17; free/under 12 yrs. 219/324-6767 or www.laportecountyhistory.org

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd St., Michigan City. Open 9 am-4 pm, Tues-Fri; 10 am-4 pm Sat; noon-4 pm Sun; closed Mon. Phone 872-4900.

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

Old Lighthouse Museum, Washington Park, MC. Open 1-4 pm, Tues.-Sun. Closed Mon. & holidays. Adm. $3/adults, $1/grades 9-12, 50¢/grade school, free/under 5 yrs. Groups of 10 or more must make app’t. at 872-6133.


Southern Shore Art Association Gallery, 724 Franklin St., Michigan City. Fri., 4-7 pm; Sat., noon-5 pm; Sun., 1-5 pm. 219-861-0186. www.southernshoreart.org


Farther Afield:

May 2 -- Anne Hills (popular singer/songwriter) in concert at The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI. 8 pm MI time. Tix $15/gen.adm., $10/students & seniors (60+). 269/983-3688 or www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

May 8 -- Free Film at Box Factory for the Arts: “Breaking the Mayan Code.” Based on a book by Michael Coes. 7:30 pm MI time. Refreshments, including chocolate, will be served. 269/983-3688 or www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

April 30, 2009

Page 41
On April 30, 1803, the size of the nation more than doubled as the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France. The purchase price was $15 million, or about 4-cents an acre.

On April 30, 1812, Louisiana was admitted to the Union as the 18th state.

On May 1, 1884, construction began in Chicago on the first “skyscraper.” It was a ten-story structure (on the corner of La Salle and Adams Streets) built by New York’s Home Insurance Company.

On May 1, 1931, New York’s 102-story Empire State Building, the world’s tallest structure, was dedicated.

On May 2, 1885, Good Housekeeping Magazine, published by Clark W. Bryan, made its first appearance in Holyoke, MA.

On May 2, 1890, the Oklahoma Territory was organized.

On May 2, 1904, singer and movie star Bing Crosby was born in Tacoma, WA.

On May 3, 1904, in New York’s Carnegie Hall featured a concert conducted by Peter Tchaikovsky and Walter Damrosch.

On May 5, 1891, the opening night in New York’s Carnegie Hall featured a concert conducted by Peter Tchaikovsky and Walter Damrosch.

On May 5, 1961, Alan Shepard became the first American in space. He made a brief suborbital flight in a capsule launched from Cape Canaveral, FL.

On May 5, 2004, Pablo Picasso’s “Boy with a Pipe” sold for $104 million at Sotheby’s in New York, breaking the record for an auctioned painting.

On May 6, 1840, the world’s first postage stamp, “The Penny Black,” was introduced in England.

On May 6, 1861, Arkansas seceded from the Union and joined the Confederacy.

On May 6, 1954, during a track meet in Oxford, England, Roger Bannister - a British medical student - broke the “unbreakable” four-minute mile. His time was 3:59.4.
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Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford

“Old Henry Lee stood transfixed by all the commotion at the Panama Hotel. What had started as a crowd of curious onlookers eyeballing a television news crew had now swollen into a polite mob of shoppers, tourists, and a few punk-looking street kids, all wondering what the big deal was. In the middle of the crowd stood Henry, shopping bags hanging at his side. He felt as if he were waking from a long forgotten dream. A dream he’d once had as a little boy.”

So begins this tale that, yes, is bitter and sweet and also heart warming and heart breaking, too. It begins in 1986 Seattle, Washington. Chinese American Henry Lee watches as the new owner of the Panama Hotel, long a city landmark, bring up trunks of belongings that had been stored in the basement since the early days of World War II—the only remains of thirty-seven Japanese families who had been sent away to internment camps in 1942.

The story slips gracefully back in time to that year when Henry was a boy of twelve. Born in America to Chinese immigrants, Henry’s father wanted him to have an American education, so he sent him to an all white elementary school and forbade him to speak Chinese at home. Because of the war, his father made him wear a button that said “I am Chinese,” since many people couldn’t differentiate between the two Oriental races. But Henry felt neither Chinese nor American. His former Chinese classmates called him “white devil” and the white kids at his new school taunted him endlessly, calling him “Tojo,” not caring whether he was Chinese or Japanese. Just being an Oriental was enough for them. But since his parents were so proud that Henry was getting a good education, he learned to live with all the confusion and pain.

Henry spent lunch hours in the cafeteria serving food. One day they bring in a new helper, a Japanese American girl named Keiko Okabe. She and Henry began a friendship that transcended political and ethnic lines. Of course, when Henry’s father found out about the Japanese friend, he hit the roof and wouldn’t speak to Henry anymore. To him, Keiko represented the enemy his homeland of China had been fighting for years.

Henry’s only other friend was an African American saxophone player named Sheldon who played on street corners “…for the tourists’ pleasure and pocket change.” They shared a love of jazz that Henry couldn’t listen to at home because of his father.

The time finally came when Keiko didn’t show up for school. A panicked Henry raced downtown to find lines and lines of Japanese families, including Keiko’s, herded into trains for relocation farther inland. They vowed to write to each other and meet again—the war couldn’t last forever, could it? But how far will a father go to bring his son back to him and knock some sense into him? Only time would tell.

Yes, the final chapter found me reaching for a tissue; it was inevitable given the beautiful quality of the writing. Even though a novel, this story has elements of reality in the shameful way Japanese Americans were treated in the war years. It also shows the confusion that would have been felt by the Chinese living in Seattle at that time—having to say over and over again “I’m Chinese, not Japanese.” There are other themes explored here like love found and lost, a father and son torn apart by generational and political views, and an old Henry finding it hard to converse with his own son about his past.

Author Garth Stein said, “A tender and satisfying novel set in a time and a place lost forever, Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet gives us a glimpse of the damage that is caused by war—not the sweeping damage of the battlefield but the cold, cruel damage to the hearts and humanity of individual people…”

Author Jamie Ford is the great-grandson of Nevada mining pioneer Min Chung. He emigrated in 1865 from China to San Francisco where he took the Western name “Ford.” Jamie grew up near Seattle’s Chinatown and now lives with his family in Montana. Learn more about him at www.jamieford.com.

Till next time, happy reading!
219 Avondale, Long Beach

A TRUE QUALITY HOME! This beautifully redone duneside home is less than 2 blocks from Stop 21 beach. Wooded and landscaped like a nature preserve. There are 3 bedrooms with a den ideal for overnight guests or possible 4th bedroom. Also a fantastic private patio to enjoy during the summer.

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3402 Iroquois Trail, Duneland Beach

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Call Michele Cihak @ 219-861-2073

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