It was a cold, blustery March day that required a roaring fire just to keep to keep the chill bearable. Even though wind kept thoughts of spring at bay, an unmistakable midsummer chorus of frogs and toads filled the air.

Inside the large pavilion at the Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve in Chesterton, the first hints of spring were being explained by Marie Hamstra, the preserve's ecological resource specialist, to some three dozen young people and their parents.

“Awesome Amphibians” was the topic for the first of what is going to be a monthly series of outdoor education events at the 167-acre slice of nature that’s surrounded by condominiums, luxury homes and upscale shops. The preserve, which is open to the public, has 18 miles of hiking trails that stretch from County Road 1050 North all the way south to the Indiana Toll Road.

Frank Collins, the property manager, said the preserve has been around since 1999 and is open to the public. “A lot of people think this is private, which is why we do this outreach. We want people to visit.”

Besides amphibians, Collins said hikers frequently see deer, more than 90 species of birds, and at night, bats and owls.

On this day, Hamstra explained to a group of wide-eyed children why spring was such an exciting time of year.

“The second Saturday of every month, we'll do a different program on animals in the preserve,” said Hamstra. “Today, we're talking about amphibians.”

She then cheerily explained what amphibians are and what makes them different from reptiles. “I want to make sure we’re all on the right track when we talk about frogs. The neat thing about amphibians, when they are babies, is that they are tadpoles and live in the water,” said Hamstra.
Coffee Creek  Continued from Page 1

Explaining that frogs start out as eggs, she went on, “When I describe frog eggs – and this is going to sound gross – they look like a glob of snot with black dots in it.”

The kids laughed and Hamstra seemed a bit embarrassed. She asked parents that if they had a better description, she’d gladly use it.

“Toad eggs are like black lines. They look like candy rope. Salamander eggs are on vegetation in the water, and they start out like tadpoles, too.”

Hamstra apologized for not having any tadpoles to show. “It’s just a little bit too cold for tadpoles right now,” she said.

“All amphibians spend part of their life in the water. After tadpoles grow legs, they become frogs and start hopping around on land. But they have to stay near water. They have slimy skin. The reason they have slimy skin is because they live in the water and they breathe through their skin. Their skin has to be wet because if it dries out, they won’t be able to breathe.”

And that, said Hamstra, is the big difference between frogs, toads and salamanders from reptiles. Snakes have scales. Turtles have scales. Lizards have scales. They’re a class called reptiles,” she said.

Hamstra explained that Coffee Creek is a great place for frogs, toads and salamanders because there is so much water. “We don’t have the biggest frogs here and we don’t have the smallest, but we have a lot of different frogs,” said Hamstra, who brought out a salamander and a tree frog from her car to show the children.

The star of the show was the salamander that Hamstra rescued following a storm last summer.

“Salamanders are not lizards,” said Hamstra. “Salamanders don’t have scales. Do they make a sound? Salamanders are pretty quiet and secretive, but if they are trying to find a boyfriend or girlfriend, they might make a gurgle.”
“Frogs are not secretive; they make a lot of noise.”

With that, Hamstra began organizing her summer chorus. “You guys are going to become a frog chorus,” she told the children.

Picking up full-color photos of the various frog species in Coffee Creek, Hamstra began looking for volunteers.

“Who want to be a green frog? He’s one of our biggest frogs at Coffee Creek. They make a sound like a banjo. We hear them especially in the summertime.”

Next up was the Western chorus frog. “It makes a sound like rubbing combs together. They are early spring callers.”

Another early frog, said Hamstra, is the spring peeper. “They are very, very tiny little frogs. Peepers sound like peep, peep, peep.”

The next frog Hamstra explained was the cricket frog. “What do you think he sounds like? His sound is like taking marbles and clicking them together.”

Next up was the American toad. “He has warts,” said Hamstra. “Who thinks you can get warts from toads.” Hands shot up.

“I know, we’re scared to touch them, but toads do not give you warts. They do have poison in them, so don’t touch your mouth or eyes after touching a toad. That’s why animals don’t eat very many toads.

“Unfortunately, toad sounds are kind of annoying. They are loud and shrill and it’s very constant.”

Tree frogs, said Hamstra, are especially interesting because they change colors. “Why do tree frogs want to change colors from grey to green? So they don’t get eaten.” Hamstra explained that the change isn’t instantaneous, but over a day, the frog’s skin color will change.

After finding her tree frogs among the children, she gave them small bells to ring to imitate the sound of a tree frog. “It’s kind of similar to a toad, but not as annoying. You’ll hear them in the summer, not right now.”

Youngsters at the Awesome Amphibians event at the Coffee Creek Watershed in Chesterton wear their designated amphibian in preparation for the frog chorus. (Photo by Rick A. Richards)
Coffee Creek  Continued from Page 3

The biggest frog in Coffee Creek, said Hamstra, is the bullfrog. Handing a plastic microphone to her bullfrog, she told him to talk into it in a really low voice.

“Bullfrogs are really laid back. They hang out with the green frogs, who are the first to emerge.

Holding up a clear plastic case with a small, brown frog in the corner, Hamstra introduced the wood frog. “They freeze their whole body and survive in the winter. They survive up to the Arctic Circle. The wood frog makes kind of a quack.”

Next, said Hamstra, is the northern leopard frog. “It has spots and it makes a sound like running your fingers over a balloon.”

With all of the frogs introduced, the chorus began. Bells, quacks, balloons, trilling, all of the sounds of summer filled the pavilion.

It went on for a couple of minutes until Hamstra announced she would let everyone touch the salamander. Immediately a line formed but before touching the salamander, each child wet their hand so as not to dry out and irritate the salamander’s skin.

From there, Hamstra handed out small, cloth nets and led the children and their parents on a short hike to a marshy area surrounded by a wooden walkway where they looked for tadpoles and early emerging frogs.

No one found any, but it wasn’t for lack of trying. Hamstra, who studied wildlife at Purdue and previously worked at Potato Creek State Park in St. Joseph County, has been with Coffee Creek only since January. “I’m still learning my way around the preserve,” she admitted. “I’ve heard how this place comes alive in the summer and I’m looking forward to getting out in it.”

The outreach, especially with children, is one of favorite things. “I would love to do more outreach,” she said. “I really think people appreciate coming out here.”

One of those who appreciated the program was Joe Gonzalez, who brought his 5-year-old son, Merick. “He’s really interested in frogs and I thought this program would really expose him to that. When I moved out here to Chesterton from Munster, I didn’t know what Coffee Creek was all about, but after being here today, we’ll be coming back.”

Coffee Creek  Continued on Page 5
Coffee Creek Facts
Located: 178 E. Sidewalk Road, Chesterton, IN  (south of I-94 on Hwy. 49. Look for the signs on the east side of the road)
Phone: 219/926-1842
E-mail: mhamstra@jfnew.com
Upcoming Nature Hoppin’ Series Events
This environmental outreach program covers a different subject every month. Pre-registration is not necessary.
All programs start at 10 a.m.
• May 14 -- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Trash Bubbles! Learn some fascinating ways of making homemade bubblemakers
• June 11 -- Bird Bonanza. Enjoy a morning of fun activities to help you learn about birds.
• July 9 -- Coffee Creek Peek. Discover what unique critters live in the creek.
• August 13 -- Beautiful Butterflies. Learn more about our native butterflies and their unique life cycle.

Nearly three dozen parents and their children huddled in the pavilion at Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve in March to learn about amphibians. (Photo by Rick A. Richards)
It has been several years since I checked out websites whose subject is Mothers Day. As I was Googling, I thought about the subtle and not-so-subtle changes to the definition of motherhood over the decades. When Mother’s Day was established, most all mothers were at home, housekeeping, caregiving children, cooking, baking, mending, and such. Today, it’s a rare mother who stays home, since economics dictate that both parents work outside of the home. Research apparently finds mothers still doing the traditional chores despite their employment away from home, but that is changing, with more house-husbands showing up on the radar. Maybe its time to redefine Mothers’ and Fathers’ Day into something more in tune with the times.

And yet, the traditional celebrations continue, and websites help children and spouses prepare for the May event. I found a few worth mentioning this week. I also found a site dedicated to awareness of households with autistic children. That closely fits the situation I have lived with: a son who has known nothing about such holidays, nor ready to treat mom to a special day. Parents of children with autism or severe developmental disabilities don't get a break on Mother's or Father's Day. The site I found addresses that issue, and some solutions for it.

Finally, I dug up some really good CyberScribbles-like sites, but they are even better than CyberScribbles. That's because they are full of links and short on words and full of pictures and short on comments. They embody what the average internet surfer wants: shorter, quicker, easier, no-brainer fun sites. Let's look at this week's line-up.

**Do Something Nice for an Autistic Child's Mom.** (http://tinyurl.com/3gjjvvy) When I Googled Mother's Day sites, this was the first one that caught my eye. It was a little on the ironic side, especially since I am planning to volunteer to help the ranchers at Rusty's Morningstar Ranch create special occasion cards to send to their parents when I move to Arizona.

**Enchanted Learning.** (http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/mothersday/). This site is chock full of Mother's Day gift ideas, including coupon cards, a family tree (different types) short books, twig frame and easel, All projects look like they would be easy to make.

**Instructables.** (http://www.instructables.com/id/Mothers-Day/). These projects are a little more involved than the Enchanted Learning site. But if you find the Enchanted Learning site too basic, then check out this offering.

**Criggo** (www.criggo.com). If you watch David Letterman or Jay Leno, you know how much fun
Mothers hold their children’s hands for a short while, but their hearts forever. Happy Mother’s Day!

3339 LaSalle Trail • Duneland Beach $395,000
3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Home is much larger than it looks from the exterior offering 1,792 sq ft on the main level & 1,792 sq ft on the walk-out lower level. Master bedroom is two former bedrooms & could easily be converted back making 4-5 bedroom home. Large screened porch overlooks fenced yard with in-ground pool. Short walk to beach. Seller is licensed real estate agent.

24 Tryon Farm Lane • Tryon Farm $389,000
2 bedrooms plus loft, 2 baths. Cathedral ceilings & exposed beams, skylights, wide plank pine floors & screened porch. Living room with fireplace; Formal dining room. Beautifully landscaped courtyard welcomes you to the entrance. (2) 1-car garages included. Unique, environmentally friendly development located 60 miles from Chicago & 10 minutes from Lake Michigan.

110 Cottage Camp • Beachwalk $259,000
3 bedrooms, 2 baths. High ceiling, electric fireplace, granite counters & stainless appliances in kitchen. Open living room, dining & kitchen. Light bamboo flooring. Three story home with a bedroom on each floor. 4 person golf cart included offering an easy way to the beach with golf cart parking area. Community amenities include association pool, tennis courts, playground & private lake.

110 Oakdale Way • Shoreland Hills $259,000
3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Large stone fireplace, vaulted pine ceiling & beams in the living room. Bright & cheerful kitchen with stainless appliances, breakfast bar & is open to the dining area. Sliders open to back deck from master bedroom & living room. Freshly painted throughout. Two car garage with plenty of storage. Just over the dune from Lake Michigan with Shoreland Hills deeded beach rights.
LaPorte Co. Historical Society

The next meeting of the La Porte County Historical Society, Inc. will be held Tues., May 17, at the Activity Center for Older Adults, 910 State St., across from IU La Porte Hospital. This will be the Annual Spring Dinner Meeting. Social time will be from 6:00-6:30 p.m. followed by a catered dinner at 6:30 p.m. Paid dinner reservations--$9.50 per person—are required and deadline is Fri., May 13 at 4:00 p.m. Reservations may be mailed to the historical society museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., Ste. 1, La Porte, IN 46350 or by visiting the museum.

Business meeting will be at 7:15 p.m. The Annual Historian of the Year awards will be presented. These honor persons or organizations having preserved La Porte County history or are currently doing so and are a one-time award. This is the last meeting of the society for the season. The next meeting will be September 20, 2011.

Activities at the La Porte County Historical Society Museum during the month of May will be a 1940s Fashion Show, Sat., May 7, 1:00 p.m. featuring some of the historical society’s collection of vintage clothing and others owned by vintage clothing collector, Sandy Gleim.

On Saturday, May 14 at 1:00 p.m., Fern Eddy Schultz, La Porte County Historian, will present “How to Research House History.” There will be commentary by Timothy Stabosz, a member of People Engaged in Preservation (PEP). Come prepared to take notes. There will be substantial information disseminated about the methods to use and documents to search to attain your goal.

There is no charge for either event. Regular museum admissions apply. For more information about the society and its museum, phone (219) 324-6767 or visit www.laportecountyhistory.org
100 UPLAND ROAD
MICHIGAN CITY
Beyond a gated entrance, up a winding drive rests this contemporary study in symmetry. 6000 square feet of glass, concrete & steel sited for Lake Michigan views. Bonnie Meyer @ 874.2000

615 COLFAK AVENUE
MICHIGAN CITY
Come view one of the few beachfront multi units along the Southern shoreline of Lake Michigan in Indiana. 5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 1 or 2 lakefront homes. Bonnie Meyer @ 874.2000

2207 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
LONG BEACH
1 ½ story charmer rests on 2 lots overlooking Lake Michigan! Private rear access leads to rear parking, 2 car garage & renovated detached summer house. Bonnie Meyer @ 874.2000

61 SHORE DRIVE
OGDEN DUNES
Lake Michigan Beach Access is only 15 steps from the front yard of this traditional 3 story home with great lake views. Ogden Dunes is an easy commute to Chicago & South Bend via South Shore Railroad. Bonnie Meyer @ 874.2000

1613 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
LONG BEACH
Beautiful Lake Michigan view. Lots of parking along Lake Shore Drive. Decks off dining area, front of home & deck off master bedroom. Easy beach access. Tom Cofer @ 898.1983

2322 TINKERS WAY
LONG BEACH
Lake Front Retreat on beautiful Lake Claire. Stone pillars define covered entry porch, lodge design joins marvelous windows flooding living areas & mstr suite w/plenty of light! Bonnie Meyer @ 874.2000

305 BEACHWALK LANE
MICHIGAN CITY
New construction, never rented, 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, granite and all the amenities. Larry Middleton @ 874.2121 ext. 19

106 ELMWOOD DRIVE
MICHIGAN CITY
Meticulously maintained one-owner home in lovely wooded setting in Michiana Shores. Bilevel decks, gazebo, master suite w/full bath & large sitting room. Great house in great location! Katherine @ 312.656.8009

2300 LARCHMONT AVENUE
LONG BEACH
Cozy cottage on a hill just 1½ blocks off the lake & very close to the entrance of Long Beach Country Club. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath. Great Location! Pat Pawloski @ 210.9603

Each Office Independently Owned & Operated • Equal Housing Opportunity
**Tree Issues in Your Yard?**

**Hi! My name is Christian Siewert and I am a consulting arborist for the Harbor Country area. I am a certified arborist and have been caring for trees for over 20 years. We work with an environmental attitude and aim to preserve the valuable treescape in the harbor country region. Our services include:**

- Tree Pruning
- Landscape consultation
- Plant health care
- Diagnosis
- Removal and replanting

If you would like to know more about how arboriculture can enhance your property, call me for a consultation.

Christian Siewert  
Weekends phone my cell 269-586-4055

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**PNC Commencement May 16**

The Purdue University North Central 2010-2011 commencement ceremony will be Mon., May 16 at 7 p.m. in the Valparaiso University Athletics - Recreation Center, with an anticipated 386 master’s, bachelor’s or associate degrees being awarded. No tickets are necessary to attend.

The traditional commencement ceremony will feature the conferring of degrees by Purdue North Central Chancellor Dr. James B. Dworkin.

The new graduates will be welcomed to the ranks of Purdue alumni by PNC Alumni Association and PNC Advisory Board member Jeffrey L. Swan, vice president of Walsh & Kelly, Inc., a 1981 graduate.

The response on behalf of the 2010-2011 graduating class will be presented by Russell O. Wilk, of Chesterton, who is earning a Bachelor’s degree in Communication.

Following the ceremony, graduates and their guests are invited to enjoy a reception in the Hilltop Gym, located within the Athletics - Recreation Center. Refreshments will be served.

Further information about commencement can be obtained by contacting the PNC Office of the Registrar at 872-0527, ext. 5299.

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**Anne Baxter Celebration at MC Library**

**Sat., May 7, 2 p.m.**

Actress Anne Baxter was born in Michigan City on May 7, 1923. Her maternal grandfather was the renowned architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. In celebration of her birthday, the Michigan City Public Library will host a showing of her Academy Award-nominated performance in the film “All About Eve.” The film also stars Bette Davis and George Sanders and won Best Picture in 1950. In addition, LaPorte County Genealogical Society member and local genealogist Dorothy Palmer will present a program about Baxter’s life and her connections to Michigan City.

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**Page Turners Book Discussion Group**

The Page Turners book discussion group will meet from 12:00-1:00 p.m., on Tues., May 10 at LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte, to discuss The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot. This is a bestseller about a real woman whose cells were taken from her body without her knowledge and used for research. After her death, her family tries to find out why this was done. The title may be requested for check-out in regular or large print or e-book.

Everyone is welcome. There is no charge. Refreshments appropriate to the book will be served. People may bring a lunch if they wish. Phone 219/362-6156 for more information or to request signing for the hearing impaired 48 hours in advance.

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**Arboriculture** is the art and science of maintaining trees as part of a complex system in our environment. The aim is to keep a constant balance of the ecosystem in order to reduce disease and death and maintain vigor and growth.
50 Marine Drive, Marina Park South
BOAT SLIP CONDOMINIUM! Gated & Renovated riverside condo with large covered deck overlooking the water. The open design kitchen/dining/living rooms overlook a wall of glass facing the water. Complete update of the kitchen with all new appliances, cabinets and counter tops. Condo will be sold fully furnished. Well maintained grounds include walkways, pool, showers and parking.

**Priced to sell...**$199,000

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220 Arndt Street, Michigan City

**Enjoy 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths and amenities galore within walking distance to Lake Michigan.** This 2 story home offers a balcony that overlooks the living room with Pergo flooring. Ceramic flooring in kitchen & baths, fireplace, skylights, sliders to deck, large patio and beautiful landscaping are just a few special things this home has to offer. This one is a must see!

**Price Reduction $265,000**

---

140 Glidden

**Hilltop Moon Valley Lodge** with panoramic views offers over 1300 sq ft of finished space. Just 2 blocks to the beach the interior upgrading, neutral decor and wood floors will welcome you. The lower level offers a family room, bedroom & bath. Walkout basement with 2 storage rooms. Enjoy lake breezes, sunrises & sunsets. A bonus buildable lot being sold with property!

**$429,000**

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**IT’S GOOD TO BE THE QUEEN.**

And we have those little touches that will show Mom that you acknowledge her as such - with heart-shaped cakes, quarter, half or full sheet cakes, fancy lattice cherry cakes, decorated cupcakes and more. Plus our Floral Shoppe has gone all out to give you a great variety of flowers, plants and bouquets for her special day. Drop by and see what’s in store for you - and Mom.
The LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra has announced the following free concerts to be held this summer. More information at www.LCSO.net

Sun., July 17, 7 p.m. at the Michigan City Amphitheater Washington Park; Parking fees apply. Sponsored by Mayor Oberlie & the City of Michigan City

Sat., August 13, 7 p.m., downtown Valparaiso at the Central Park Amphitheater. Sponsored by IVY Tech, Mayor Costas & the City of Valparaiso.

Matthew Skoller Band (blues)
107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI
Saturday, May 7: 8 p.m. MI time
Tickets: $20/reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com

Matthew Skoller is one of Chicago’s most respected harp blowers and blues bandleaders. For the past 20 years he has played in all of Chicago's heaviest showcase venues and toured much of the world with his super tight ensembles. Deeply rooted in the tradition of the Chicago blues elders with whom he worked and studied, Skoller has developed a unique style that conjures the past while being firmly planted in the present. His blues wardrobe clothes a range of original songs whose subject matter comments on many of the issues and realities of life during this age of technology, information and upheaval. Skoller, known for his fiery and engaging performances, combines passionate harp playing and singing with original song writing and prodigious production skills. He has self-produced 4 of his cd’s and the critically acclaimed, award winning Let's Talk About Love by Lurrie Bell.

Are You an Anime Junkie?
AJACON, La Porte County Public Library’s fifth annual cosplay for teen anime junkies, will be held from 6:00-8:00 p.m., on Sat., May 7 at the main library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte. People may come dressed as their favorite anime character if they wish. Prizes will be awarded for the best costume. They will also be able to chow down on pocky and ramune.

There is no fee and registrations are not taken. For more information, please call Monica Fratena at 219/325-0875.

Anime Junkies Anonymous Meeting
High school anime addicts are invited to the monthly meeting of A.J.A. (Anime Junkies Anonymous) from 5:00-6:00 p.m., on Wed., May 11 at La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. All things anime and manga will be discussed and snacks and games will also be included.

There is no charge; registrations are not taken. For more information, phone 219-362-6156.

Free Summer Concerts
The LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra has announced the following free concerts to be held this summer. More information at www.LCSO.net

Sun., July 17, 7 p.m. at the Michigan City Amphitheater Washington Park; Parking fees apply. Sponsored by Mayor Oberlie & the City of Michigan City

Sat., August 13, 7 p.m., downtown Valparaiso at the Central Park Amphitheater. Sponsored by IVY Tech, Mayor Costas & the City of Valparaiso.
Listen Up, Ladies!

Women of all ages are invited to participate in this free event.

The Truth in Beauty:
Anti-aging Skin Care with Dermal Fillers vs. Over-the-Counter Products

Please join Ophthalmic Plastic Reconstructive and Cosmetic Surgeon, Douglas Van Putten, M.D., F.A.C.S. for this informative discussion.

Saturday, May 21, 2011
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Doors open at 9 a.m. • Educational presentation at 10 a.m.

Location:
HealthPartners • Pavilion Entrance
1225 East Coolspring Ave.
Michigan City, IN

For more information or to register please call 800-931-3322.
May Spring Uptown Walk
Friday, May 6 • 5-8 p.m.

• 101 W 2nd Street
LUBENZNIK CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Join us for an evening one-act plays by local artists in Lubeznik Center’s Hyndman Gallery. Current exhibitions include Woman as Artist, Woman as Muse; Tommy: The Material Girl; and Vintage Vogue. Arrive early to view the exhibits before the plays begin. Admission is free. Refreshments available. 219-874-4900 www.lubeznikcenter.org

• 401 Franklin
RYAN’S IRISH PUB
Great place to hang out! Have a great time at a genuine Irish Pub: Beer sampling 6:30 - 8:00 pm and a live band from 8:30 pm. 219-872-0361

• 521 Franklin
MAXINE’S RESTAURANT
Eat, Drink & Be Very Merry. Luke Pytel Blues Band 8-11 p.m. Featuring fresh Lake perch specials. 219-872-4500

• 523 Franklin
REVIVE CONSIGNMENTS
Featuring: “Large Works on Canvas by Karolyn Fraine” Offering clothing, furniture and a large selection of original artworks. 219-814-4063 www.reviveconsignments.com

• 531 Washington
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF MICHIGAN CITY
Featuring Bro. Ben Basile on the Roosevelt Pipe Organ, playing music from the upcoming summer series (4-6pm). From 6-8 pm other surprises await you. Do stop by! 219-874-8127

• 607 Franklin
WALNUT INK GALLERY
“Off the Wall, Off the Floor” curated by Kasia Kay Join us at Walnut Ink Gallery for the Opening of “Off the Wall, Off the Floor” a group exhibition of international artists. Final series of Artists Talks: Guest artist Sabina Ott, Katherine Desjardins and Claudia Hart will begin their talks at 7pm. Refreshments served. 219-879-1340 www.walnutinkgallery.com

• 613 Franklin
THREADBENDERS QUILT SHOP
Learn to quilt! Check out Michigan City’s Finest Quilt Shop – Large selection of beautiful fabrics and supplies – Quilting lessons. Refreshments served. 219-229-7854 www.threadbendersquilts.com

• 624 Franklin
URBAN SOLES, INC.
Grand Opening Celebration! Stop to celebrate the official opening of Franklin Street’s newest boutique featuring artist Patrick Skoff. Integrating edgy with classic, we offer an assortment of high-end men’s and women’s shoes. Refreshments catered by Emma’s Eats. 219-221-6508 www.urbansolesinc.com

• 624 Wabash
ARTURO’S BAKED GOODS & MORE
Come in and taste a New Menu Item: Flourless chocolate cake. Live music from 6-8 by “Box Set”. A trio performing acoustic jazz, rock and blues. Get a 15% discount to anyone bringing in a business card from one of the participating First Friday businesses. 219-874-2253 www.facebook.com/arturobakes

• 701 Franklin
ARTISTIC FURNITURE AND CREATIVE PAINTINGS
You Dream It, I’ll Paint It. Pick a piece of furniture and have it transformed into something really special with Lisa's artistic talent. 760-917-3119 www.LisaRene.net

• 724 Franklin
SOUTHERN SHORE ART ASSOCIATION
“Wings of Spring” Member show. Spring is finally coming alive with works by our diverse group of members of all ages, backgrounds and talents, each asked to interpret “spring” in their own unique way. This is a multi-faceted show of spring-inspired paintings, photographs, sculpture and more. Appetizers and refreshments served. 219-879-4980 www.SouthernShoreArtAssociation.com

• 726 Franklin
PRINCE GALLERY
An eclectic collection of fine art Original paintings from traditional to contemporary, prints, sculpture, jewelry and much more. Refreshments served. 219-879-8523

• 813 Franklin
dh2w ARCHITECTURE-PLANNING
Have a look at the gallery wall of photos from the portfolio of dh2w: photos of our favorite projects. A video of “what not to do” when it comes to the subject of building will be available for viewing in our office. Also view some of John Schaaf’s watercolor work. Refreshments served. 219-872-9406 www.dh2w.com

• 827 Franklin
LAKESIDE GALLERY WEST
Contemporary Art. New show featuring two Michigan City artists: Carol Block (mixed media photography) and Michelle Wiser (textiles). Small bites and refreshments served. 219-363-2750 www.lakesidegalleries.com

• 912 Franklin
THE FRAMING STATION
Few house designs can match the coziness of a log house. The logs outside blend right into the woods. The logs inside seem to embrace you with coolness in the summer and warmth in the winter. Pictured is the enclosed heated porch. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, log with a full walkout basement, which can provide additional living space.

80 acre Clear Lake just down the street for water activities.

$314,900

This is a child friendly, happy house. The screen porch and 2 decks extend the house to the outdoors. There is a “secret loft” just the right size for the younger members of the family. Gather in the kitchen, relax in the living room by the fire, all the while light streams into the rooms through the skylights. Lake Michigan access is located .5 mile walk or drive and park with permit.

$329,000

Soft modernist home with exterior galvalume corrugated metal that is maintenance free and reflects the seasons. The picture windows throughout the house create living photos of the outdoors. 3 bedrooms, den/bedroom, office nook, 2 baths. The master bath has 2 water closets, 2 separate vanities, a 6’ shower with 2 shower heads and a soaking tub. 2 story gazebo accommodates an outdoor dining room on level 1 and a summer bedroom on level 2. 2 car detached garage. All within .5 mile of Lake Michigan.

$574,000

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS - NOTICE TO POETS

The Village of Three Oaks is seeking submissions of original poetry for selection to appoint the official position of Poet Laureate for the Village of Three Oaks.

Upon selection and appointment, the Poet Laureate will be awarded a $500 Honorarium and will hold the position for the calendar year 2011. Submissions of (3-5) original poems should be made to:

Poetry Board of Three Oaks
c/o Acorn Theater
107 Generations Dr • Three Oaks, MI 49128

Submission deadline is May 15, 2011 and must include:
Name, Address, & Telephone Number.

The poetry board will reserve the right to publish the submitted works.
Free Computer Classes at Library

Technology classes will be held on Thursdays, May 12 and 26 at La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. There is no charge, but registration by phoning 219/362-6156, ext. 312, or visiting the Information Desk, is necessary because space is limited. Following is the schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
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<td>Explore the Past</td>
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2 BigHearts 5K Run/Walk

The 2 BigHearts Foundation, in conjunction with the La Porte Hospital Foundation, invites the public to the 7th Annual 5K Run/Non-Competitive Walk on Sat., May 28.

Proceeds from the event benefit the 2 BigHearts Foundation, an organization devoted to increasing awareness of heart disease in women.

The event will be held at the Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail. The scenic course is diverse and hilly, and includes a stretch along Lake Michigan as well as the Long Beach Country Club golf course.

To register online, visit 2bighearts.org. Registration at the event runs from 7-8:30 a.m. The run/walk begins at 9 a.m.

Staff from Indiana University Health La Porte Heart & Vascular Center will be on hand for those with any questions. Free blood pressure screenings also will be available to those interested.

Costs are $25 if pre-registered before May 28, including T-shirt; $20 if pre-registered before May 28, not including T-shirt; $30 if registered after May 28, including T-shirt; $25 if registered after May 28, not including T-shirt. A $5 discount is available for Calumet Striders Gold Cup runners who register before May 28.

Awards include overall and masters division male and female winners. Prizes by age group per Calumet Striders Gold Cup Race Series will be awarded as well.

The 2 BigHearts Foundation was established by Jim Clarke, whose wife Gigi, 44, and sister-in-law Sally Czechanski, 49, died on the same day, June 25, 2004, following heart attacks. Both women suffered from previously undiagnosed cardiomyopathy or enlargement of the heart muscle. The Foundation has since raised awareness of heart disease in women and provides much-needed heart screenings to women, free of charge. To date, the Foundation has arranged for more than 1,000 women to receive free heart screenings, in part with IU Health La Porte Hospital through the La Porte Hospital Foundation. For more information, visit www.2bighearts.org

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News from Village Green

Village Green Neighborhood Association (Michigan City) is pleased to announce it is partnering with Beachside Gardens, 3725 E. Highway 12, in beautifying the Village Green neighborhood.

From May 1 to May 8 anyone who wants to help can purchase flowers, plants, or miscellaneous items from Beachside Gardens, and 20 percent of the total purchases made with provided coupons will be used to spend on flowers/plants for Village Green.

The only requirement to assist with this beautification project is to make sure you use coupons issued by Amy Wojasinski-Labis who can be reached at 872-1921.

George V. Neagu, President, stated: “We hope that gradually, as we can pay for the plants, that Village Green will become a major attraction to drive through for anyone to enjoy the beautiful plants.

“Based on sales last year at Beachside Gardens we believe we can reach our goal. Laura Kalk, Manager of Beachside Gardens, has helped with flower and plant design consultation. We are excited about what this could mean to Michigan City. I urge the public to call Amy for information and coupons.”

4th Annual Spring Tasting in Valpo

For 11 years Housing Opportunities, Inc. has served the homeless and those at-risk of homelessness in both Porter and LaPorte Counties. Today, HOI has 122 apartments and a team of caseworkers and counselors that are working to end and prevent homelessness altogether.

Join Housing Opportunities, Inc. and sponsors Triangle Liquors and Trail Inn Liquors of Valparaiso for the 4th Annual Spring Tasting on May 14, 6-9:30 p.m., at the Old Town Banquet Center, 711 Calumet Ave., Valparaiso. Enjoy the best of wines, beers, and spirits, along with an auction and door prize. Tickets are $40 each or $75 a couple, and can be purchased at the new headquarters for Housing Opportunities, Inc. at 2001 Calumet Ave., Valparaiso, or at Triangle Liquors or Trail Inn Liquors in Valparaiso. Tickets will be $50 each on May 14th.

Any questions? Contact Kevin Feldman, Housing Opportunities, Inc. at (219) 252-5379 or visit www.housing-opportunities.com

AAUW May Meeting

The Michigan City Branch of American Association of University Women will meet at 5 p.m., Mon., May 9, at the Michigan City Public Library meeting room for a catered banquet. Speaker for the evening is Jeneane Webster on “Summer Reading Choices.”

Membership is open to associate or baccalaureate graduates of accredited colleges and universities. Phone Melinda Nagle for more info at 872-1217.
2 BigHearts Foundation

5K Run/Walk
Sponsored by La Porte Regional Health System
Saturday, May 28, 2011
2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach, IN
9 a.m. (CST)

Event to raise awareness of heart disease in women and support the 2 BigHearts Foundation.
Everyone is welcome. Sign up today!
For information and registration, visit www.2bighearts.org.

Proceeds benefit the 2 BigHearts Foundation, dedicated to increasing awareness and education of heart disease in women.
This Weekend at Fernwood

National Public Gardens Day
Non-members can enjoy free admission to Fernwood on National Public Gardens Day, Fri., May 6, compliments of Better Homes and Gardens magazine, the American Public Gardens Association, and Fernwood. To get your free admission coupon, look in the May issue of Better Homes and Gardens or go online to www.bhg.com

Spring Garden Sale
The 2011 Spring Plant Sale runs from Fri., May 6, through Sun., May 8. Enjoy shopping for plants in a beautiful garden setting where new and rare plant varieties can be found among old favorites. In addition to Fernwood-grown plants, this spring’s sale will feature items and gardening advice from local vendors and plant societies. Fernwood membership discounts apply to most items and admission to the sale is free.

Opening Weekend for the Railway Garden
Fri., May 6, is the opening of Fernwood's popular Railway Garden for the season. This year’s theme is Roadside Attractions and features 14 whimsical buildings made of natural materials by Applied Imagination.

WAUS Second Sunday Concert
WAUS Second Sunday Concerts return on Sun., May 8 with harpist Rachel Miller. The concert is from 4-5 p.m. MI time, and admission is free beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve is located at 13988 Range Line Rd., Niles, MI. Phone: 269-695.6491; web: www.fernwoodbotanical.org or e-mail: info@fernwoodbotanical.org

Computer Training Series Continues
“Bits and Bytes” will continue Wed., May 19 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Westchester Public Library with “Internet and Safety.” Attendees will meet in the Bertha Wood meeting room on the second floor of Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. The class is free, but registration is required as computer stations are limited to 15. Visit or phone the library to register, or register online at www.wpl.lib.in.us; click on the Bits and Bytes link.

The Internet and Safety class will cover Internet basics such as types of Internet access, bandwidth, modems, browsers and ISP's. Attendees will also learn to customize their browser, use the Favorites, History and Search features, set up an email account and download files and programs.

The class will also cover password protection, safety on the Internet, and how to avoid scams, spoofs and viruses. Attendees will learn about cookies, how to conduct a secure transaction, and antivirus software as well.

Phone 219/926-7696 for more information.
May 5, 2011 Page 21

The Beacher

Marquette Catholic High School
Celebrating 125 Years

2011 Summer Fundamental Camps

BOYS’ & GIRLS’
BASKETBALL CAMP
Ages: 10-18
Date: June 13 - 17
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: Scholl Center Gymnasium
Directed by: Donovan Garletts
(MQT’s Head Boys’ Basketball Coach)
Featuring: Cliff Levingston, Chicago Bulls, NBA Champion
Cost: $110.00

Donovan Garletts just completed his first season as Head Men’s Basketball Coach at Marquette Catholic High School. Garletts has coached at the high school level and on the national AAU circuit. Prior to coming to Marquette, Garletts was an assistant men’s basketball coach at Bloomington South High School. During his three years there, 2006-2009, South compiled a 66-7 record. Garletts also coached for Indiana Elite, a nationally recognized travel basketball program. In 2008, his 16U team won two national tournaments and were runners-up in three others.

VOLLEYBALL CAMP
Ages: K - 8th Grade
Date: July 18 - 22
Time: 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Location: Scholl Center Gymnasium
Directed by: Troy Campbell
(MQT’s Head Volleyball Coach)
Cost: $50.00/camper & $40.00/sibling camper

Troy Campbell has been the coach for the Blazers for the past 8 ears. In that time he has amassed an overall record of 245-61, with a record of 49-2 in State tournament play. He coached 6 straight State Championships from 2004-2009. Coach Campbell has received several coaching awards including 2009 National Coach of the Year, State Coach of the Year, and has been named News Dispatch Coach of the Year each of his seven years. Along with coaching at Marquette, Coach Campbell has worked with the Dunes volleyball organization since 1995.

BOYS’ & GIRLS’
TENNIS CAMP
Ages: K- 8th Grade
Date: July 25 - July 29
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Location: Ripley Street Tennis Courts
Directed by: Ray Silvas
(MQT’s Head Boys’ & Girls’ Tennis Coach)
Cost: $50.00/camper & $40.00/sibling camper

Raymond Silvas has coached at Marquette Catholic High School since the fall of 2008. He is a United States Professional Tennis Association Developmental Coach. In addition, he is also a tennis instructor at the Northwest Athletic Club in Michigan City. His experience over the years has led him to coach all age groups, from the very young to our Varsity squads. His greatest accomplishment is his Community Tennis Association which is also known as the MC Tennis Club. It provides tennis programs throughout the year for low-income children who otherwise could not afford to play and learn tennis. “I enjoy the fun and challenges that each group brings. My greatest passion is to teach tennis as a sport of a lifetime and a way to increase people’s level of fitness.”

Registration: (Individual Form Per Camper)
Circle Camp(s): Basketball Tennis Volleyball
Camper Name:______________________________
Age:___ Grade:_____ School:_________________
Camper Address:__________________________________________
T-Shirt Size: (circle one)
Youth S Youth M Youth L Youth XL Adult S Adult M Adult L Adult XL
Sibling: Yes No
Name:__________________________________________
Parent Name:____________________________________
Parent Email:_____________________________________
Emergency Contact Number:__________________________

Please fill out the registration box and return to:
Marquette Catholic High School
Attn: Athletics
306 West Tenth Street
Michigan City, IN 46360
Make checks payable to:
Marquette Catholic High School
How to Throw a Royal Wedding Party Long Distance

One group of Long Beachers got up before dawn on April 29 to participate in the wedding of England’s Prince William and Kate Middleton (via cable tv, of course!). Here are some photos of the elegant group dressed in their wedding finery.

[Images of people at a Royal Wedding party]

Not to be outdone by British millinery, Marci Meyer and Beverly Battle pose in front of the Battle’s fireplace mantle that featured Princess Diana fashion dolls and Beanie Babies, along with memorabilia photo books from Charles & Diana’s wedding.

Her Royal Highness, aka Royal Wedding Hostess Beverly Battle, and Prince Jerry.

Jan Werner, Lis Slattery, Nancy Henry, Roseann Costello & Elizabeth Greene were among the 4:45 a.m. arrivals at the Battle home to watch the Royal Wedding festivities live from London.


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Dear Prospective Students,

I would like you to choose Marquette Catholic High School for your secondary education. Why? That’s an easy question to answer. For the past 125 years Marquette Catholic has stressed excellence in education, along with providing sound religious and moral training.

At Marquette, all students are special people. Each one is respected as an individual and is considered an important member of the school’s family. Marquette truly cares about the young people entrusted to it.

As a teacher at Marquette Catholic I see on a daily basis what a special place it is. What makes Marquette so special are the kids. In my opinion they are the best. It is a joy knowing them and teaching them.

I honestly consider it a privilege and an honor to teach at Marquette Catholic. I do not take this for granted. I love my job. I invite you to choose Marquette Catholic. A Marquette education is indeed something special.

Here are some facts about Marquette you might find interesting:

• 100% of our seniors have been accepted to college.
• Our 49 seniors have been accepted to 51 different colleges and universities.
• 47% of our seniors will earn the State of Indiana’s Honors diploma.
• 47% of our seniors will graduate with honors distinction with a 3.0 cumulative grade point average or higher.
• 31% of our seniors are members of the National Honor Society (3.7 cumulative grade point average or higher.)
• 70% of our seniors have successfully completed at least one dual credit (high school/college) course. Those seniors have earned a total of 519 college credits while at Marquette.
• 100% of our students take the SAT or ACT.
• 100% of our students attend weekly Mass.
• Our 49 seniors have completed 8,500 hours of community service during their time at Marquette.

Pretty impressive, isn’t it? Feel free to contact me at school if you have any questions. My email address is dschaefer@marquette-hs.org.

Sincerely,

Mr. Schaefer
La Lumiere School’s Fifth Annual Service Trip to Nicaragua

For many, spring break is an opportunity to travel south for a little sun and fun. For a fifth consecutive year, a group of La Lumiere students chose to head a little further south, to Nicaragua, on a service trip to assist the Fabretto Children’s Foundation. The Fabretto Children’s Foundation enables impoverished Nicaraguan children and their families to break the cycle of poverty and reach their full potential through programs promoting education, nutrition, health, and community development. In a country where almost half of the population lives on less than a $1 a day, and 80% live on less than $2, Fabretto provides a beacon of light for those in need.

While in Nicaragua, the La Lumiere students focused their efforts on improving the facilities of the school founded and supported by the Fabretto Foundation in the region of Cusmapa. The Cusmapa center provides education and after school activities for 2,200 children. It is common for a Nicaraguan child to receive only one complete meal each day, and it is typically provided by their school. Over the years, La Lumiere students have planted several school gardens to ensure that the Fabretto children receive a balance diet. This year, the students expanded a garden planted by previous La Lumiere visitors.

Jessica Ann Murray, Michigan City; Rebecca Kilcoyne, La Porte; Daisy Costello, Chesterton; Allie Sarwark, Burr Ridge, IL; Shubhra Murarka, La Porte; Anulé (Joy) Ndukwu, Chesterton; McKenna Sklut, Chesterton; Patrick Kennedy (faculty); Evan Schrauben, Canton, MI; Jin-uk (Tim) Heo, Korea; Jonathon Miltmenberger, Michigan City; Conor Luck, La Porte; John Lake, La Porte; Jim Caplice, Michigan City; and Katie Huss (faculty).

Shubhra Murarka, a junior from La Porte said, “It was great to see the thriving garden planted by our group two years ago and to know that the little patch of dirt we were tilling would one day provide food for the Fabretto students.”

In addition to clearing land and planting a garden, the La Lumiere students started the construction of a new classroom building. Due to the remote location of the school and the total lack of modern tools or equipment, the construction proved to be very difficult.
Building supplies, such as bricks and mortar, had to be hauled up the hill by hand. “There was not a power tool in sight – if we had access to the tools found in a typical garage in the US we could have constructed three classrooms in the time it took to frame one,” commented Conor Luck of La Porte, a second year veteran volunteer.

At the end of a long day of hard labor, the La Lumiere students were surprised to find that they had energy left to entertain the Fabretto school children. In fact, many students feel that the time they spent playing with the Nicaraguan children created their most treasured memories. The La Lumiere students delivered sports equipment and arts and craft supplies donated by the La Lumiere community to the children. Jessica Ann Murray, a senior from Michigan City, was moved by the children who had so little, “It was amazing to see how grateful the children were for such simple gifts.”

The following students traveled to Nicaragua; Jessica Ann Murray, Michigan City; Rebecca Kilcoyne, La Porte; Daisy Costello, Chesterton; Allie Sarwark, Burr Ridge, IL; Shubhra Murarka, La Porte; Anulé (Joy) Ndukwu, Chesterton; McKenna Sklut, Chesterton; Patrick Kennedy (faculty); Evan Schrauben, Canton, MI; Jin-uk (Tim) Heo, Korea; Jonathon Miltenberger, Michigan City; Conor Luck, La Porte; John Lake, La Porte; Jim Caplice, Michigan City; and Katie Huss (faculty).
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**1940’s Fashion Show at Museum**

The next event to go along with “Life in America: The 1940’s” ongoing display at the La Porte County Historical Society Museum will be a Fashion Show featuring styles of clothing from that decade. The Fashion Show will be held on Sat., May 7th at 1 p.m. in the lower level of the museum.

The Historical Society’s own collection of vintage clothing will be worn, as well as some clothing from the collection of Sandy Gleim, director of Healthy Communities of La Porte County. Suits, a wedding gown, prom dresses, hats, and other accessories will all be shown. Models for the afternoon will include County Historian Fern Eddy Schultz, Sandy Gleim, and Hoosier Star finalist, India Potter.

There will be light refreshments served in the meeting room which has been decorated as a WWII canteen. A free-will offering for the food may be given. The museum is located at 2405 Indiana Ave. in La Porte. There is no charge for the program; however, regular museum admission applies. The building is handicapped accessible. Check the website at www.laportecountyhistory.org for admission prices.

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**AARP Driver’s Safety Course**

**Friday, May 13, 9:15 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

The AARP Driver Safety Program will be offered at the Michigan City Public Library. This is a refresher course that can help you learn the effects of aging on driving and how you can adjust your reactions. Available in a 5-hour, one-day program, you may earn an insurance rate discount (check with your insurance company) by taking this course designed for drivers over 55. The fee is $12 for members and $14 for non-members. Please bring your AARP card with you. Phone 873-3049 to register.

---

**Mother’s Day at Washington Park Zoo**

On Sun., May 8, mothers and grandmothers will receive free admission to Michigan City’s Washington Park Zoo with the paid admission of a child. The zoo will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (gates close at 3 p.m.).
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John Vail has never given up on Michigan City. In the 1960s, he served on the City Council and Plan Commission, and he still advocates for plans presented back then: the extension of Woodland Avenue north, to the lake; the relocation of the South Shore Railroad tracks, to run parallel to Amtrak, on elevated bridges at the city’s north end. He dreams of bicycle trails, another alternative form of transportation.

John Vail and his wife of 52 years, Jean Robinson Vail (1918-2006), worked together at an Exchange Club event in Washington Park. At home in Michigan City, John Vail points out his travel destinations on a large wall map, a birthday gift from lady friend Shirley Caylor.

Though Vail travels the world over, Michigan City has been his home for 89 years; and his voice is still heard in discussions of civic betterment. Last weekend, he was honored by the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce, in recognition of “a lifetime of service to Michigan City.” For 30 years, he owned and operated hobby/toy stores, in four locations on Franklin Street and then at Marquette Mall. For longer than that, he took part in organizations that sponsored youth activities and fellowship – the Exchange Club, Boys and Girls Club, Elite/MLK Youth Center, Urban Enterprise Association, and many others. Following in the footsteps of his bank president-father, William Vail, he also put in many years on the Michigan City Library Board – and then sponsored a sculpture for the library’s courtyard.

John Vail’s entrepreneurial skills were honed during his teenage years, when he and three buddies formed a “corporation” to raise chickens and sell chicken products. This project took place on the homestead-pasture-farm the Vail family occupied, along Coolspring Avenue. During the Depression, the Vails grew vegetables and berries on their four-acre property, and John speaks nostalgically of the gooseberry patch and latticed grape arbor, the experiences of making their own root beer and apple cider, the hand-pumped water in the kitchen, the Boy Scout adventures and songs around a campfire. He learned to ski on the Long Beach dunes, and this...
The lure of the open road, then as now, exerted the strongest influence. At age 18, John made his way out West by hitchhiking and riding the rails. It was the first adventure of a travel-filled life that eventually extended to many world capitals – Athens, Istanbul, London, Prague, Warsaw, Bangkok, Tokyo, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro. He has been to Russia and Panama, India and Kenya, Egypt and Israel, Madagascar, Hawaii, Samoa and Fiji. Two years ago he went to Turkey, and last year to Sicily. Christmas was spent in Hawaii with his son Morgan and two grandsons, who now live in Alaska. In September, he will travel to Spain, his first trip to the Costa Brava.

One year, John took up an Amtrak offer for a 21-day trip with unlimited stopovers, for $176. As he sat in a hotel room in Aspen, he began to describe the landscape out his window, thus launching the travel chapters of his memoirs. Though sometimes captivated by sights and scenery, John most often focuses on the people he meets along the way: the artists, the entertainers, the fishermen; the “saints and sinners, society nabobs and hard-scrabble habitues” of New Orleans’ French Quarter. The highlight of an Elderhostel trip to Michoacan was the opportunity for him and his wife, Jean, to live with a Mexican family for a week, and to join in their daily activities.

The confident and trusting nature of this modern-day traveler, meeting the challenges of getting to the train on time, translating foreign lan guage signs, the landscapes of Europe, and calling home from the dunes of Long Beach.

A 1949 Citroen, purchased straight from the factory for $1,125. (US dollars) took John Vail and friends around post-war Europe in style and comfort.

Skiing in the Swiss Alps, a youthful John Vail recalled his early ski lessons in the dunes of Long Beach.

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John Vail  Continued from Page 29

asking for directions, dealing with the frustrations of being lost, or late, out of money, or broken down by the highway – facing such perils becomes all the more remarkable when one is reminded that John, a U.S. Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient, is functioning with a 65 per cent visual disability. He was injured by a German rifle grenade in World War II, while serving on guard duty Christmas Eve, 1944. The explosion occurred just south of Bologna, Italy. It severed the optic nerve in his right eye, and his left eye was also damaged.

John does not dwell on the limitations imposed by his injury. Rather, he speaks fondly of the nurses and doctors who treated him in Italy and in the states, the “atmosphere of camaraderie and fun” that prevailed at Valley Forge General Hospital in Pennsylvania, the friends he kept in touch with. On one trip back to Europe, he rejoined a caseworker whose extraordinary clientele consisted of refugees – blind, bi-racial, orphaned and homeless. “This heterogeneous distillate of war-torn Europe, pitifully bound together by their common affliction,” had just been granted asylum in Norway.

Whether traveling alone or with a companion, John perfected his techniques for striking up conversations with strangers – in dining cars or bus stations, at conferences or social events. He never failed to appreciate a pretty face, exotic perfume, dramatic clothing, a well-turned ankle, or a well-turned phrase.

Today, he lives in a Michigan City townhome, with son Andrew, and continues writing, both fact and fiction. He has a TV series in the works, about the survivors of a plane crash and how they live out their remaining lives. An excerpt from this series is included in his Memoirs. He is also writing a history of African-Americans in Michigan City, and takes pride in the fact that his hobby store employed the first black retail clerk on Franklin Street.

“Michigan City is a dynamic town, with a lot going for it,” he says. “During the Depression, we had a neighborhood strength that is gone. People walked everywhere; they didn’t have cars; every two or three blocks there was a corner grocery store, which was a kind of social center. We could ride the South Shore into Chicago in less time than it takes now. But still, this is a town with a lot of heart and a lot of promise.”

A copy of John’s Memoirs, “Fully Invested,” is being bound, for the Indiana Room at the Michigan City Public Library. Copies will also be available for sale, through the Friends of the Library.

Chamber of Commerce Awards

At its annual membership dinner, the Michigan City Chamber of Commerce honored Jeannine Fekete, branch manager of INOVA Federal Credit Union, as 2010 Ambassador of the Year; and realtor Micky Gallas, outgoing board member, for her two terms on the Chamber Board. Milestone Awards were presented to local businesses celebrating 30 years of membership, and Legacy Awards to members who had been in the same family for two or more generations.

Newcomb Printing was honored with a Legacy Award, and for its 35 years of membership. Al Hoodwin received the award presented to Michigan City Paper Box Co., the city’s oldest private manufacturer. Chamber of Commerce President Ann Dahm presented John Vail with the 2011 President’s Award, for “a lifetime of service” to Michigan City.

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**New Growers Markets in Michigan**

Shoppers can enjoy fresh local produce, meats, eggs, flowers, home made foods and more at new markets Tuesdays in the parking lot of Café Soe in Sawyer, MI and Saturdays in front of the Harbert Community Park on Red Arrow Highway in Harbert, MI. Sponsored by Shore of Plenty, the markets will begin Tues., May 3 and Sat. May 7 and run through the end of October.

In addition to food items there will be periodic special services and events at the markets. The Tuesday market will have on site knife sharpening on May 17. At the Saturday market there will be a children’s painting project May 14 and a children’s planting project on Memorial Day weekend, May 28. On May 21st the River Valley Garden Club will hold their annual plant sale at the market.

Updated information about what will be available at markets and upcoming activities will be available at the Shore of Plenty site, shoreofplenty.com

Tuesday market hours are 5-7:30 p.m. MI time. Additional parking is available in the Tony’s Dinner parking lot next to Café Soe. Saturday market hours are 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Shore of Plenty is a group of farmers, diners and chefs who seek to create a community that supports environmentally and socially responsible food production for a local economy.

**Zoo Society 2nd Annual Golf Outing**

The Washington Park Zoo Society’s 2nd Annual Golf Outing benefiting Washington Park Zoo’s Discovery Center will be held Fri., June 3rd with an 11 a.m. shot gun start at Michigan City Municipal Golf Course.

All proceeds will support improvements and renovations of exhibits. Plan on a great round of golf, which includes the use of a cart and snacks. A silent auction will also be held at the event. Individual round is $75, a foursome is $300 and tee sign sponsorship is $100. RSVP no later than May 27. For individual and foursome reservations or sponsorship information, contact Julie Wozniak at 219.873.1425 or wpzoosociety@hotmail.com

**Maple City Word Crafters**

The Maple City Word Crafters will meet from 5:30-8:00 p.m., on Thursdays, May 12 and 26 at La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte. This is a group for amateur writers who want to improve their writing of any kind such as novels, short stories, poetry, and non-fiction, and perhaps get it published.

There is no charge or registration. For more information, or to request signing for the hearing impaired 24 hrs. in advance, phone 219/362-6156.
Mother’s Day - May 8, 2011

Where would we be without our mother? She gave us life, fed and clothed us, and sent us on our way with many words of wisdom, like these...

- “Always change your underwear because you never know when you’ll have an accident and have to go to the hospital.”
- “Don’t make that face or it’ll freeze in that position!”
- Be careful or you’ll put your eye out.”
- “What if everyone jumped off a cliff? Would you do it, too?”
- “You have enough dirt behind those ears to grow potatoes!”
- “Close that door! Were you born in a barn?”
- “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.”
- “Don’t put that in your mouth—you don’t know where it’s been!”

And just when you think you’re all grown up, and your own person, you hear those same words of wisdom coming out of your mouth and into the ears of your children—am I right?!

That’s when you shout to the universe -- “I’ve become my mother!” And maybe that’s the way it’s supposed to be -- the wondrous cycle of life, from child to woman to mother, and oh, have you noticed how much wiser our mothers become as we grow older?

Blessings and Happy Day to all mothers everywhere!

----Sally Carpenter, editor

M - is for the million things she gave me,
O - means only that she’s growing old,
T - is for the tears she shed to save me,
H - is for her heart of purest gold;
E - is for her eyes, with love-light shining,
R - means right, and right she’ll always be.
Put them all together, they spell “MOTHER,”
A word that means the world to me.

----Howard Johnson (c.1915)
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8th Annual Samaritan Skedaddle

Families, businesses, friends and athletes gathered, Saturday, April 30, for the eighth Annual Skedaddle Run/Walk event to support the Samaritan Counseling Center of Michigan City. Here’s a quick peek at the event.

----photo story by Janet Baines
Happy Mothers Every Day!

**Hydrangeas, Tulips, Pansies, Lilies, Hyacinths, Gerbera Daisies,**

**Florist Azaleas, Accent Annuals, Vegetable and Herb Plants**

### Fresh Produce Daily

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red, Yellow and Orange Bell Peppers</td>
<td>2 for $4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole or Sliced Baby Bella Mushrooms</td>
<td>2 for $4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumbo Vidalia Onions</td>
<td>69¢ LB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantaloupes</td>
<td>$2.49 EA.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asparagus</td>
<td>$2.99 LB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limes</td>
<td>39¢ EA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Asparagus Coming Soon!</td>
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### Gourmet Foods

#### Hot Buy!

**Save $3 on 2**

Alouette Garlic and Herb Cheese Spread

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chiquita Juice Cocktails 59 OZ.</td>
<td>$2.99 EA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholey Tail-On Cooked Shrimp 31/40 Peeled and Deveined 1 LB. Bag</td>
<td>$5.99 EA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC Bundt Cream Cakes 30 OZ. Assorted Flavors</td>
<td>$4.99 EA.</td>
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### Everything Beautiful for that Special Mom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant</th>
<th>Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geraniums</td>
<td>Bedding Plants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knockout</td>
<td>Combination Planters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy Elegance</td>
<td>Window Boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid Teas</td>
<td>Roses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climbing Roses</td>
<td>Perennials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery Stock</td>
<td>Hydrangea Shrubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endless Summer</td>
<td>Limelight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annabelle</td>
<td>Twist-N-Shout</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Travels with Charley:  
Keeping the “Dream” Alive and on the Drive

by Charles McKelvy

Since so many of my “Travels with Charley” features in The Beacher have featured the certified-used 1997 white Honda Civic, four-door with 40,800 miles we purchased with financial finesse on April 26, 2001, I wanted to take this opportunity to tell Dream Car: “Thanks. Hang in there, old Honda!”

We took Dream Car to Classic Imports in New Buffalo for some serious servicing at 266,849 miles on April 7, and we thus learned that our honorable Honda, which is still logging a respectable 32-miles per gallon, has a good 30,000 miles to go before we go looking for a “new-used car” with which to replace her.

Dream Car got a new air filter and drive belts yesterday, and she had a pleasurable pedicure in that they rotated her relatively new tires and changed her oil.

Whilst examining Dream Car on the lift, the expert technicians at Classic Imports discovered that her exhaust system is in need of help, and so we will take her back in next week for a new fitting at the “donut.” If you’re a mechanic, you know whereof I write, but, if like me you are wretched with a socket wrench, then just know that all will be well with our heavenly Honda’s exhaust by the end of business hours on Monday, April 11.

Oh, and we also have to take Dream Car in for a new timing belt and seal. At her advanced age, she cannot be blamed for beginning to “throw” oil on the timing belt.

We suggested to our friends at Classic Imports that we just pull out our handy roll of white duct tape and effect a repair or two under the hood, but they laughingly suggested we restrict use of said tape to external body work.

Yes, taking a cue from a friend who applied red duct tape to rust spots on his red car, we bought a roll of white duct tape and began applying it to the unsightly blemishes, which are beginning to break out in Dream Car’s more delicate areas. The relentless rust is afoot in Dream Car’s body, but we’re applying the 10-foot rule with the old duct tape.

Ten-foot rule?
Come on: the car looks great from 10 feet away.
It’s working for now, and, for now, Dream Car is ready, willing and capable of rolling out another reliable 30,000 miles of mainly highway and rural back road driving for us as we actively pursue the notion that “all travel is local.”

And, yes, the old girl performed magnificently this past winter, and it was a doozy. She never got stuck, and she got us where we needed to go in warmth, comfort, and duct-taped style.
Sculptor John Sauve Exhibit

The Anna Russo-Sieber Gallery is exhibiting the Sculptures of John Sauve with an opening reception on Fri., May 6, from 6--9 p.m. MI time. John is a public artist and is also a filmmaker. He has curated public sculpture for many sculpture/public art exhibit in New York, Chicago, Detroit area and Brighten, Michigan. He has worked in public arts consulting, managing as well as curating public art for the past several years. John holds degrees from Michigan State University, a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing and Art History, and a Masters degree of Arts in College and University Administration.

He has taught for Kendall College, and community colleges throughout eastern Michigan teaching humanities. John has also worked with the Boys and Girls Club of Oakland County and raised over 6,000 dollars to establish a childrens sculpture exhibit in downtown Royal Oaks installing 20 sculptures as well as leading them in their sculpture creations.

John also hosts a television show called “Art and Design”, a weekly show on the arts in the midwest. He interviews artists, musicians, writers, and filmmakers since 2003-present. He is currently exhibiting his sculpture in ART CHICAGO.

John’s pieces for the ARS Gallery exhibit will be inside and outside of the gallery, showing through June 22.

For more information contact: Anna Russo-Sieber at 269-208-4409, for gallery hours and to see more visit www.annarussoart.com, e-mail arsieber@sbcglobal.net, find Anna Russo-Sieber on FB, and at 147 Fifth St., Benton Harbor Arts District, Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Annual Riversong Concert for Women

Six women musicians will take the stage at the Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., in St. Joseph, MI at 8 p.m. on Sat., May 7th. Sponsored by Riversong Music Society, this annual concert is planned to coincide with Mother’s Day weekend and to feature music that speaks to women of all ages... and to the men in their lives.

Yvonne Blasy, Pamela Chappell, Mary Czarnecki, Sandy Feldman, Marnie Heyn, and Beverly Smith will perform individually and in ensemble, providing a vast array of musical experiences. There will be poignant story songs, lush harmonies, a sprinkling of humor, and lots of opportunities for audience participation. The concert will showcase not only the remarkable voices of these Women of Riversong, but also their significant talents on guitar, banjo, and violin.

Admission for the Women of Riversong concert is $8 for adults and $6 for seniors and students. Children 12 and under will be admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

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the Beacher Business Printers
The Fourth annual Door Prairie Duathlon will be held on May 15, at the Beautiful Silver Lake Farms in Rolling Prairie, Indiana. Located about 20 mile west of South Bend, the race provides a unique blend of cross country running and a smoothly paved bike course throughout the country roads in Northern Indiana. All proceeds go to benefit Christian education in La Porte, Indiana.

Market Manager Ruth Deutscher indicates that many favorite market vendors are returning to the market this year and local not-for-profit groups will conduct weekly bake sales. Among the vendors returning are Burek Farms, Cyrano's Bistro, Vicini Farms, Ben's Bakery, Garwood Orchards, Billy Boy's Blueberry Farm, Sevick Gardens, McCarty's Farm, Grandpa's Farm, Truffles, The Plant Ladies, Sahara Restaurant and more. A limited number of spaces are still available to vendors on either a season or weekly basis. Interested vendors can contact Ruth at 879-5807.

Mainstreet Association liaison to the Farmers Market, Jerry Peters, hopes to have a variety of activities throughout the summer. Those interested in participating may contact him at the Mainstreet Theatre, 219/874-4269 or the Market Manager.

Artist Trading Card Make & Swap

An Artist Trading Card Make & Swap will be held at 10:00 a.m., on Sat., May 7 in Children's Services at La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte.

This month you'll try your hand at watercolor techniques. You'll have the opportunity to make several ATC's and trade them if you wish. Bring scissors if you can. Everything else will be included. All ages, from parents with children to adults are invited. There is no charge and registration is not taken. For more information or to request signing for the hearing impaired 48 hours in advance, phone 219-362-6156.

Door Prairie Duathlon

The Fourth annual Door Prairie Duathlon will be held on May 15, at the Beautiful Silver Lake Farms in Rolling Prairie, Indiana. Located about 20 mile west of South Bend, the race provides a unique blend of cross country running and a smoothly paved bike course throughout the country roads in Northern Indiana. All proceeds go to benefit Christian education in La Porte, Indiana.

This year, the Duathlon will also be hosting a fun run/walk consisting of a 5K trail run near the shores of Silver Lake. The option of chip timing will be available. For more information go to: www.doorprairieduathlon.com
Comcast Cares 2011

Last Saturday, April 30, I sought out the Comcast Cares project where volunteers gathered to build a handicap ramp to the lake from the Senior Center parking lot and do numerous other chores around the park. The group was made up of workers from Comcast and volunteers ranging from, among others, insurance salesmen, families, private citizens, Exchange Club and Guardian Riders members and more. See for your self a small portion of the jobs the hundreds (or so it seemed to me) who gathered worked on that morning.

---photo story by Janet Baines

Working on the ramp that will give wheelchair access to the beach.

Volunteers moving supplies for the ramp.

A group of workers from Comcast and Thrivent Insurance.

A group of workers gathered in the MC Senior Center.

Made me think of Tom Sawyer as I watched these workers painting the Washington Park Zoo’s fence

Volunteers cleaning a section of the zoo.
Preparation of the sections of the ramp to be laid out.

Gathering up debris piled in the bushes and area surrounding the Senior Center.

“Grouting” the ramp with sand!

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Food Fight!

Elston Middle School’s Student Council recently sponsored a one-week food drive to support the Salvation Army. Students collected canned goods from April 18 to April 21, in a contest to see which grade-level “team” could collect the most food.

Altogether, Elston students collected 326 food items...and Team 7B won the contest, with 251 cans! Pictured with the food are student council members (L-R) Gabby Gonzalez, Jasmine Martin, Yasmin Ramos, Micheala Sullivan, Raven Wood, and Ryan Solano.

Friends of the Symphony Luncheon

Tues., May 10, noon
Trattorio Enzo, 601 Michigan Ave., LaPorte

All are welcome to enjoy the luncheon, see the latest fashions from Judee’s & hear about plans for upcoming LaPorte County Symphony events. Cost $13.00 payable the day of the luncheon. Soft drinks, coffee/tea and tip is included.

You can choose from the following:
1. Risotto with chicken and vegetables with small salad
2. Margherita pizza with small salad
3. 1/2 Italian beef sandwich & cup of minestrone soup with small salad

To RSVP phone (219) 362-1054 or email info@lcso.net. Membership at Friends of the Symphony is an annual fee of $15. Luncheons occur 5 times a year.

Friends of the Library Special Sale

Thurs., Fri., May 5, 6 -- 9 a.m.

The Friends of the Michigan City Public Library is growing their trust fund with this sale of accessories and gifts in the library meeting room.

There’s something for everyone at this unique sale where nothing costs more than $6. Bring a friend and shop products for every age. Great values on fashion and seasonal accessories, jewelry, gadgets, gifts and more.
Long Beach
Community Center
219-874-6616
2501 Oriole Trail
Long Beach

Opened to everyone -- come have Coffee with the Clerk-Treasurer on the first Monday, of the month from 10-11 a.m. at the Community Center in Suite #1. Please feel free to stop by and chat. Bring your concerns or just have a friendly cup of coffee with friends!!

Lake Shore Drive and St. Lawrence will be closed for about 3 weeks due to road work. Please follow the detour signs and we do apologize for any inconvenience!

Studio #11 - The Spring Girlfriend Sale 2nd chance 1/2 price sale day is this Saturday, May 7th from10a.m.-2 p.m. Last chance to pick up some great deals and see what you missed! Don't miss this last chance to bring home bags of bargains from the biggest sale ever! You'll be delighted to find all the treasures just waiting for you!

Duplicate Bridge – Will be starting up again!! They will be held every Tuesday night. First one will start Tues., May 10th at 6:15 p.m. in Courtyard room. If you have any questions, please phone Glen at 219-872-9386.

Yoga class with Lauralee in Suite #8. She has added more classes, phone 219-861-7394.

Have you made your appointment with Julie at Chakra Bliss Massage Therapy? What a way to come and relax; phone 219-561-3522 for your appointment. Located in Suite #3.

Beach Access Vacations and Rental Office is open; come by and check out the beach items for rent and sale. Suite #2. Phone Hiedi for more info at 219-878-1210.

Long Beach Fitness Center. Beach weather is just around the corner so get in shape! Come join or phone for more info 219-879-1395.

Interested high school or college students looking for community service hours, please phone or visit Anne Heywood at the Town Hall.

Stop by and order your American Flag!! They are made out of recycled plastic bottles. I have a sample and order forms at Town Hall if you are interested. This is a fundraiser for the community center!!

Other opportunities to take advantage of at the community center: AA classes, AL-Anon classes, Mahjong, private parties, showers, birthday parties!! Long Beach Community Center has space for rent. Phone Anne Heywood at the Long Beach Town Hall at 219-874-6616.

----submitted by Anne Heywood (April 28, 2011)
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

**May 5-6** -- Friends of MC Public Library Special Sale of accessories and gifts for all ages. Nothing more than $6. 9 am.

**May 6** -- Uptown Arts District-May Spring Uptown Walk (Michigan City). 5-8 pm. Visit businesses and art galleries for special showings, music, refreshments and more. Story elsewhere this issue.

**May 6-9** -- At the Vickers Theatre: “Even the Rain.” Spanish with Eng. subtitles. Not Rated. Fri/Sat/Sun 9 pm; also Sat/Sun 3 pm; no show Mon. Also showing: “Poetry.” Korean with Eng. subtitles. Not Rated. Fri thru Mon 5:45 pm. 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, MI. 269/756-3522. www.vickerstheatre.com

**May 7** -- Opening day for Mainstreet Farmer’s Market, 8th & Washington streets. 8 am-noon or sell-out. Bake Sale by Relay for Life.

**May 7** -- Opening day for Riverside Marketplace, 234 E. 2nd. St., MC (at Pioneer Pier Development). Sat. 9 am-2 pm; Sun 10 am-2 pm.

**May 7** -- Spring Girlfriend Sale at Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach. 10 am-2 pm (Apr 30), noon-4 pm (May 1 & 7) 1/2 price sale days. Gently used clothing, accessories and jewelry. Info: 219/861-6188.

**May 7** -- Mother’s Day Flower Sale to benefit the Kiwanis Park Project. 8 am-1 pm at Kiwanis/Teledyne Park, US 35 & State Rd 39, LaPorte. Hanging baskets and potted geraniums.

**May 7** -- “Life in America: the 1940s” Fashion Show at LaP. Co. Historical Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. 1 pm. Refreshments in the WWII canteen. Adm. to museum, program free. See story this issue.

**May 7** -- Anne Baxter Celebration at MC Public Library. 2 pm. Showing of her film “All About Eve.” Free and open to the public. Also a program about Anne’s life and connection to Michigan City.

**May 7** -- 18th Annual Juried Art Exhibition at the Art Barn, 695 N 400 E, Valparaiso. 7 pm. The public is invited to attend the award ceremony, meet the artists & their work, enjoy the refreshments. 219/462-9009 or www.artbarnin.com

**May 7** -- Matthew Skoller Band (blues) in concert at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI. 8 pm MI time. Tix $20; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com

**May 8** -- HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!

**May 9** -- MC Branch of American Association of University Women meeting. 5 pm at MC Public Library. Catered banquet followed by guest speaker Jeneane Webster on “Summer Reading Choices.” For info on joining, phone Melinda Nagle, 872-1217.

**May 9, 23** -- Great Decisions Foreign Policy Discussion Group. 6:30 pm at MC Public Library. Last sessions of the season are “Caucus” and “Multilateralism.” Info: 873-3049.

May 12 -- Duneland Stamp Club. 6 pm at the MC Public Library. This club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month. New members invited to attend.

May 12, 26 -- Maple City Word Crafters. 5:30-8 pm at LaP. Co. Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. A group for aspiring writers. Open to the public. Info: 219/362-6156.

May 15 -- Door Prairie Duathlon at Silver Lake Farms, Rolling Prairie, IN. Cross country running and biking. Proceeds go to benefit Christian education in LaPorte. Also includes a fun run/walk. Chip timing optional. www.doorprairieduathlon.com

May 17 -- LaPorte County Historical Society meeting. Held at Swanson Center for Older Adults, 910 State St., LaPorte. Catered dinner at 6:30 pm. Story elsewhere this issue.

May 20 -- Chicagoland’s Premiere Doo Wop A Capella Group, Harbor Lights at Memorial Opera House, 104 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso, IN. 8 pm. Tix $21/adults, $17/seniors & students; reserve at 219/548-9137 or www.mohlive.com

June 3 -- MC Zoological Society 2nd Annual Golf Outing at MC Municipal Golf course. 11 am shotgun start. $75 individual round, foursome $300. Reserve a spot with Julie Wozniak, 873-1425 or email wpzoosociety@hotmail.com

Farther Afield:

May 6 -- First Friday Film: “From Moccasins to Main Street: A Journey Down the Old Chicago Road.” 7:30 pm MI time at Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI. 269/983-3688 or www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

May 7 -- KENTUCKY DERBY RACE DAY.

May 7 -- Opening day for Buchanan Farmer’s Market, downtown Buchanan, MI. 8 am-1 pm MI time each Saturday thru fall. Fernwood Botanical Gardens will be there each week with plants, gifts, etc.

May 7 -- Annual Riversong Concert for Women. 8 pm MI time at Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI. Tix at the door: $8/adults, $6/seniors & students. Kids 12 yrs. & under free accompanied by adult.


May 19 -- Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra presents “Disney in Concert--Magical Music from the Movies.” Featuring Disney vocalists, movie clips and more. 7:30 pm at Star Plaza Theatre, Merrillville, IN (corner US 30 & I-65). Tix $20-$60; students $10. Reserve at 219/836-0525 or www.nisorchestra.org

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On May 5, 1494, during his second voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus sighted Jamaica.

On May 5, 1862, at the Battle of Puebla, outnumbered Mexican troops, under the command of General Ignacio Zaragoza, defeated the invading French forces of Napoleon III. This date is a Mexican national holiday, and is observed by Mexicans everywhere with festivals, parades, dances, and speeches.

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, 1889, the Paris Exposition formally opened, featuring the just-completed Eiffel Tower.

On May 6, 1910, Britain’s King Edward VII, oldest son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, died at the age of 69.

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.

On May 6, 1994, Britain’s Queen Elizabeth II and French President Francois Mitterrand formally opened the Channel Tunnel between their countries.

On May 6, 2006, Lillian Gertrud Asplund, the last American survivor of the sinking of the Titanic, died in Shrewsbury, MA; she was 99.

On May 7, 1789, the first presidential inaugural ball, honoring President and Mrs. George Washington, was held in New York City.

On May 7, 1945, during World War II, Germany signed an unconditional surrender at General Eisenhower’s French headquarters.

On May 7, 1982, the space shuttle Endeavor made its first voyage.

On May 8, 1841, at a point near the present city of Memphis, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto discovered the Mississippi River.

On May 8, 1886, an Atlanta pharmacist, John Styth Pemberton, invented a syrup for a beverage that was to become known as “Coca-Cola.”

On May 8, 1984, the Soviet Union announced that it would not participate in the 1984 Los Angeles Summer Olympics.
On May 9, 1502, Christopher Columbus sailed from Spain on his fourth, and final, voyage to the New World.

On May 9, 1657, William Bradford, leader of the Pilgrims on the Mayflower, died in present day Plymouth, MA; he was 67. The first Plymouth Colony governor, he was re-elected 30 times.

On May 9, 1754, the first cartoon appeared in an American newspaper. Benjamin Franklin’s Pennsylvania Gazette carried an illustration of a divided snake, each section symbolizing one of the colonies. The caption read, “Join or Die.”

On May 9, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Mothers Day to be a public holiday.

On May 9, 1926, U.S. Navy Commander Richard Byrd and Floyd Bennett became the first people to fly over the North Pole.

On May 9, 1994, South Africa’s newly elected parliament chose Nelson Mandela to be the country’s first black president.

On May 10, 1775, during the Revolutionary War, Americans gained one of their first important victories over the British when the Ethan Allen’s “Green Mountain Boys” captured Fort Ticonderoga.

On May 10, 1869, the first transcontinental railway was completed when the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific railways met at Utah’s Promontory Point.

On May 10, 1894, two 10-foot bronze lions were unveiled at the west entrance to the Chicago Art Museum.

On May 10, 1930, the first planetarium in the United States was opened in Chicago.

On May 10, 1940, Neville Chamberlain resigned as the British Prime Minister. King George promptly asked Winston Churchill to form a new government.

On May 11, 1647, Peter Stuyvesant arrived in the New World to become the royal governor of New Amsterdam (now New York City).

On May 11, 1858, Minnesota became the 32nd state to join the Union.


On May 11, 1928, in Schenectady, NY, Station WGY began the first regularly scheduled television programs.

On May 11, 1947, the B.F. Goodrich Co. of Akron announced development of a tubeless tire.

On May 11, 1949, Israel was voted into membership in the United Nations.

On May 11, 1949, the Kingdom of Siam changed its name to Thailand.

On May 11, 1997, the IBM computer known as Deep Blue defeated Garry Kasparov to win a six-game chess match between man and machine in New York.

**25th Annual Voyageur Rendezvous**

**18th Century Fur-Trade Era Reenactment**

**Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park**

May 14 & 15, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

$2 per person, children 7 and younger free

Event schedule at www.lakecountyparks.com

Peek into the lives of the men and women who would have lived or traded along the Kankakee River more than 250 years ago. The Grand Kankakee Marsh was the source of valuable furs desired by merchant traders to take back to Europe. You will meet Native Americans, French-Canadian canoe men called Voyageurs, British and French militia, early settlers, and many others.

As you mingle amongst the inhabitants of the river settlements, observe how they lived, played, entertained and traded. Witness the voyageurs coming ashore by canoes and unloading their goods. Learn to how each item was vital for trade and its value in furs. Don’t wander off just yet; Native Americans will come to greet the European visitors and offer many furs in exchange for the valuable goods. Hear the fife and drums playing throughout the encampment and smell the wonderful aromas of many campfires wafting through the air.

Later, relax along the river bank and watch the voyageurs frantically paddling their canoes as they race against each other in the Bobber Race. They simply have to retrieve their teams’ bobbers and make it back to shore. It’s not that easy. The others don’t play fair! Help your canoe team win by shouting out the location of their bobbers.

A fun way to experience the trade era is with a “See and Do” Scavenger Hunt. Kids can pick up their list at the Children’s Trading Post next to the Admission Booth. When they complete the list, they can use it as currency at the Trading Post for a trinket of their choice. It’s a fun and interactive way to experience history.

Event Highlights:

- Official Opening Ceremony
- Arrival of the Voyageurs by canoe
- Trade Session with the Native Americans
- Music with the Theatiki Fife and Drum Corps.
- Storytelling
- Tomahawk Throw
- Fashion Show
- Bobber Races with canoes
- Hot Food, Cold Sarsaparilla
- Official Closing Ceremony

Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park is located at 21690 Range Line Road, Hebron, IN. Exit I-65 east at Rt. 2 toward Hebron for about one mile to Clay Street (Range Line Road) then south for five miles to the park.

GPS coordinates: 41.220505,-87.276058

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PAINTING-DRYWALL-WALLPAPER

May 5, 2011
Mosaic Birdbath Workshop

Sat., May 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. MI time

Back by popular demand at Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve. Design a one-of-a-kind mosaic birdbath in this workshop taught by local mosaics artist Martha Branson-Banks. A materials list is provided upon registration, with other supplies included in the class fee. Enjoy lunch in the Café or bring your own to picnic in the gardens. Fee $45 (Members $35). Registration required by May 10. 13988 Range Line Rd., Niles, MI. Phone 269-695.6491. Web: www.fernwoodbotanical.org or e-mail: info@fernwoodbotanical.org
Blood, Bones & Butter by Gabrielle Hamilton

This is a memoir that will stick with you a lot longer than the onion you piled on your cheeseburger last night. Gabrielle Hamilton is the chef/owner of Prune, a very popular restaurant in the East Village section of New York City. Besides cooking and managing her business, she has also written about food for The New Yorker, The New York Times, GQ, Bon Appetit, Saveur and Food & Wine (to mention a few!). And she has appeared on The Martha Stewart Show and the Food Network (to name a few!). In other words, a very well-known chef and writer. Now, having established herself as both food preparer and food writer, she has turned to writing about her colorful and very interesting life...

“We threw a party. The same party, every year, when I was a kid. It was a spring lamb roast, and we roasted four or five whole little guys who each weighed only about forty pounds over an open fire and invited more than a hundred people.”

This was Gabrielle’s introduction to cooking. She lived with her parents and four siblings in a huge home that sat on the Pennsylvania/New Jersey border. She watched and then helped her mother prepare meat and vegetable dishes that most of us have never tasted...

“She lived in our kitchen, ruled the house with an oily wooden spoon in her hand, and forced us all to eat dark, briny, wrinkled olives, small birds we would have liked as pets, and cheeses that looked like they might well bear Legionnaire’s Disease.”

But life isn’t perfect, and when Gabrielle was a preteen, her parents divorced. This started her on a path one might call self-destructive. She got a job washing dishes at a local restaurant, then started stealing cars for joy rides in the night—(but she always returned them!) She moved into a roach infested apartment in New York City with one of her sisters at age sixteen and talked her way into working the afternoon shift at an urban cowboy bar and grill. Then there was the cocaine use, and, well, let’s say Gabby was not on her way to any stellar career at this point.

Gabrielle’s total honesty about her life is mind boggling and refreshing! There is a sense of knowing as you’re reading that this is the real thing, there’s no hey, look at wonderful me! in this memoir; only a refreshing, readable look into the life of someone, you will realize as you go along, that you would love to meet and talk to, and maybe taste her cooking, too!

Yes, Gabrielle finishes high school, yes she enters college and gets a degree, and then kicks around Europe and the Mediterranean and other places learning more about food and cooking than any Gordon Bleu could teach her. I don’t believe she was thinking in the long term at this time, just living her life and enjoying it. She takes jobs at catering companies and even works summers at a children’s camp where she’s in charge of all the cooking.

How she finally winds up back in New York City and is introduced to the sad, empty building that will become known as her restaurant Prune, makes a story that can only be true, no one could make up this life! And her formula for a restaurant?

“There would be no foam and no ‘conceptual’ or ‘intellectual’ food, just the salty, sweet, starchy, brothy, crispy things that one craves when one is actually hungry. There would be nothing tall on the plate, the portions would be generous, there would be no emulsions, no crab cocktail served in a martini glass with its claw hanging over the rim. In ecstatic farewell to my years of corporate catering, we would never serve anything but a martini in a martini glass. Preferably gin.”

As Daniel Boulud said, “It’s challenging enough to be a good chef, but to be a fine writer as well is an even more remarkable feat. Gabrielle Hamilton approaches storytelling the same way she does cooking—with thoughtful creativity that delights the senses. The stories she tells here are every bit as enjoyable as the wonderful food she cooks daily at Prune.”

To all the mothers who sweated over a hot stove to prepare good food we pleaded, threatened and cajoled our children to eat, I hope your husbands and children will be smart enough to present you with this most entertaining book to read (with your feet propped up and a cup of tea at hand) on your special chair on your special day.

Till next time, happy reading and Happy Mother’s Day!
Meet Michele Cihak...

I’ve been with Merrion & Associates since 2001. Originally from Chicago, a resident 28 years in Michigan City & I love it! Where else can you be closer to Lake Michigan beaches, New Buffalo, LaPorte, Lighthouse Mall and casinos. I’m a Million Dollar Producer in the Beach area, but have sold many homes in the country & city properties as well. I’m sincere, dedicated & ready to work for you to find the right home. I’m licensed in Indiana & Michigan. Call me at 219-861-2073 for all your real estate needs.
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