Lo Lo Mai Springs an Oasis of Beauty
by Paula McHugh

Lo Lo Mai Springs provided a great view from my two cabin windows: one window looked upon the springs itself. The window on the opposite side gave me a view of a fast-moving Oak Creek and an area reserved for tent campers.

Arizona has never been known for its vast amounts of water. But the easterly-moving California storms—storms that caused hill-hugging homes to slide downward in slippery mud, also dumped cloudbursts of water on its neighboring state. On a recent visit to central Arizona, we ducked the misfortune of a 12-hour downpour with hailstones by one measly day.

Not that the hydrating of a severely drought-weary state is a misfortune, except for the tourist or vacationer hoping for sunny skies and fair weather. When March was marking its final days, we were lucky. No rain. Cool temperatures. Back were the famous wide-open, sunny skies.

This annual pilgrimage to the land of the Hopi and Navajo, the Grand Canyon state and more personally, to Rusty’s Morningstar Ranch in Cornville, took a slight twist this year. My younger son and his wife traveled with me, and we flew out of Indianapolis, not Chicago. We detoured from our usual routine of staying in a private home with all the amenities. Instead, we camped just a few miles north of the ranch at Lo Lo Mai Springs Resort along Oak Creek in Page Springs.

Lo Lo Mai Springs Resort is for the most part a membership campground where retirees and other travelers with third wheels, motor homes or tents come to relax amid tall cottonwoods surrounded by Oak Creek on one side and a spring-fed pond on the other. The resort also happens to have nine cabins for rent for those of us who prefer an alternative to a motel room or condominium rental. Cabin #4 became my home away from home for five days, and for a writer, a perfect setting to retreat from the world to begin writing the Great American Novel. My son and daughter-in-law settled into the cabin next door, adjoined by a common deck.

Lo Lo Mai Springs an Oasis of Beauty
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A constant roar of a swollen Oak Creek with rushing water spilling over river rock could put anyone in a calm, meditative state.
Lo Lo Mai  Continued from Page 1

But I wasn’t in the Sedona area to write a novel or to meditate at any identified vortex site. My visits to Arizona are for the primary purpose of visiting son Brian, born with undetected PKU and living in residence with his extended family of three “brothers” with autism. The late ranch founder/director and dear friend Carlene Armstrong, with whom I had stayed during my past twelve years’ visits, had left a legacy of a model residential program for adults with autism, and new faces now staff the small facility.

Routine and sameness is how people with autism like to order their worlds. On the other hand, most travelers enjoy variety. We adjusted to more Spartan living conditions where no televisions, computers, or cell phone signals were within convenient reach. What I did have at Lo Lo Mai Springs was a great view from my two cabin windows: one window looked upon the springs itself, occupied by a flock of white geese and a few mallards.

The window on the opposite side gave me a view of a fast-moving Oak Creek and an area reserved for tent campers. A constant roar of a swollen creek with rushing water spilling over river rock could put anyone in a calm, meditative state. Honking geese served as an alarm clock in the morning and the creek lulled me to sleep each evening.

Lo Lo Mai Springs is tucked in a hollow below ancient Sinagua Indian ruins, and the location is considered particularly special because, like Montezuma’s Well in nearby Rimrock, the springs had offered the ancients an oasis of water amid the arid high desert.

According to the resort’s brochure, the term “Lo Lo Mai” is a Hopi word that can be used as a greeting with many meanings, just as “Aloha” is used in Hawaiian. Even before Wayne, a native of Hawaii bought the campground property 25 years ago, the term Lo Lo Mai had been commonly interpreted as “beautiful.” Wayne told me that his years of selling “nuts and bolts” in Hawaii and later, Los Angeles, prepared him well for the routine maintenance chores that come with the job of campground owner.

“I can look at just about any mechanical device and know how it works,” Wayne said. So, when the camp-
ground’s water heaters (for the shower house or heated pool) go on the blink, Wayne puts his experience to work. When a renter accidentally set his cabin on fire a few years ago, Wayne completely rebuilt and remodeled it, turning it into a honeymooner’s cabin. Of the nine, it was the only one with its own shower facilities.

But I would not have traded my cabin for it. Mine had a cozy loft and an optional convertible, queen-size bed. I had a small stove and refrigerator, a toaster and most importantly to me, a coffeemaker. I only had to walk a few steps over to the shower house, and I had my own private quarter-bath. I was able to sit on our deck and view the famous Arizona starry black skies (but not the sunsets from the hollow). If it had rained during the visit, we could have spent time in the clubhouse watching any one of hundreds of videos in the camp’s library.  

Lo Lo Mai  Continued on Page 4

Find comfort and support breast cancer awareness. Pretty pink flowers and delicate lace trim add a feminine touch to wonderfully soft pj’s. A pink ribbon is embroidered on the chest pocket, a symbol indicating that a portion of the proceeds supports The Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Elastic waistband. Cotton/polyester; machine wash. $62
Lo Lo Mai  Continued from Page 3

And it did not matter if the days were on the cool side—the camp keeps its outdoor pool heated. Besides, who wants to sit in the bonus Jacuzzi spa when the desert temperatures are in the 90’s?

The dog-friendly campground is also the home of four resident cats and Callie, a 17-year old tortoiseshell, decided that I could be her mama for the length of our stay. Every sunrise morning and again around sunset, Callie sauntered over to the cabin to snuggle up on my lap. By the fourth day, campground staff started leaving Callie’s daily food ration on a plate on our picnic table. I wondered how my own cat Licorice would feel if she knew that I had been giving my attention to a rival feline. It would be my secret—and Callie’s.

Day trips away from the campground led to some of the most popular tourist spots in the area, including Jerome, former copper-mining town-turned artist enclave. Briana found an unexpected treasure awaiting her. Someone had left a hand-crafted marionette along a side street with a note saying, “take me, I’m free.” Minutes before, Brian and I had passed the same spot without noticing this gift” from an anonymous benefactor. I was jealous.

The “free gift” spot happened to be on a stretch of sidewalk next to a store named Raspberry, and owner David Vogel came outside just as Briana walked by with her newfound treasure.

“That’s been in my storeroom for about four months,” David said. “It didn’t really fit in with the merchandise I sell, so I put it out there for anyone who wanted it.”
David told us that the marionette had been crafted from the spine of a dead saguaro cactus and he suggested that Briana name the spindly wooden form of a man with big feet.

“Call it John Begay,” David suggested. “That is a common Native American name.”

John Begay, with his intricate strings assembled to make him dance and gesture, was a challenge to pack but survived the trip home to Indiana anyway. As for me, the unplugged, no-wires vacation suited me just fine. But I do miss listening to the roar of the creek now that I’m back home.

I guess I’ll settle for the spring peepers’ serenade instead.

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PNC Photo Exhibit

Purdue University North Central is the site of an exhibit of the works of local photographer, Lisa Comegys, “A Night Awakens,” that will be featured through May 15 in the first floor study lounge of the Technology Building. This exhibit is part of the ongoing Odyssey Arts and Cultural Events Series.

The exhibit features photos of a number of familiar LaPorte County sites, photographed at night. The play of natural and artificial ambient light on the objects, makes them appear to take on new “personalities,” some suggesting whimsy, others take on a new presence in the minimal nighttime surroundings.

For more information about the exhibit, or for persons with disabilities requiring accommodations, contact Jacobi at 872-0527, ext. 5593.

Here are several examples of Lisa Comegys' photographic work from her new exhibit at PNC.
Three outstanding lakefront condominiums! Ownership at Dunescape Beach Club Tower offers unsurpassed lake views of the Chicago skyline majestically silhouetted across the blue waters of Lake Michigan and the brilliance of the sun setting over the horizon. All three condos offer three bedrooms and two baths, indoor parking and storage. With two elevators, the tower is barrier free and each unit has a private 20+ foot lakeside balcony. Invest in leisure with one of these Resort Condos.

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The Berrien Artist Guild

“Fiesta Fiesta” - A Celebration of Homer Laughlin Dinnerware

For the legions of fans of the bright and playful Fiesta dinnerware made by the Homer Laughlin China Company, the Box Factory for the Arts is holding a special event on Sat., April 23 from 2-4 p.m. (MI time).

This bright, bold Art Deco dinnerware was introduced by the Laughlin Company in 1936 in several bright colors, and has been a favorite with collectors since then. Although it was inexpensive everyday tableware at the time, today vintage Fiesta ware can fetch thousands of dollars for unusual pieces. Fiesta fanatics have paid $4,000 for a 12-inch red flower vase that sold for $2.35 in 1937, according to Paul Ochs, a West Virginia collector.

The highlight of the afternoon will be a presentation of the independent film documentary by Amy Levine “Dishes.” The film was recently named “Best Documentary” at the East Lansing (MI) Film Festival's Lake Michigan Film Competition. It is Levine’s look at the phenomenon of collecting Fiesta ware.

A St. Joseph collector, Georgianna Conrad, will also present a short history of Fiesta ware, and will have examples of her historic collection. A local antique dealer, Connie Yore, will provide free appraisals of any of the Homer Laughlin china lines.

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. A drawing for a Fiesta ware door prize will be held and the winner must be present.

Information about the Homer Laughlin China Collectors Association, including membership pamphlets and copies of their quarterly magazine, “The Dish”, will be available.

The Box Factory is seeking antique or collectible dealers to buy or sell Homer Laughlin china at this event. If interested, contact Denise Tackett at the Box Factory for the Arts by April 20.

The Box Factory for the Arts is located at 1101 Broad St. in St. Joseph, MI. For more information, call the Box Factory at (269) 983-3688 or e-mail to boxfactory@sbcglobal.net

Vacationing Violins “Bon Voyage Party”

This event will take place on Sat., April 16, 7-9 p.m., at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd St., Michigan City. This evening will provide an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to win your favorite violin painted by area artists who will be on hand to discuss their creations.

Tickets are $20 per person and includes wine, appetizers, desserts and music by the Silver String Trio. RSVP 219/325-0666 or email executive@lcso.net

The Vacationing Violins is a fundraiser for the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra.
open house...

Sunday, April 17
1-3 pm

Lake Shore Drive
to Michiana Drive
south to 6 Ponchartrain
Michiana Shores, IN
$699,000

Saturday, April 16
1-3 pm

El Portal
west on Meadow
to 430 Oakland
Michiana Shores, IN
$299,000
The LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra, the LaPorte High School Mixed Chorale and two acclaimed guest vocalists will present a musical evening of Broadway favorites from shows such as Chicago, Phantom of the Opera and 42nd Street during the annual April Pops Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Sat., April 23 at the LaPorte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge Street.

“A Night on Broadway,” sponsored by The Hiler Family Foundation and Herald-Argus, will also include A Tribute to Andrew Lloyd Webber featuring music from Cats, Jesus Christ Superstar, Joseph and Evita. In addition, the orchestra, directed by Philip Bauman, will present a commissioned arrangement from the new Broadway hit Wicked.

The annual baton auction will take place after intermission. The winning bidder will get to step on stage and conduct a full orchestra during “Stars and Stripes.”

Soprano Kimberly E. Jones is an alumna of the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists. She also has captivated audiences in performances with a dozen orchestras and won numerous musical awards. For her portrayal as Clara in Porgy and Bess, she was nominated for Best Supporting Actress by the NAACP Awards. She will sing “Summertime” from Porgy and Bess by George Gershwin and “Somewhere” from West Side Story.

With Brian Manternach, Kimberly will sing the duets “You’re the Top” from Anything Goes and “People Will Say We’re in Love” from Oklahoma.

Tenor Brian Manternach has been heard throughout the country in opera, recitals and concert work. He has taught voice at Notre Dame and Indiana University South Bend.

He will sing “Music of the Night” by Andrew Lloyd Webber, “If Ever I Would Leave You,” from Camelot, “Bring Me Home” from Les Miserable and “Younger Than Spring Time” from South Pacific. He has a private voice studio in South Bend, is music director of Sacred Heart Parish, Notre Dame and is pursuing a doctor of music degree from Indiana University.

The concert will be the last opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win a painted violin from the traveling exhibit “Vacationing Violins,” a fundraiser for the Orchestra. Winners will be announced during the second half of the concert.

Two types of seating are available. Table seating on the main floor is $25 per person, and reservations are required by phoning (219) 325-0666, emailing executive@lcso.net or visiting the Symphony website at www.lcso.net. All season ticket holders are entitled to floor seating, but must phone to reserve a seat. Balcony seating is $15 for adults, $12 for seniors and $5 for students. This year, the Symphony is also offering a $25 family balcony ticket. Reservations are not required for balcony seating. All tickets are available through the Symphony website at www.lcso.net or at the door.

Various appetizer, dessert plates and drinks will be available. For more information, call the Symphony office at (219) 325-0666 or email info@lcso.net.

The La Porte High School Mixed Chorale, under the direction of Thomas Coe, will join the orchestra in several pieces. This highly select group of advanced singers performs several times throughout the year in concert and contest situations.
MICHIANA

SITUATED IN THE CENTER OF 3 LOTS, this nearly new home boasts porches, covered balcony, wood floors, Pella windows, finished lower level to house a crowd. Less than .6 of a mile to deeded beach. Third full bath roughed in basement.

$498K

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NEW CONSTRUCTION - Sun shines through skylights set in pine vaulted ceilings and falls upon crisp bamboo floors. A good-sized front porch awaits a swing and wicker rockers. Private screened porch off great room and kitchen adds to ease of entertaining. Three bedrooms share two baths. Brand new appliances, a one-car garage and a motivated seller add up to a wonderful deal. $379K

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Bonnie “B” Meyer 219/874-2000
Shirley Heinze Hiking Program

The Shirley Heinze Land Trust, Inc. is offering three different hikes this year. All hikes have a maximum of 20 participants (in addition to hike leaders); this allows all to see special features close up. Hikes are conducted rain or shine, except during thunderstorms. Hikers are advised to bring drinking water, binoculars and/or hand lenses, and to be prepared for the weather and insects.

Participants will be enrolled on a first-come/first-served basis. Directions and meeting locations will be mailed to participants one week before each hike. Send your checks at least 10 days before your first hike. For more information, phone 879-4725 or email land@heinzetrust.org


Sat., May 21: Suman Fen State Nature Preserve, Jackson Township, Porter County (Choose an a.m. or a p.m. hike. These hikes are limited to 10 people per hike). $30.


Sat., Aug. 20: Free Guided Hikes at Spangler Fen, a Henize Land Trust Preserve in Hobart, IN.

Sat., Sept. 10: Donor Appreciation Hike, John Merle Coulter Preserve, Portage, IN.

La Porte County Antique Show

The first show of the LaPorte County Antique Show 10th Anniversary Season will be Sun., April 17th. New hours for the show are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the LaPorte County Fairgrounds in LaPorte, Indiana. Admission to the show is $4 and children under 12 are free. The show is held rain or shine.

Special Event

To celebrate the show's 10th Anniversary, there will be drawings at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1:30 p.m., awarding the winner $50 in antiques and collectibles of their choice to be purchased from a dealer at the show, April 17th only. A separate drawing at 12:30 p.m. will award a free home style dinner to eight (8) attendees for the April 17th show. Participants must be over 18 years of age and be present to win.

Dealers will be showing and selling jewelry, Victoriana, toys, cameras, pottery, holiday items, dolls, books, linens, furniture, elegant glass, lamps, primitives, postcards, and Depression glass.

There is ample free parking. Home style cooking will be available inside Building 1.

For more information, phone 219/778-2892, Email: prairiefarm@csinet.net, or visit the web site: www.olddoodads.com

The fairgrounds are located on the west side of LaPorte at 2581 W Indiana 2.

The 2005 antique show dates are: April 17, May 15, September 11, and October 9.
Spring has sprung! Cast your troubles away and go fishin’ for a new home today!

2708 Belle Plaine Trail
Beautifully secluded 5 bedroom, 2½ bath home in the heart of Long Beach. New hardwood floors throughout main floor. Large sliders frame fireplace and invite sunshine in.

Offered for $449,000

213 Chickadee Trail
Lovely contemporary 3 bedroom, 2½ bath home nestled on 3 lots in wooded Michiana Shores area. Adjacent lot is perfect for swimming pool or extra privacy. Vaulted ceilings in bedrooms and living room add to open design of this home. Bright, airy kitchen, fireplace in living room & screened in porch. Two year old wrap around deck. Perfect for year round home or weekend getaway.

Offered for $425,000

302 Lady Lane
Three bedroom, 2 bath tri-level on beautifully landscaped corner lot in Birch Tree Farms. Lot is oversized and house could easily be expanded. Eat-in kitchen with sliders to back deck. Large family room on lower level with woodburning fireplace. Roof replaced in ’99. New furnace/ac unit in Fall of 2003. Freshly painted and well maintained. Close to schools, shopping and Lake Michigan beaches!

Offered for $239,000

Totally new kitchen and appliances. Beach shower in garage. Wonderful private deck to relax on. Easy stroll to Stop 24 beach!

NEW LISTING

OPEN HOUSE • Sun., April 17 • 1-3 pm

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Judi Donaldson 219/879-1411
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Laurie Farrell 219/871-0526
Missy Fredenburg 219/898-0785
Joe Gazarkiewicz 219/861-3750
Bill Gertner 219/874-2448
Linette Gresham 219/229-0312
Diana Hirsch 219/363-0384
Ellen Holloway 219/871-0936
Barb Holm-Pinks 219/325-0006
Susan Kelley 219/874-5610
Deb Kozachenko 219/324-5805
Jamie Pytynia 219/851-2164
Pat Tym*, ABR, GRI, SRES 219/872-0079
Stephanie Duffy Wisner 219/879-1998
“Licensed in Indiana and Michigan”
WNIT’s 30th annual Television Auction will air from April 21 - 24 and the following week from April 28 - May 1. The Auction runs live from 7-11 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays and from 5-11 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Bidders can preview items and find when those must-haves go on the block by checking wnit.org.

This is the 30th Auction at WNIT, carrying on an unbroken annual tradition that began in 1975. The Television Auction is the single largest fundraising event of the year for WNIT and is instrumental in making possible the programming, production and outreach efforts that Michiana has come to expect from WNIT.

The play has been adapted by Anne Coulter Martens from the classic. The tale is told with humor and revolves around a boy from a small town, his neighbors, relatives and two strangers who come to their town.

The cast includes Sam Blackburn, Haley Biggerstaff, Mike Biggerstaff, Alicia Fogarty, Troy Hack, Bailey Hallin, Michael LaFollette, Michelle LaFollette, Maggie McCarthy, Kayla Nelson, Fallen Washington, Laura Weers, Lorna Whiting and Blake Vissing.

O. Henry’s famous play will come to life courtesy of the Children of the Dunes Arts Foundation. Performances will be held April 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24 with curtain at 7 p.m. each night. The play will be staged at the Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach. Admission is $5 at the door.

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For more information about the Auction, call WNIT at 574-675-9648. WNIT airs on Cable channel 26 in Michigan City.
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DUNE ACRES. No window treatments needed here. Dunetop quad contemporary offers great floor plan, glimpses of Lake Michigan, screened porch & complete privacy. Just around the corner from beautiful private beach. $525,000

BEVERLY SHORES. Newly renovated ranch with partially finished basement for additional rec/sleep space. Sweet 'like new' little get-away not far from beach. $269,900

NEW LISTING. Amazing LAKEVIEWS! Designed by owner/engineer, the quality of construction & impeccable attention to design & detail offers one of the loveliest homes ever to come on the market in Beverly Shores. 6000 sf, 3+ bedrooms, luxury master suite, game & fitness rooms, outdoor kitchen alcove & hot tub overlooking lake & so much, much more. $2,700,000

MICHIGAN CITY. Bordered by the Little Calumet River, this very special 4300 sq. ft. American contemporary farmhouse & 34 acres offers winding tree-lined entry, pastoral country views, decorator interior, inground pool, screened porch, great salmon fishing. $890,000

PORTER BEACH. Shed style contemporary nestles secluded behind a dune on heavily wooded site. Open floor plan, wall of windows, fireplace indoor & out, deck & stone patio, glass sunroom. $425,000

PORTER BEACH. Commanding views of the Indiana Dunes State and National parkland. Custom contemporary provides open floorplan with access to great deck & 'views'. One block to beach. $459,000

CHESTERTON, SAND CREEK COUNTRY CLUB. Mission Hills townhomes. 3 beautiful 2 story units, each with their own distinctive features. First floor masters with private walled patios, walk-out basements & easy walk to course & clubhouse. Best buy in Sand Creek! $334,000/$349,900
Making Mattresses at St. Paul’s Church in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

by Jan Van Ausdal

Many people ask me, “What do you do in the winter when you’re in Mexico?” Among the things I mention to them is, “If it’s Wednesday morning at 10:30 A.M., you might find me at St. Paul’s Church helping other volunteers make mattresses!”

Of course, this results in more questions, such as “How do you do that?” “What are the mattresses made from?” “Who needs these mattresses?” So I will explain exactly what is involved in mattress making and why it is being done in Mexico.

Two women originally started this project, and in 2000, they turned it over to Toni Allen and a group of volunteers from St. Paul’s Church. A few of the volunteers who have sewing machines, including Elsie de Moss, have gone to Queretaro or other places to purchase heavy, colorful material to be used for the mattress covers. They stitch the covers on three sides, leaving one end open to hold the mattress stuffing.

The mattress stuffing consists of clean plastic bags, shaped into small balls to hold their shape and fill the insides of the mattresses. It takes about 1,000 such bags to stuff one mattress! Since the project was taken over by St. Paul’s Church, the volunteers have made between 200 and 250 mattresses through the end of 2004. This amounts to about one mattress per week! Unused plastic bags might end up littering the roads in the beautiful Mexican countryside.

Those who receive mattresses are people who would otherwise be sleeping on the bare floor. A number of the mattresses have been put in the homes of children who are at Centro Infantil San Pablo and those who come for meals at Feed the Hungry Kitchens.

So you can see for yourself what it’s like to work on such a project, I have included photos of some volunteers who enjoy participating in the mattress making. Ann Farquharson was one participant on a recent Wednesday, busily making balls from plastic bags. Elsie de Moss stood beside a stack of completed mattresses, ready...
to be delivered to their new owners. Toni Allen, group leader, had the pleasure of stomping on bubble wrap to smash the bubbles flat. Another volunteer, Barbara, explained to me just how to make the plastic bags into round, firm balls for the stuffing. The group of volunteers sat around a table, turning the bags into balls for filling the mattresses. The women mentioned that Alison Long had brought in a large number of bags that very morning.

Barbara (right) explains to Jan how to turn a plastic bag into a ball.

There are depositories for donated plastic bags at Border Crossings on Correo Street and also at St. Paul’s Church Parish Hall. Volunteers believe that February and March are the best time of the year for a lot of help because then the most people tend to be visiting San Miguel de Allende. One woman told me, “Spring and fall are very puny times for getting help.” Another suggested, “In the summer, we get help from some of the Texas people who come down here.”

So if you find yourself in San Miguel de Allende on a Wednesday morning and need something to do, go to St. Paul’s Church Parish Hall at 10:30 A.M. and join the other volunteers in their mattress-making project! It’s a lot of fun!

Elsie de Moss stands by some finished mattresses.

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Special Event for you and your family on Saturday, April 23
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Becky Borglin • R. E. Rodderick

**Sunday, April 24** • **6 p.m. (MI time)**

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**NISO “A la Boston Pops”**

Join the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra and Music Director/Conductor, Kirk Muspratt, for “A la Boston Pops” on Thurs., April 21st, 7:30 p.m., at the Star Plaza Theatre in Merrillville. Performing alongside the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra will be guest vocalist Maureen Christine, guest flutist Cynthia Fudala and the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Back by popular demand, the Boston Pops style concert will feature celebrated Chicago vocalist and national recording artist Maureen Christine. Principal NISO flutist Cynthia Fudala will add spark to the evening with her playing, and the Northwest Indiana Symphony Youth Orchestra will join the orchestra on the stage.

Tickets range from $25-$60 each. Phone the Symphony office at 219/836-0525 or log onto www.nwisymphony.org to order tickets.

**Mystery Dinner an Art Attack Event**

“Old Bones Never Lie” is the title of the mystery dinner that Hannah’s Restaurant, New Buffalo, will stage on Sun., April 24th, beginning at 6 p.m. (MI time). Seating is limited and reservations are recommended at 269/469-1440 or 1-888/877-1440. This will be the final event in the Art Attack weekend.

The play revolves around an archaeology awards dinner that turns deadly.

**Cast of Characters**

The “infamous” cast includes many local well-known names: Miss Blossomtime, Kaylee Magro will play Chicago Tribune reporter Audrey Banks; Berrien County Under Sheriff Chuck Heit will play private detective Ted McCall; New Buffalo City Councilwoman, entrepreneur and educator Becky Borglin will play the widow of award recipient, the late Bill Warfield; seasoned area actor R.E. Rodderick will play the unpopular Bob Sims who is attending the dinner out of spite; and Gary Gillings of Gierczyk Development will portray our renowned expert in archaeology and forensic science.
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP, TIMBERLANE BEACH just a block away. This is a seven bedroom, five bath home and has all the amenities including a heated swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna, deeded beach rights and all furnishings to be included in the sale of this home. Great place for large families or for investment. Rental income of over $35,000 per year.

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OPEN HOUSE
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1-3 pm est
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Marquette Road to Kissman. Sign out front.

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Visit seven homes for sale and various rentals. View architectural renderings of future development and potential land plots. Sales & rental agents will be on hand to assist you and answer your questions. Refreshments will be served at various homes listed for sale.

For further sales information, contact Mike Conner or Rudy Carlson-Conner at Sheridan Beach Realty Group, 800.958.5030. If you’re interested in a vacation rental, please contact Cynthia at 800.814.7501
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Camera Obscura Art Technique

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliet is a rich, new mystery novel heralded as “the Da Vinci Code for kids.” On Tues., April 19, noon, the Michigan City Public Library will hold this adult program in which participants will learn about the many cool facets of the book, as well as engage in a hands-on activity exhibiting the special art technique, camera obscura, used by Johannes Vermeer.

A drawing for a copy of Chasing Vermeer will be held at the end of the program. Participants are encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch. Ms. Blue Balliet will be at the library on Tues., May 3, at 11 a.m.
Leather Extravaganza Sale

SIENNA SADDLE SECTIONAL • Ottoman $249 • Armless Chair $249 • Rocker Recliner $549
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Shiloh Crossing Hosts Open Stage Night at Valparaiso Art Barn

by Jan Van Ausdal

On Saturday, April 2nd, Shiloh Crossing hosted an open stage night at the Art Barn, 695 North 400 East, Valparaiso. These monthly gatherings have been held there since November of 2004. Pumpkin bread, coffee, and pop were available for refreshments. Admission is $4 per person.

The group named Shiloh Crossing is made up of Julietta Thornton and Dave Raby. They also perform at 8 P.M. on the second Saturday of each month at Esspress Yourself, 505 Silhavey Road, Valparaiso, near the shopping center with the Home Depot store and new Route 49.

Beginning the evening’s entertainment, Julietta sang one song while Dave played his guitar. After playing several numbers together, they opened the stage to other entertainers who had come to perform.

One young entertainer had recorded a new CD that day with an incredible drummer. He writes songs when he is stressed out, to calm himself down. One song played was “Stuck in the Middle With You.”

Judson Strain and his daughter, Janna (who is 13) from Munster next performed on the stage. She sang, accompanied by her father. Some songs, which had been made famous by The Beatles, were performed that Saturday night.

Another family group to take the stage were Sharon Angelina and her son, Gabe, on the flute. They played some songs from World War II, such as “As Time Goes By,” “GI Jive,” and “I’m Beginning to see the Light.” A comment was made that “the family that plays together, stays together.”

Captain Craig took the stage to perform some of his original songs. For his day job, he is a pilot. He played “Bring Me Home,” which he wrote the middle of one night flying back from Vegas. “You Still Do It For Me,” was written for his wife. He also played “The Breakin’ Up Blues” about his big screen TV.

The crowd was very appreciative of the performers’ music throughout the evening. After individual and group performances, there were jam sessions by some of those present to entertain. Numbers played were “Red Wing,” “Free Bird,” and “That Ole Time Religion.”

Family groups who performed at The Art Barn were Glen, Juna, and Haynen Johnson; Judson Strain and Janna; and Sharon Angelina and Gabe. Other evening entertainers were Banjo Bob Arndt, Jerry Vernon, Ray Story, and Captain Craig as well as Shiloh Crossing composed of Julietta Thornton and Dave Raby.

Glen Johnson performed by himself before bringing his kids up to sing with him. Glen said he was tired of us not having any trains to ride and performed “The Trains Don’t Run No More.” He introduced his daughter, Juna, who is in first grade at Washington Township School and sang while her father played. Then his son, Haynen, (who is 4-3/4), joined his family to sing with them.

Next on the agenda was Jerry Vernon from The Dunes Country Band that will entertain in Hebron on April 29th. Some of his numbers were “I Never Felt More Like Singing the Blues,” and “Don’t Worry About Me,” songs from the 1950’s. Banjo Bob Arndt took the No. 2 spot, playing “This Ole Guitar.” He sang some old songs, familiar to many of those present.

Other songs performed included “We’ll Go Down to the Crawdad Hole,” “I’m My Own Grandpa,” and “The Big Rock Candy Mountain.” Some Irish songs such as “Danny Boy,” and “Morning is Broken” were included in the evening’s entertainment, as was a Civil War song, “Battle Cry of Freedom.”

The next Open Stage Night at The Art Barn will be held at 7 P.M. on May 7th; plan to come and bring your family for a fun evening of entertainment to hear the very talented performers in this family friendly atmosphere!
Greetings,
gardening friends!

Planning a new bed or border? Preparation is the key to success. Lay out your bed using a garden hose. Take length by width measurements, calculate your square footage. (We’re happy to help you with this just bring your dimensions in.) You’ll want to add topsoil for best growth. If you have sod, you will need to remove it if you are not berming the bed. I almost always berm my beds, then I don’t have to remove all the sod, just the perimeter in 12”. The topsoil (minimum 8” deep) will kill the grass underneath it. The perimeter removal is to prevent the grass from quickly growing through the shallower depth of soil at the edges.

With a raised planting, you will want to provide for irrigation. This can be a simple system...ask us how, we’re happy to share the info.

Then the fun...designing your plantings. Let’s talk next week about that.

-Kristi Clark

PS: Visit me on the weekends in the nursery! I am on Paula’s schedule to help you with your plant needs. We are all eager to see you at Clark’s. I’ve missed all of our great gardeners.

Spring Pond Maintenance

Each spring we get lots of questions about how to care for your pond. A pond is NOT like your carpet, it is a living ecological system. You can’t just vacuum it clean, deodorize it and be ready for the party. Of course pumps and filters need to function properly and may require cleansing by flushing with fresh water to remove debris and allow your pump to work efficiently. Essentially your pond has been in cold induced stasis for 4 months. Biological activity has nearly ceased. Warmer temperatures and the sun’s rays will kick the biological activity into high gear. Prior to heavy microbial activity, Mother nature will attempt to reduce the bio load on the pond with a magnificent string algae bloom. The string algae is consuming potentially toxic compounds like nitrates and ammonia. In addition, string algae provides food and shelter for spawning fish and frogs to lay and hatch their young. On the other hand, string algae can congest the pond and reduce dissolved oxygen levels in the pond. (Most plants consume CO2 during the day and give off oxygen, but the reverse at night). After the initial bloom, applications of aerobic and anaerobic bacteria should effectively control further blooms by consuming the algae’s’ remaining food source. This approach coupled with the addition of marginal plants (phytotfiltration) eliminates the need to disrupt the ecological balance of your pond by adding chemicals or mystery perennial plant puzzle

Test your garden IQ and save on weekly specials.

Genus: s_ d _ _ Species: o _ o _
Great low yellow groundcover like succulent. Growing in sun or shade, prefers well drained soil. Very yellow foliage in sun, chartreuse in shade. Family: Crassulaceae.
Secret Clue: This genus has a well know cultivar that brings you great Joy in Autumn!

(50% off this week! 1 gallon size)
**Screening of “The Motorcycle Diaries”**

Purdue University North Central, in cooperation with the Michigan City and LaPorte County public libraries, will feature two screenings of the recent film, “The Motorcycle Diaries.” The film is presented free as an Odyssey Arts and Cultural Series event.

The film will be shown at the Michigan City Public Library on Sun., April 17 at 2 p.m., and will be shown again Wed., April 20, at 7 p.m. in LaPorte High School’s Schulze Hall. Following each showing there will be time for commentary and discussion, led by Judy Jacobi, PNC director of marketing.

*Chicago Tribune* film critic Michael Wilmington gave the film 3-1/2 stars. Robert Redford is executive producer of this R-rated movie. Wilmington describes that the film, taken from Che Guevara’s early journals and the memoirs of his best friend, Alberto Grando, recreates their real-life 8,000-mile ride from Buenos Aires to Venezuela. It was during this ride that Guevara, who was raised in comfort and affluence, was moved to change the course of his life. Rather than pursue his intended career to be a doctor, he became a revolutionary and is still today, a worldwide symbol of revolt.

Despite its topic, Wilmington notes that the movie never comes across as propaganda, rather it unfolds more like a “buddy picture” suggesting that life is full of turning points and that youth and friendship are to be treasured and that each person can change the world.

For more information about the film, or any event in the Odyssey series, contact Jacobi at 872-0527, ext. 5593. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact Jacobi.

**LaPorte Little Theatre presents...**

**The Women**

*Directed by Ray Walters*

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Curtain time Friday & Saturday 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 2:00 p.m.

Doors Open ½ hour before curtain
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**Harbor Nights Presents....**

“Duty and Daring in People of Faith: Experiencing Hildegard of Bingen”

This program will be presented by Dr. Avis Clendenen, Professor of Religious Studies at St. Xavier University/Chicago and Ms. Judith Bobber in persona Hildegard.

What is it about the indomitable 12th century Benedictine Abbess Hildegard of Bingen that keeps bringing her back into our consciousness even into the 21st century? Medieval theologian, poet, prophet, preacher, visionary, writer, composer, healer, church reformer...Hildegard was a renaissance woman before the Renaissance.

This multi-media presentation on her life and spiritual vision will be held Sun., April 24th, 2-4 p.m. (MI time), at the Prairie Room, Harbor Grand Hotel, New Buffalo, MI. Tickets are $5 per person or $10 for a family ticket. Reservations may be made by phoning St. Mary of the Lake School office, 269/469-1515. Proceeds benefit the cultural enrichment of students at St. Mary.
Official Registration Form:

Three Ways to Register:

1. Fill out this form and return for each runner/walker.

2. Register on the website at www.2BigHearts.org

3. Register on Race Day starting at 9:30am

Name_________________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________
City/State/Zip _________________________________________________
Phone_________________________________________________________
Email Address __________________________________________________
DOB _________________________ Age Day of Race _________________
Female ☐ Male ☐ Running ☐ or Walking ☐
Pets Welcome for Walking Only: Name of pet? _____________________
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T-Shirt Options:
Adult XL ______  Adult L ______  Adult M ______  Adult S ______

Registration Fees:
$20 pre-registration (website or check with paper registration)
$25 registration on day of event (check or cash only)

Additional Sponsorship:
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2501 Oriole Trail, Long Beach

The Dunes Arts Foundation Youth Theater
proudly presents "The Ransom of Red Chief" on
our stage this weekend, April 15-16-17, and con-
tinuing the following weekend, April 22-23-24. All show
times are at 7 p.m. and admission is $5 at the door.
This humorous tale tells the story of two good old boys
looking to get rich quick but finding out through a series
of unexpected twists and turns that life often gives
back exactly what is deserved.

The Long Beach Fitness Center is hosting a
Grand Re-Opening on April 16th from 9 a.m.-3
p.m. The community is invited to come check out
the new Newmotion and Epic equipment, register to
win a free membership and other give-a-ways, meet
Pilates instructor Shari Bohac and the new house mas-
sage therapist, plus learn more about personal train-
ers and all that the Center has to offer. There will be
demonstrations, the staff will be available to assist
you, and refreshments will be served. If you have been
thinking about stopping by, please take advantage of
this fun and exciting opportunity.

If you are intrigued by the idea of learning to
dance but haven't tried it yet, mark your calendar
for a free Ballroom Dance Class from 6:30-7 p.m. on
Wed., April 20th, and stay for the 1st anniversary Dance
Party afterwards. Phone Mary to register at 219-
680-9261. You are sure to have a great time!

We are accepting clothing for the Spring
Girlfriend Sale, your ultimate woman’s resale cloth-
event, and we will be making appointments for
clothing drop off on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in
April. If you would like to participate, please phone
the Center at 219-879-3845 and leave a message
with your name, phone number and what day and time
would work best for you. We will confirm your reser-
vation with a return call. Space is limited so don’t hes-
itate. This sale looks to be even bigger and better than
last year!

COMMUNITY = COMMUNICATION IN UNITY

Bookmarks at Noon

This program at the Michigan City Public Library
will be held on Fri., April 22nd. The Kite Runner by
Khaled Hosseini, will be reviewed by Dennis Norman.
This haunting story takes the reader from the final
days of Afghanistan’s monarchy to the atrocities of the
present. Two motherless boys, one wealthy and the
other the son of one of his father’s servants, grow up
in Kabul, a city teetering on the brink of destruction
at the dawn of the Soviet invasion. Their story tells of
family, love, and friendship against the devastat-
ing history of Afghanistan.

This program is free and open to the public. Bring
your lunch, if you wish.
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Grand Re-Opening!
Saturday, April 16
9am – 3pm

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You step outside your own front door and you are standing in the lst row, balcony, of a live theatre, where musicians are playing, floodlights are beaming, and directly below you an unending array of actors and dancers are staging dramatic performances. A dream? For David Fink and Kim Clark, this is no dream, this is reality.

“We are loving every minute of it,” says David, referring to the Acorn Theatre that he and Kim have co-founded in Three Oaks, Michigan. Their loft-apartment is perched above the open stage, and a network of galleries leads from one space to another, storage and prop rooms alternating with makeshift bedrooms in an ingenious blending of off-stage and on-stage activity.

“Last weekend we had twelve house-guests -- or maybe fourteen.” They were Chicago actors, weekending in Harbour Country and performing in an original musical, Earth to Margaret. The author, Mary Therese Cozzola, was directing; composer Adam Busch was playing the piano; and David Fink, co-owner of the theatre, was spending his Saturday afternoon watching rehearsals.

David and Kim are both theatre buffs who opened this place primarily “for the love of it,” but still observe the first rule of actors: “Keep your day job.” For David, this means running Allied Metals, a Chicago company that manufactures aluminum and zinc. He is president of the company. Kim’s daytime job is more closely related to the theatrical enterprise. He is a professional writer who has produced plays and a movie, and does ghost-writing for TV. Kim also teaches writing in Lincoln Park, and previously ran the writing program at Second City Theatre -- where contacts were established with the young actors who now come to perform in Three Oaks.

“We persuaded our friends that there was a market out here for live theatre,” David recalled. “At the time, we were running a B & B in Union Pier, and our weekend guests were looking for cultural things to do. When John and Jennifer Vickers opened the movie theatre, we brought in some live entertainers -- but then we outgrew the space.”

The interior of the old Featherbone Factory has been transformed into the Acorn Theatre, with upper-level galleries leading to service areas. The Owners’ love of the arts is reflected in the sculpture, piano and antique furniture in their loft apartment. The eclectic nature of their collections is also reflected in the wide range of their artistic and professional pursuits. David is vice-president of the Poetry Center of Chicago and board chairman of the Chicago Improv Festival. Kim worked his way through college doing repairs on pipe organs -- and now the Acorn Theatre has a pipe organ available for concerts.

Flowers from an admirer bring a smile to Jean Venier, who played the parts of Sophie and Lola in Earth to Margaret.

Acorn Theatre co-owner Kim Clark is a pianist as well as a professional writer.

The calendar of events shows diversity and imagination, plus a widening circle of friends. On Saturday night, April 16, vocalist Bunny Fisher will star in “It Was Worth It,” a program with music of Bart Howard and others. The April 23 performance is flamenco dancing by Las Guitars de Espana.

Bunny Fisher, well-known vocalist and cultural leader in the Michiana area, will be performing at the Acorn Theatre on Saturday evening, April 16.

Las Guitars de Espana will be returning to the Acorn Theatre, by popular demand, on Saturday evening, April 23.

The eclectic nature of their collections is also reflected in the wide range of their artistic and professional pursuits. David is vice-president of the Poetry Center of Chicago and board chairman of the Chicago Improv Festival. Kim worked his way through college doing repairs on pipe organs -- and now the Acorn Theatre has a pipe organ available for concerts.

Dramatic gestures enliven the flamenco dancing of the popular ensemble, Las Guitars de Espana.
The following Friday, April 29, The Teflons, a four-person bluegrass group from the Old Town School of Folk Music, will perform. And on Saturday, April 30, the theatre will become a dance floor, with Bill Tandy providing Big Band Music and L.A. crooner Marty Berman.

The Acorn Theatre “season” doesn’t officially open until the Memorial Day weekend -- and then it runs through Labor Day. What we have now is the pre-season schedule. On Sunday evening, May 8, a Mothers’ Day concert will be presented by jazz singer Libby York. On Friday, May 13, talk show host Jason Eric Mumaw, from WNIT South Bend, will bring his guests to the Acorn Theatre and televise the program with a live audience. The Neverly Brothers, “two guys who sing tight harmony songs,” will perform on Saturday, May 14. The theatre is rented on May 15 to a New Buffalo group, sponsors of a benefit for Vietnamese orphans. The Hoyle Brothers will do country and western music on Friday, May 20, and a two-step dance instructor will help audience members get in the swing. The Saturday, May 21 performer is Jan James, a rock/blues performer voted “Best Female Vocalist” by the Detroit Times.

Finally, then, the official season opens on Friday, May 27, with the Malachi Thompson jazz trio doing a tribute to Miles Davis, featuring trumpet. And Saturday evening, May 28, Acorn favorite Roxy Bellows will return, with singing and comedy improvisation. And so it continues, with different shows every Friday and Saturday night throughout the summer, and sometimes Sundays.

Even with so ambitious a schedule, the Acorn Theatre cannot contain all the enthusiasm these theatre buffs have brought to Harbour Country. “Arts in the Park” is also their creation, and so is “Music in the Park,” running from June to September in downtown Three Oaks, and playing to a lawn-chair audience. David and Kim do all the fund-raising locally for these outdoor events. They have found the townspeople very supportive. “We just love Three Oaks,” David confided, and one could guess the feeling is reciprocal.

The Acorn Theatre is located at 107 Generations Drive, behind the Three Oaks Post Office. Performances take place at 8 p.m. EST (7 p.m. Indiana time.) Tickets are $15, and may be reserved by calling the theatre at 269-756-3879, or purchased at the door.
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-Mikail Pinette

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Phone 219-879-3325 (879-DEAL)
Footlight Players is pleased to bring back its popular Coffeehouse Cabaret series of special performances featuring some of the areas most talented performers. You won’t want to miss any of them.

The first of this new series will be “The DJayma Show” featuring Dj Halicky and Jayma Kay Emerson on Sun., April 24th at 7pm. Billed as “professionally unprofessional,” this “Dynamic Duo” of the musical lyric will entertain Footlight audiences for one performance only. They have performed over the years at the Lake County Welcome Center in Hammond, Pierogi Fest in Whiting and the International Cultural Fest in Hessville, various coffee houses in the area and the Lake Michigan Winery in Whiting. They sing anything and everything from Broadway to Blues, Country to Classic. Dj has a few original songs he likes to throw in too. Tickets are $10 (sorry no credit cards accepted). Reservations are strongly recommended and may be made by phoning 219/874-4035.

### Interpreting for the Deaf

Purdue University North Central Valparaiso Academic Center will host an information session on Tues., April 19 at 7 p.m. about Interpreting for the Deaf as a Profession to learn more about this specialized field.

The program is free and open to the public. The Valparaiso Academic Center is located at 600 Yale Park Road South. Guests are reminded to use the parking lot and entrance on Valley Drive.

The information session will explain how the PNC Interpreting Certificate can prepare students for this rewarding profession or help individuals hone already existing interpreting skills.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Valparaiso Academic Center at (219) 548-2468 or at www.vac.pnc.edu. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact the Valparaiso Academic Center.

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step out of the car, please.

the soda fountain at temple. no drive-thru.

come in and watch. temple news. laporte.
MC Lions Pancake Breakfast

On Sun., April 17th, 8 a.m.-1 p.m., the Michigan City Lions Club will host its 9th semi-annual Pancake Breakfast at the Michigan City Senior Center in Washington Park.

The breakfast will include pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage links, juice, coffee and milk. The cost will be $4.50/adults, $2.50/children 4 yrs. to 10 yrs., free/children under 4 yrs. Tickets will be available at the door.

Lions Charities Benefit From Event

The purpose of this event is to raise funds for the Lions Charities. One of the most dramatic and best known service activities of the Lions Clubs is the Leader Dog program for the blind. The Lions funds raised to support the Leader Dog School in Rochester, MI. Blind people who want to be free and active can have a Leader Dog for the asking.

The Indiana Lions Eye Bank touches the lives of countless people each year. For many, corneal transplants provide the gift of sight. In addition, the Eye Bank furnishes materials that result in achievements in research, and it provides extended training to doctors resulting in better eye care and treatment.

Bunny Fisher at The Acorn

Vocalist Bunny Fisher will offer a grand performance of the standards made popular between 1920 and today. Her act includes a gifted pianist and bass player. In a romantic evening of the best Cabaret around, Fisher will entertain the audience with a variety of “it was worth it music.”

“Sometimes you have to look all over the country to find great talent, and sometimes you realize it is waiting for you here at home,” said David Fink, co-owner of The Acorn. “This is sure to be a wonderful and fun evening, and we think it is time to get out of the house and enjoy live performance in Harbor Country.”

The performance will be Sat., April 16, 8 p.m. (MI time). Tickets are $15 and can be reserved by calling the theater at 269-756-3879 or purchased at the door. The Acorn Theater is located in the historic Featherbone Factory at 107 Generations Dr., behind the Three Oaks Post Office on North Elm Street. For maps, directions and other upcoming programs at the Acorn Theater, visit www.acorntheater.com.
A Taste of La Lumiere - International Food Fest

I was recently delighted to hear the annual Taste of La Lumiere was coming up. I called Mary Samelson right away - she and I had attended for the first time a year ago and we both loved it. The fantastic food is prepared by La Lumiere School students, the faculty and some parents - many of whom are natives or descendants of foreign countries like Ghana, Greece, Korea, Lithuania, Thailand. And they choose recipes from those countries for our interest and pleasure.

La Lumiere (the Light, in French) was established forty years ago - an independent college preparatory day and boarding school at the edge, a beautiful forested edge, of LaPorte. The entire student body, grades 9 to 12, totals about 120 students. There are 17 faculty members who teach excellent academic, athletic and artistic programs, all with small class sizes.

This year friend Samelson and I found ‘the Taste’ to be as much a delightful fashion show as a food event. Surrounded by fascinating attire, my main evening’s interest (food, of course) was slightly delayed. Every day these handsome kids wear uniforms according to La Lumiere’s school dress codes. The girls sport identical embroidered sweater vests and pleated skirts, boys don’t attend in jeans but in trousers, jackets, ties. However, during non-class time like the Taste of La Lumiere, these same students come up with attractive fashion know-how. The first thing I noticed that evening was a mini-skirted blond girl wearing knee-high boots that were adorned with silver straps. Stunning. She was with a fellow who was obviously totally-at-home in baggy jeans decorated up and down with white straps. Another pretty girl was wearing a delicate floaty skirt with a pastel top, very Spring-like. A male student dramatically displayed a gaucho brimmed hat paired with a bright char-treuse shirt. Many of the Asian students wore their country’s ethnic clothes - all beautiful clothes while presenting beautiful food.

Now, on to the marvelous food. Mary loaded up her plate with various main dishes, but my first choice was dessert. Yeah, it was so pretty I just couldn’t wait - those French crepes with strawberries and choco-
late were so inviting. They were prepared by Ayla Batton and Sage Piotter (recipe below). After dessert, I headed for lots more Tastes of La Lumiere, like Matzo Ball Soup by student Josh Katz, then a colorful and tasty Italian Bruchetta served by Marly Tristano, Marie de Caneva, Stefanie Frankle, Jamie Frankle and Brienne Sauers. Dr. Mariam Nasidi, the school’s French teacher as well as International Student Coordinator, spent a great deal of time with overall staging of this huge event. And this year, she acted as server, too—ladling, among her native Nigerian dishes, Banana Puff Puffs and African Yams - all as pretty as they were delicious. There were many things Mary and I wanted as second helpings, like corned beef & cabbage from Ireland, India's chicken curry, a Spanish gazpacho soup - but the waiting lines were too long by then. It’s indeed a popular annual program and the large, excited crowd cannot wait to attend each year.

So I hope to see you at the Taste of La Lumiere - sometime early Spring of 2006. You will agree it's grand food in grand surroundings, among exceptionally grand people.

**BASIC SWEET CREPES**
*a French recipe, made and served by Ayla Batton and Sage Piotter*

1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup milk  
1/4 cup lukewarm water  
2 large eggs  
2 T unsalted butter, melted  
1-1/2 T sugar  
Pinch of salt

Mix well and pour into a pitcher or other container with a pouring lip. Cover with plastic wrap and let stand for 30 minutes (or refrigerate up to 2 days). Stir and pour about 2 tablespoons into a pan,* lifting pan off the heat and rotating so that the batter forms an even, very thin circle. Cook until the top is set and the underside is golden. Turn the crepe over and cook until the second side is lightly browned. Remove the crepe to a piece of waxed paper and continue cooking the rest of the crepes. (Butter pan and stir batter before starting each one.) Stack the finished crepes between squares of waxed paper. If not used immediately, let cool then wrap air tight and freeze for up to one month.

Top with Nutella, a type of chocolate, and fresh strawberries, then fold in half. Yum.

*readers, I use a 6" fry pan for crepes
Fun with Words
You'll need to forgive my self-indulgence by choosing to focus on websites that feature words. I am a writer, after all, and writers like words and wordplay. You don't have to be a writer to enjoy these picks, though. I bet you will find at least one that offers you something valuable. Maybe it will tweak your interest in doing more writing yourself. After all, we don't want text messaging to end up being our only form of written communication in the future, do we?

A Collection of Word Oddities & Trivia (http://members.aol.com/gulfhigh2/words12.html). Speaking of text messaging, a person using it to spell out the longest place name in the world—composed of 66 letters—might find talking on a cell phone easier. The longest place name, found in North Wales, is among some word curiosities found at this website. Ranks of beautiful and not-so-beautiful words, worst-sounding words, and other stuff could keep you busy for an entire afternoon. Plus, writers can pick up some new ideas here.

Luciferous Logolepsy (www.kokogiak.com/logolepsy). If you like poking around in the dusty attic of obscure words, you will find 9,000 of them here. I learned that a rabiator is not a rabid radiator, but a violent man. A fancy name for chimney sweep is ramoneur; and an eesome lass or laddie is pleasant to the eye.

Worthless Word of the Day (http://home.mn.rr.com/wwftd). There are many places on the Web where you can access a “word of the day.” But, as far as I know, this is the only place where you can access the worthless word of the day. Naturally, the words come with explanations about why they are worthless. Only you will know if visiting this site is worth your time.

Oxymoronlist (www.oxymoronlist.com). There must be thousands of oxymorons listed here; the list keeps growing, and visitors are encouraged to contribute. Among the Top 20 Oxymorons judged by the website’s keepers are “personal computer,” “peace force,” “tax return,” and “Microsoft Works.”

Rhymezone (www.rhymezone.com). This is a must-bookmark page for poets. The best and fastest way to use its many features is to install the free link bar on your computer. Type in a word (any word) and find words that rhyme, or synonyms, or antonyms; also find definitions, homophones (same pronunciation but spelled differently), and similar-sounding words. For some words, you can search for kid-friendly picture/illustrations of the word and you can search Shakespeare’s works for references to certain words.

Book of Clichés (http://utopia.knoware.nl/users/sybev/cliche). This fun, tongue-in-cheek site gives you phrases to say when you find yourself in different situations, such as when you find yourself in trouble or when you feel really bad, or when there is too much work, or at least a dozen other common sit-
THE LB Fitness Center Open House

The focus is on what’s new and exciting at the grand re-opening of Long Beach Fitness Center, located in the Old School Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail.

Guests at the event will be able to enjoy refreshments, meet the staff and tour the facilities.

Fitness professionals at the Center include a personal trainer and certified nutrition consultant, a certified Pilates instructor, a group fitness class instructor and personal trainer, and a massage therapist.

For more information, phone Manager Cindy Perham at 879-1395.

Spring Videos at Krasl Art Center

The Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, MI, will offer a spring video series starting on Fri., April 15. This series will compliment the City-Scapes exhibition of photography that can be seen now. Artist and Krasl instructor Lorie Jesperson will lead a discussion period at the end of each showing. The public is invited; bring your lunch, coffee will be served. All videos begin at noon (MI time). For more information, phone 269/983-0271 or visit www.krasl.org


Fri., April 22: Moment of Impact: Stories of the Pulitzer Prize Photographs. Each photographer describes how they took their prize-winning photos. 73 mins.

Fri., April 29: National Geographic’s: The Photographers. Includes a behind the scenes look into the lives of National Geographic photographers. 55 mins.

Word Spy (www.wordspy.com). The site creators call what they do “lexpionage,” or the sleuthing of new words and phrases that have appeared multiple times in various media. Editors would call these words “hackneyed.” Anyway, check out the subject index and start pouring through the categories, such as buzzwords, jobs and job titles, insults and more.

Answering Machine Messages (http://herbison.com/canon/answer.txt). See how creative people have made up their own rules as a substitute for the suggested “Hi, I am not home right now, but if you leave a message…. I read through the entire list, yes I did. Found it very entertaining, and it gave me some great ideas for changing the blah greeting I recorded on my own answering machine. You’ll like this—not a website, but just a lengthy text with dozens of examples of people’s greetings.

Send your questions, comments or suggestions to cyberscribbles101@yahoo.com and read CyberScribbles Too (the blog) at http://cyberscribbles.blogspot.com.

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Did you know a will is the only way to name a guardian for your children if something happens to you?

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LB Fitness Center Open House

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"And the meek shall inherit the earth". If that holds true, then what's gardening all about? To stand aside and say “what will be, will be”, complacently watching a bit of planting struggle for life, obviously needing some help? Or get in there, with trowel and food to give it a lift? That is my current dilemma about a patch of pachysandra that is definitely not happy. Should I get in there with my shovel and tear it out, eyes blazing, a sneer on my face saying, “You’ve had your chance. You’re fired. I’m going to Trump you with something I think is better.” Meek, my unabridged dictionary tells me by definition, is: 1. humbly patient or submissive; 2. overly patient, spiritless, tame. That doesn’t sound so appealing. But here’s a kicker: the obsolete meaning of “meek” is gentle, kind. That sounds more like a goal for which to strive.

Pachysandra is one of those ubiquitous groundcovers that are supposed to be without problems. You see it everywhere, thick carpets of glowing dark green, putting forth a bonus of a rather attractive white flower in early Spring. That’s the problem with my little patch by the front steps. The thick glossy mat has never happened. Instead, the long ropy tendrils (petioles) just lay there, putting up some leaves to be sure, but each plant maintaining a kind of exclusivity from its neighbors, a don’t touch me attitude that looks scraggly rather than lush. I have other planting of pachysandra that grow thick and green, scarcely contained by their boundaries of brick. Lush is their law of life. Is my sickly patch objecting to the large rock and large yellow host I have in its midst? A rather attractive planting I thought when I set them out. Obviously these pachysandra don’t think so. I’ve even planted some crocus among them for a bit of Spring cheer to urge them on. No go.
Overly patient I may have been. Spiritless, tame, I will not be. I'll go again for gentle and kind, and this year work in some more peat, organic fertilizer, a bit more watering, clip the tips of what growing shoots come up, and hope will spring eternal yet another time. There are many varieties in the pachysandra species, but the one we probably see most often is Pachysandra terminalis, Japanese Spurge. It's considered rapid-growing (Hah! Only when its happy.) and recommended for dense shade, under trees and evergreens. Planted in sun, the leaves will turn brown during the winter. That isn't my problem; the problem patch is under a nearby oak and maple tree. The plant can also be affected by scale, mites, root-knot nematode or leaf blight. There is also an ominous fungus called Volutella pachysandra which causes brown blotches on the leaves and affects plants growing in full sun. Purdue University has put out web info on this blight with pictures that look like creatures from outer space. I'd expect Alien hunter Sigourney Weaver to go to the attack. It seems to affect Japanese Spurge, the pachysandra terminalis, more than Allegheny Spurge. If it strikes, the word is to be ruthless and root them out; prevention could be a thinning of overly thick patches to reduce dampness and humidity.

There are other options in pachysandra: The cultivar, Pachysandra procumbens that grows a little higher and has larger blossoms tinged with pink. Other cultivars are “Green Carpet,” “Silveredge” and “Variegata” both with white variegated leaves should the Volutella blight strike.

If my worrisome pachysandra plot isn’t revived by tender, loving care, there is always ever hardy periwinkle, aka Vinca aka myrtle that grows everywhere and likes to take over its territory. It also likes to be interplanted with spring bulbs as can be witnessed in any wooded area. There is a rosy bloom variety called Atropurpurea if one wants to get a bit fancy, but the good old lavender blue of Vinca Minor will do very nicely, and in all meekness, may someday inherit my earth.

And so it is.
Preschool Registration at St. Mary’s

Spring is in the air, and it is time to register for Kaleidoscope Preschool at St. Mary’s in New Buffalo! Register on Wed., April 20, Thurs., April 21 or Fri., April 22, 2005 from 1-3 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. (MI time) at St. Mary of the Lake School, 704 W. Merchant St., New Buffalo. Bring official birth certificate and proof of immunizations. Phone 269/469-1515 for more information.

Wine Tasting Benefit

In order to raise funds for New Buffalo’s soccer field, New Buffalo Community Partnership has entered this year’s Harbor Country Art Attack with a wine-tasting event at Brewster’s Italian Cafe from 3-5 p.m. (MI time) on Sat., April 23.

Entitled “Affordable Wines, Affirmative Art,” the event will be “a delightful tasting of 15 different and delectable wines,” each priced under $15. Ticket price is also $15. The wines, provided by vineyards, The Wine Sellers and Brewster’s, may be purchase by bottle or case.

Also featured will be an exhibit of the vibrant watercolors and acrylics of New Buffalo artist Natalie Mooney. Thanks to Brewster’s, The Wine Sellers and Ms. Mooney, purchases of wine or art at this event will further contribute to the soccer field fund.

Previous contributions to the Partnership have already been used to re-surface and re-seed the soccer field for use this fall. New funds will be used to furnish the field with bleachers and moveable goals.

Tickets for the event are limited; reserve by phoning Dorothy at Michigan Thyme (269) 469-3470 or Brewster’s (269) 469-3005 or New Buffalo Inn & Spa (269) 469-1000. If tickets are still available, they will be sold at the door the day of the event.

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Two Art Exhibitions at VU

Two exhibitions opening Wed., April 20th at Valparaiso University’s Brauer Museum of Art will feature artwork by the University’s art students this academic year.

The annual VU Art Student Exhibition will run April 20-May 8. The exhibition features approximately 60 pieces of art created by students during the current academic year and selected by the University’s art faculty. Media will include painting, photography and sculpture.

An awards ceremony and opening reception will take place at 7 p.m., Wed., April 20 in Brauer Museum. The reception is free and open to the public.

Graduating Art Students’ Exhibition

Also opening April 20 is an exhibition of artwork created by seven VU students who will be graduating with their bachelor’s degree in fine art this May. Approximately 30 works of art will be shown in the Fine Arts Graduates’ Exhibition and include photography, paintings, drawings and graphic designs.

An opening reception for this exhibition will take place at 7 p.m. on Thurs., April 28 in Brauer Museum. It will be free and open to the public.

The Brauer Museum is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues., Thurs. & Fri.; 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Wed.; and noon-5 p.m. Sat. & Sun. The Museum is closed Mon. Admission is free.

Films on DVD Series

At 2 p.m. on Sun., April 17, the Michigan City Public Library will continue their series of free films with “Motorcycle Diaries.” The film tells the story of Che Guevara, who before he became the leader of the Cuban Revolution, was a medical student named Ernesto Guevara. At the age of 23, he and his friend, Alberto, decided to travel across Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Peru seeking fun and adventure before doing their medical residencies.

Beginning as a buddy/road movie, the film itself says “It’s about two lives running parallel for a while.” The two friends start off with the same aspirations but by the time the film ends, it’s clear what each man’s destiny has become.

Support those who advertise in the Beacher!
Tell them you saw their Ad!
**Books and Coffee Final Presentation**

Purdue University North Central “Books & Coffee” discussion series will have its final presentation of the semester on Tues., April 19 at 1 p.m. in the PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building Assembly Hall, Room 02. Refreshments will be served.

The book, *The Things They Carried* by Tim O’Brien will be reviewed by PNC Dr. Jesse Cohn, assistant professor of English.

The session will feature a review of the book, followed by a discussion period. The book is available for purchase from the PNC Bookstore.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Cynthia Roberts, assistant professor of organizational leadership & supervision at 872-0527, ext. 5219.

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**Country Western Birthday Dance**

Amarillo Star Chapter 3’s Ten Year Birthday Celebration Dance is Sat., April 16, at the American Legion Skwiat Post 451, 121 Legion Skwiat Ave., Michigan City. 7-10:30 p.m. No charge A/S members/$7.00 Non-members. Everyone is welcome. Line/partner dancing to DJ music. Information: Chris 219/874-3624

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**Washington Park Zoo Open For Season**

Pictured above is the Children’s Rotary Castle at Washington Park Zoo in Michigan City. It is a replica of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ logo and is one of only three such buildings that exist in the world today. The Castle houses the zoo’s reptiles.

Zoo hours from now till May 27 are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., with ticket sales window closing at 3 p.m.

Zoo hours from May 28-Sept. 5 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are 10:30 a.m.- 6 p.m., and on Thursdays through Sunday 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Admission fees are $3/age 62 and over; $4.50/ages 12-61; and $2.50/ages 3-11. Kids 2 and under visit free.
PNC to Host Nurses Week Conference

The Purdue University North Central will host a Nurses Week Conference, “Demystifying Women’s Heart Health” on Fri., May 6, that will focus on the recent research findings in women’s healthcare. The conference, open to all nursing professionals, will be held in the PNC Library-Student-Faculty Building.

The conference registration fee is $125. Nurses who register with another person receive a 10 percent discount. Nursing students may attend for a conference fee of $20. The registration fee includes attendance for all presentations and exhibits, a light breakfast and a heart-healthy lunch. The registration deadline is April 15.

Speakers will include:

Rachel Moody, vice president of Cardiovascular Services at LaPorte Hospital; Patricia Keresztes, undergraduate nursing instructor at Purdue University Calumet and practicing registered nurse; Patricia Neely, nursing supervisor in Cardiac Rehabilitation at the Porter Valparaiso Outpatient Campus; and regionally known business owner and registered nurse, Seattle Sutton, who will speak about the importance of a healthy diet and how nurses can inspire and assist patients with these lifestyle changes, or make changes in their own lives or careers.

An application has been submitted to the Indiana State Nurses Association for approval of contact hours. Contact Mary Koselke at Purdue University North Central, at 872-0527, ext. 5408, for more information about contact hours. Registration is limited.

For more information about this conference or to register, call 872-0527, ext. 5343 or visit http://www.pnc.edu/ce. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations should contact ext. 5343.

Harbor Country Book Club

The Harbor Country Book Club will meet on Tues., April 26, at the Harbor Grand Hotel, New Buffalo, MI, at 7:30 p.m. (MI time). Everyone is invited to attend. You do not have to have read the books; there is always a brief biography of the author and a book review before the discussion.

The selections for April are: fiction, A River Runs Through It by Norman Maclean, and non-fiction, Nickled and Dimed by Barbara Ehrenreich.

Protect Your Computer

Learn how to protect your computer at a special presentation on April 20 at La Porte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., La Porte. The program will be held at 2 p.m. and repeated at 7 p.m. People will learn how to protect their computers from viruses and other problems. There is no charge or registration. Call 219/362-6156 for more information or 48 hours in advance to request signing for the hearing impaired.
Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

April 14 -- Woman's Study Club Card Party. 6 pm at Skwiat Amer. Legion Post, Michigan City. Tix $5 at the door. Info: 871-0775.


April 14-16 -- “Little Murders.” Community Theatre Guild production at Chicago Street Theatre, 154 W. Chicago St., Valparaiso. Curtain 8 pm Fri & Sat; 2:30 pm on Sun. Tix $12/adults, $10/sen. cit. (62+), $8/students (21 & under with ID), $10/groups. 219/464-1636 or www.ctgonline.org


April 15-17, 22-24 -- “The Ransom of Red Chief.” O. Henry's short story adapted for the stage. Presented by the children of Dunes Arts Foundation at the LB Community Center. Curtain 7 pm. Tix $5 at the door.

April 15-17, 22-24 -- “Singin’ in the Rain.” Musical stage play at the Memorial Opera House, 104 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Curtain 8 pm Fri & Sat; 2 pm on Sun. Tix $15/adults, $12/students, seniors & groups of 20 or more. Box office open Mon-Sat, 10 am-2 pm. 219/548-9137.


April 16 -- Vacationing Violins “Bon Voyage Party.” 7-9 pm at Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd St., MC. $20 per person includes wine, appetizers, desserts. Music by Silver String Trio. Meet the artists and buy a raffle ticket to win your favorite violin. RSVP 219-325-0666 or executive@lcso.net

April 16 -- Amarillo Star Chapter 3 Ten Year Birthday Celebration Dance. 7-10:30 pm at Skwiat Amer. Legion Post, Michigan City. Adm. free/AS members and $7/non-members. Line/partner dancing to DJ.

April 16 -- Bunny Fisher in concert at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI. Curtain 8 pm (MI time). Tix $15 at the door or 269/756-3879.

April 16 -- 9th Semi-Annual Lions Club Pancake Breakfast. 8 am-1 pm at the Senior Center, Washington Park, Michigan City. Tix $4.50/adults, $2.50/4-10 yrs. at the door.

April 17 -- LaPorte County Antique Show. 8 am-4 pm at the LaPorte Co. Fairgrounds. Adm. $4/adults, kids under 12 free. Free parking; home style cooking available. Info: 219/778-2892.

April 19 -- Camera Obscura Art Technique. Noon at the Michigan City Public Library. Adult program about Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliet and the special art technique used by Johannes Vermeer. Drawing for the book will conclude the program. Bring your lunch.

April 19 -- Books and Coffee at PNC. 1 pm in the Library-Student-Faculty Bldg. Assembly Hall, Rm. 02. The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brian reviewed by PNC Dr. Jesse Cohn. Free & open to the public.


Places to Visit:


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

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

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd St., Michigan City. Tues.-Fri., 10 am-5 pm; Sat-Sun, 11 am-4 pm. Phone 874-4900. Current exhibit: “INDesign: Indiana Products Design Exhibition.”

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


Washington Park Zoo, Michigan City. Gates open 10:30 am; adm. gate closes 3 pm; park closes 4 pm. Adm. $4.50 adults (12-61 yrs); $3.00 sen. cit. (62+); $2.50/kids 3-11; free/2 & under. 873-1510.

Farther Afield:


April 16 -- Gerry Zubko (classical guitar). Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI. 8 pm (MI time). Tix $7/adults, $5/sen. cit. and students.

April 16 -- Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra in concert. 8 pm on the Mendel Mainstage at Lake Michigan College, Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, MI. Pre-concert conversation 7 pm in the South Training Room. Tix $7/students and $15-$35/adults. 269/982-4030. Story this issue.

April 14, 2005 Page 47
Travels with Charley:
A Curious Big Kid Finally Explores the Curious Kids’ Museum

by Charles McKelvey

If I had a nickel for every time I passed the Curious Kids’ Museum at 415 Lake Boulevard in St. Joseph, Michigan without stopping, I would have big bags under my eyes.

Big bags of coins that is.

But after finally touring the two-story museum and putting my hands on some of their more than 100 hands-on exhibits and activities, I could probably tell you just how many nickels I would have, plus their exact worth, and, of course, their weight down to the milligram.

exhibit near the entrance to the poster featuring Albert Einstein by the exit, I was a lot further along toward understanding his theory of relativity. I had done so much thinking and learning and puzzling, that my brain actually felt bigger.

And that is precisely the point of a museum that began in 1987 as an idea shared by a group of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor educators and parents who wanted to provide children of all ages with alternative approaches to science education. According to a museum history written by Mary Baske, the Curious Kids’ Museum (CKM) welcomed their first visitors on September 19, 1989 “after almost two years of conceptualizing, planning, raising dollars, renovating Memorial Hall, and building exhibits.”

For the record, the first visitors to CKM were preschoolers from the migrant school in Dowagiac, Michigan.

In recent years, CKM has achieved stable attendance of 70,000 annual visitors.

And, because of my insatiable curiosity, that number will rise by at least one in 2005.

And I know you are all curious to know just what I discovered on my maiden voyage through the good ship CKM, so join me now for a personal tour of the museum with their erudite Executive Director Pat Adams.

She began by pointing out two brightly painted “Coat Boats” by the entrance and noted that each boat is assigned to an arriving tour group for the deposit of coats. But, because the boats have wheels, they sometimes are seen cruising through the museum with a number of giggling young sailors aboard.

Pat Adams decided I was definitely too big to haul around the museum in a Coat Boat, so she simply walked me over to the “Wall of Fame” which covered walls on the first floor and climbed on up into the second story.

The Curious Kids’ Museum, which sits on the bluff overlooking St. Joseph’s magnificent lakefront, satisfied more than my curiosity after my recent tour with Executive Director Pat Adams.

By the time I had gone from the Global Child
“We’re a hands-on museum, so our symbol is the hand. And one way that you can help to support the museum is to give a $25 donation and get your hand (and name) printed on one of these tiles and put on our Wall of Fame, and you’re here forever. There are people here who helped found the museum and their children who are now having their own families.

“One of my favorite stories is that there is a little boy from Ireland who comes to visit his grandparents here in Saint Joe every year, and he has to come to the museum and see his hand on the wall. The ones that are footprints are babies, and the ones that are angels are for children who passed away.”

Our next stop was the Global Child area where children can identify with children in other countries. “Right now we’re doing rural, central Africa, and we talked to students at Andrews University who were from Africa. One of the young men who helped us design it is from a village at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro. That’s why we have (a painting of) Kilimanjaro in here.”

In fact, if you visit the village, you will think you are looking out the window at the snow-covered peak of Ernest Hemingway’s favorite mountain.

The current African village includes the two places in which children there would spend most of their time: the family hut, and a one-room school house made of metal and other found objects. The exhibit includes actual photographs of an African school, and there are hands-on opportunities for visitors to take lessons in the two main languages of East Africa: Swahili and French.

How’s this attempt by a 54-year-old kid: “Jambo, twiga!” That either means, “hello, giraffe!” or “run away from the angry crocodile.” I’m not sure, but then I’ll be sure and spend more time at CKM before I take my next safari to Kenya.

Pat Adams next led me into an adjacent exhibit called Kids’ Space and explained that the “philosophy of this space is what do you want to be when you grow up? Come and play at it. Come and practice. We put in a new theater stage this year, because we saw that kids wanted to put costumes on and do a live play in...”
addition to putting on the puppet shows. The fire and police departments donate a lot of those uniforms. In fact, the last time we called the fire department in Saint Joe, they said there is going to be a shortage of firefighters in the next few years, and we’re just hoping kids get excited about becoming firemen, and this is one way to put the idea in their heads.”

Pat Adams added that there is a “lot of education and learning behind what we do here. In a true children’s museum, there are deliberate life skills behind each exhibit. Many of our exhibits are put in as a result of teacher requests.”

She pointed to the nearby magnet table as a perfect example and passed a magnetized wand over a box with various objects, one of which was — yes, you guessed it — a nickel.

And, no, the nickel was not magnetic.

But Pat Adams’ love of the Curious Kids’ Museum certainly was, especially when we ran into one of their busy floor interpreters, Lori Giuffre. She was heading off to the new washer and dryer donated to the museum by Whirlpool Corporation to throw in a load of dirty costumes before tending to her myriad other duties.

“Some museums do not hire floor interpreters, so they have to have more push-button exhibits because it takes a lot of time and energy to keep all this stuff picked up, looking nice, looking new, and looking neat. Our floor interpreter’s jobs are to do nothing but to be our front-line customer-service representatives. They greet people; they make them feel welcome; they do all the orientations for the school groups.”

Lori Giuffre was particularly excited about summer at the museum because “we’re having a cooking camp, a camping camp, an aviation camp, a fishing camp, and an American Girl camp. And we’re doing trains for little guys, and a forensics camp for older kids.”

There is so much going on at a museum that is dedicated to being “an interactive, hands-on discovery center for children,” that I am going to have to use the remaining space to give you their phone number, and hours of operation and to urge you to spend a few nickels on gas so you and all the kids in your family can satisfy your collective curiosity.

For more information about Curious Kids’ Museum, please call them at: 269/983-2543 or visit them on-line at: www.curiouskidsmuseum.org.

You can also e-mail them at: ckm@curiouskidsmuseum.org

Admission is $4 (or 80 nickels) per person over one year, and Curious Kids’ Museum is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Eastern), and Sundays noon to 5 p.m. Beginning June 1, they will be open seven days a week until Labor Day.

The Curious Kids’ Museum is conveniently located in downtown St. Joseph on Lake Boulevard and is easily accessible from I-94. See their website for easy directions from your location, and see if you can’t get up there before bags of nickels appear under your eyes.
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April 14, 1865, while attending the comedy Our American Cousin at Washington’s Ford’s Theatre, President Abraham Lincoln was shot and fatally wounded by actor John Wilkes Booth. The President died the next morning.

On April 14, 1900, Andrew Riker won a 50-mile cross country automobile race held on New York’s Long Island. Driving the only electric car among the nine starters, he finished the course in 2 hours, 3 minutes and 29 seconds.

On April 14, 1902, in Kemmerer, Wyoming, J. C. Penney opened his first store.

On April 14, 1910, President William Howard Taft set a precedent by throwing out the first ball at the opening of the baseball season.

On April 15, 1452, Italian painter Leonardo da Vinci, one of the greatest artists of the Italian Renaissance, was born in the village of Vinci.

On April 15, 1638, English settlers arrived at what is now New Haven, Connecticut.

On April 15, 1783, the United States ratified a preliminary peace treaty with England.

On April 15, 1817, the first American school for the deaf was opened in Hartford, Connecticut.

On April 15, 1870, the Metropolitan Museum of Art was founded in New York City.

On April 15, 1873, insulin, which had been discovered the year before by Dr. Frederick Banting, of Toronto, became available for the general treatment of diabetes.

On April 16, 1787, "The Contrast" (by Royal Tyler), the first play written by a United States citizen, was produced in New York.

On April 16, 1789, President-Elect George Washington left his home in Mount Vernon, bound for New York, for his first inauguration as President of the United States.

On April 16, 1900, the United States post offices began selling books of stamps.

On April 16, 1935, the long-running "Fibber McGee and Molly" comedy program premiered on NBC radio.

On April 16, 1972, Apollo 16 began the United States fifth lunar landing mission.

On April 17, 1961, operating on orders from President John Kennedy, about 1,500 CIA trained Cuban exiles launched the poorly-planned "Bay of Pigs" invasion of Cuba. The invasion failed, and most of the survivors were captured.

On April 17, 1982, Queen Elizabeth proclaimed a new constitution, making Canada independent from Great Britain.
On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere began his famous ride between the Massachusetts towns of Charlestown and Lexington, warning the American Colonist of the approach of British troops.

On April 18, 1818, President James Monroe signed a bill creating the State of Illinois.

On April 18, 1858, rain began falling on the Chicago area, and continued to fall for 60 consecutive days.

On April 18, 1906, an earthquake centered in San Francisco, followed by major fires, caused the loss of 700 lives.

On April 18, 1924, the first crossword puzzle book was published by Simon and Schuster.

On April 18, 1934, the era of the "Laundromat" began when the first Washateria, with four electric washing machines for rent, opened in Fort Worth.

On April 18, 1956, American actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier of the principality of Monaco.

On April 18, 1977, author Alex Haley won the Pulitzer Prize for his novel "Roots."

On April 19, 1783, the Revolutionary War, won by the American colonies, was declared ended.

On April 19, 1824, Lord Bryan, one of Britain’s most beloved poets, died in Greece during that country’s fight for independence.

On April 19, 1865, the funeral for President Abraham Lincoln was held in the White House.

On April 19, 1892, in Springfield, Massachusetts, Charles E. Duryea took his horseless carriage - the first American-made automobile - out of his shop for a successful drive.

On April 19, 1933, the United States went off the gold standard.

On April 20, 1836, Congress established the Wisconsin Territory.


On April 20, 1861, Col. Robert E. Lee resigned his commission in the United States Army.

On April 20, 1902, scientists Marie and Pierre Curie succeeded in isolating the radioactive element radium.


On April 20, 1968, Pierre Trudeau was sworn in as prime minister of Canada.

On April 20, 1986, in Moscow, pianist Vladimir Horowitz performed in his homeland for the first time since leaving the Soviet Union, almost six decades earlier.
THE "Accidental Rapture" Premieres at VU

Valparaiso University's student production of "Accidental Rapture," a comedy exploring current social issues dividing America, will open Fri., April 22nd, at the University Theatre which is located inside the VU Center for the Arts.

Performances will be at 8 p.m. April 22 & 29; 2 p.m. April 23 & 30; and 7 p.m. April 24 & May 1. Tickets are $10/adults, $5/senior citizens and non-VU students; phone 219/464-5162.

"Accidental Rapture" was written by Eric Pfeffinger, a member of the Dramatists Guild and network playwright with the Chicago Dramatists, and premiered in 2003 at Chicago's Visions and Voices Theatre.

The play tells the story of two couples who were best friends in college when they reunite for dinner twenty years later on the night the world comes to an end.

Dr. John Steven Paul, director of the play, said, "Pfeffinger explores the widening cultural divide in the United States between liberals and conservatives of all kinds, religious, political and social, that threatens to tear our country apart." The comedy also takes a humorous look at life at today's university campus.
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Friday at Noon is the deadline for the following week’s issue. (219) 879-0088
The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls

This has got to be the most amazing memoir you will ever read. Jeannette Walls is a writer and regular contributor to MSNBC.com and married to writer John Taylor. But how she ended up so successful and well adjusted is anybody’s guess.

Jeannette’s parents were married in 1956. The only photo in the book is of their wedding day. They look like any other American couple, ready to step out into the American dream, but somewhere between that wedding day and the birth of four children, the Walls chose to take a different path. That path would take them out of mainstream America and into the desert regions of the Southwest where they would drift from place to place, sometimes calling a trailer home, sometimes sleeping out in the desert.....

“Later that night, Dad stopped the car out in the middle of the desert, and we slept under the stars. We had no pillows, but Dad said that was part of his plan. He was teaching us to have good posture. The Indians didn’t use pillows, either, he explained, and look how straight they stood. We did have our scratchy army-surplus blankets, so we spread them out and lay there, looking up at the field of stars. I told Lori how lucky we were to be sleeping out under the sky like Indians.

“We could live like this forever, I said.

“I think we’re going to,’ she said.” Lori was the perceptive one.

While behaving irrationally most of the time, Jeannette’s parents did give their children some valuable lessons, like teaching them to read by the time they were five years old, knowing how to respect the land, and, most important, giving them a sense of self. This sense of self helped the four Walls children to band together and grow stronger as they grew up. Jeannette was taught binary numbers by her father and astounded a teacher when she turned in her math homework.

Sometimes, however, Mom and Dad’s life lessons weren’t always so good.....

“Mom decided Maureen needed to enroll in preschool, but she said she didn’t want her youngest daughter dressed in the thrift-store clothes the rest of us wore. Mom told us we would have to go shoplifting.

“Isn’t that a sin?” I asked Mom.

“Not exactly,” Mom said. “God doesn’t mind you bending the rules a little if you have a good reason. It’s sort of like justifiable homicide. This is justifiable pilfering.”

Everyone agreed that Rex Walls was brilliant. He was a mathematician, an electrician, an engineer, but jobs just seemed to come and go...just like the money. Jeannette and the other kids were used to being woken up in the middle of the night to high-tail it out of town. Dad said the FBI was after him because he was trying to uncover corruption in the unions, but Mom admitted that he said that because that sounded better than admitting to being hounded by creditors.

What a life! Mom just wanted to read and paint, Dad just wanted to smoke and drink and gamble. Thing was, he was good at it, and, of course, that provided problems, too. He had made blueprints up for a house he was going to build the family; he called it the glass castle, actually a fitting metaphor on the Walls’ life. While there was genuine love there, Jeannette’s parents simply didn’t want to deal with the world. Mom had a teaching degree, but only went to work when the kids rebelled and forced her into going in order to keep the welfare department from taking them away.

Phoenix seems to have provided the most security for Jeannette growing up. Her maternal grandmother passed away and the family moved into her house and lived there for a time. But like everything in the Walls’ lives, this too passed away, and they were on the road again, this time to West Virginia and Dad’s mother and uncle. Grandma was a dirty drunk who tried to fondle her own grandson and uncle was a strange man who tried to fondle Jeannette. Lunch from grandma consisted of two pieces of white bread with pure lard slathered in between. Ugh. No wonder Jeannette stayed in the cafeteria long after the other kids went outside and dug up leftovers the other kids had thrown away. Grandma finally kicked them out and they ended up in a shack on the side of the mountain—no electricity, no bathroom and mostly, no heat. When Jeannette visited the home of a school friend in town, she couldn’t get over the fact that there was a dial on the wall that switched heat on and off.

Lori moved to New York after high school and Jeannette followed a year later. Their brother, Brian, came along later and all three made a new life for themselves in the city. Guess who showed up several years later?

This is a must read book you won’t be able to put down. I was overwhelmed by how much actual love and affection Jeannette could put into her story. She doesn’t lay blame or spout accusations against her parents, she simply tells her story....and what a story.

Till next time, happy reading!
PANORAMIC VIEWS OF LAKE MICHIGAN! Watch the Chicago skyline and beyond from your master suite, the open living area or the deck of this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath contemporary perched high above Lake Shore Drive in Sheridan Beach. Three levels of living encompass an open floor plan that takes best advantage of the Lake Michigan views. New carpeting & fresh exterior paint enhance this exquisite home. $548,500

IF YOU WANT THE BEACH, but don’t want people in your back yard, try 1819 LSD on for size. This home offers lake views, quick and easy beach access (right across the street), great accommodations with 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths, and easy maintenance. The home has been well maintained & steadily improved, with beautiful woodwork, a totally new kitchen, and 2 finished rec rooms. And don’t forget the indoor pool! Ask Ed Merrion for a look. $898,500

LONG BEACH COVE WATERFRONT! This beautiful 2-story home combines a comfortable floor plan with stunning landscaping and an ideal location! The 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath floor plan includes a formal living room with 10' windows facing Lake Clare, a main floor master suite and a combination kitchen-family room w/ fireplace. COME SEE! $474,500

DIRECTIONS: Karwick Road to entrance to Long Beach Cove; east to 2nd intersection (Tinkers Way); north to home.

95 Hoosier
NOTHING LEFT TO DO!!! This gorgeous Michiana cottage has 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, a beautiful Great Room with skylites & wood-burning fireplace, private screen porch, deck, hot tub & all the amenities you could ask for in a 12 year new home. Located on an extensively landscaped double lot just off Michiana Drive & ready for you! Call Fran today! $379,000

DIRECTIONS: Michiana Drive east to Hoosier; south to home.

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102 Lady Lane
Quality 5 year old 2-story home walking distance to the beach. 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, master bath with skylights and whirlpool tub plus shower. Large kitchen with Amish oak cabinets. Gathering room with fireplace, 3 car heated garage, new landscaping, and finished main floor laundry. $365,000

3820 Hiawatha
Totally rehabbed in and out one-of-a-kind home with the character of a loft home. Two-sided fireplace, ceramic flooring, circular windows, steel beamed ceilings, Jacuzzi in master bedroom, three deck areas overlooking beautifully landscaped lot. $329,000

120 Power Lane
New Charming cottage in Beachwalk. Just steps to the beach. 2 large bedrooms and 1 loft bedroom. Fireplace, enclosed porch and full basement. Putting green and pond right at your back door. $398,000

209 Washington Park Blvd.
Brand New Home less than two blocks from Lake Michigan. Large living room opens to the dining room and kitchen. Master bedroom and 1 ½ baths on first floor; upstairs are two double sized bedrooms and a bath. Family room has sliding glass door to patio. $329,000

2034 Oriole Trail
Totally rehabbed in and out one-of-a-kind home with the character of a loft home. Two-sided fireplace, ceramic flooring, circular windows, steel beamed ceilings, Jacuzzi in master bedroom, three deck areas overlooking beautifully landscaped lot. $329,000

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