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Port Huron Earns 'Maritime Capital' Title

by William F. Keefe



The twin spans of the Blue Water bridges linking the United States and Canada soar above the historic railway baggage car once used by American inventor Thomas Edison. (Keefe images)

If Port Huron, capital of Michigan's Blue Water country, leaves you yawning, it may be time for some No-Doze.

Ponder the possibilities. If large-ship watching is your bag, you could probably search through the entire Great Lakes Basin without coming close to the hundreds of merchant vessels that pass under the Blue Water bridges monthly. The ships are traveling both north into Lake Huron and south down the St. Clair River.

That's not to mention the virtual fleets of pleasure boats, cruise craft like the *Huron Lady II*; an occasional sailboat, and almost everything else but inflated innertubes. Skilled divers frequent the St. Clair to test their proficiency in the 4-knot current. Many also renew their acquaintances with bottom

debris that includes "at least five shipwrecks, an old steam crane. . ., and a Model A Ford," as a brochure reports.

What ties the whole Port Huron picture together is the "Vacationland spirit," otherwise known as "Blue Water hospitality." The spirit and the hospitality are virtually palpable. . .

-- To give newcomers to the city (or interested citizens) a once-over of seeworthy sites, the city and local businesses sponsor "The Blue Water Trolley." Picking up riders at various points, the trolley-style bus swings past local points of interest. The round trip takes about an hour. There are FORTY-NINE "points of interest" that riders may want to revisit later.

The cost per adult? TEN cents for the whole hour.



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- -- It's not a written rule, but you simply can't NOT watch big ships as they chug up or down the St. Clair River. Stretched out along the river's west bank, Port Huron had no real competition in 2005 when it won "both the Michigan and the U.S. Trademark as The Maritime Capital of the Great Lakes."
- -- To make watching easier and more comfortable, in 2006 the powers-that-be built a river's-edge Great Lakes Maritime Center. The official description states that "The Center is a state-of-the-art facility. . .to watch the freighters go by, meet new people, hang out with friends, or just sit back and relax."



The Great Lakes Maritime Center makes "freighter-watching" easy, comfortable, and habit-forming. Opened in 2006, the 6,000-foot facility has a wall of windows overlooking the St. Clair River as well as food service and AIS (Automated Information Systems) screens showing the positions of freighters approaching the Blue Water area from either north (Lake Huron) or south (the lower St. Clair River).

And watch some more. But if watching becomes strenuous, "Enjoy a snack, breakfast, or lunch (in the Maritime Center) as you watch. Walk the beautiful waterfront outside. Enjoy picnic tables, ice cream, and French fries."

Or try one of the two official museums listed on the "Blue Water Trolley Points of Interest" list. The two are the 1904-built Museum of Arts and History and the Thomas Edison Depot Museum. The latter, once an actual train station plus a statue of the great inventor and plus the baggage car in which he did some experimenting, is exactly where Thomas Edison would have placed it.

Can't you just see it? Edison at 8 or 9, and fiddling



A huge boulder stands as a memorial to Thomas Edison in the park named after the great inventor. Edison lived in Port Huron from the age of 7 until about 16. The park area was once his playground.

with a contraption that would record the rumbling of traffic on the Blue Water bridges? The Americanside portions of the twin spans loom almost directly over the Depot Museum.

Some boat museums, anyone? No fewer than three Coast Guard ships of varying vintage make Port Huron their permanent or temporary home. The three are the retired Lake Huron lightship Huron, one of the Coast Guard's "floating lighthouses" of the last century; the still-active *Cutter Hollyhock*; and the retired *Cutter Bramble*. Don't, finally, overlook a camera shot of the town's adopted "ambassador" beauty, the tall ship *Highlander Sea*.



With the Blue Water bridges in the background, the retired Lightship Huron rests at anchor off the north end of Port Huron's Pine Grove Park.

Retired in 1970, the Huron was the last "floating lighthouse" on the Great Lakes.

Behind the Tourist Facade

To suggest that the Blue Water bridges poke their graceful profiles into nearly every camera shot originating in Port Huron is to rehearse the obvious. But to reconnoiter a little in search of the unapparent is to find facts of interest.

History, for example, has left a photogenic footprint north of the U.S.-Canada bridges. Destroyed in 1828 after only three years of existence, the 1829 Fort Gratiot Lighthouse is now the oldest in Michigan. Originally 74 feet tall, the white-painted brick tower "grew" to a height of 86 feet in the 1860s. The lighthouse's flashing green light, automated in 1933, was visible for 17 miles to ships at or in the lake channel leading into the St. Clair River.

Add a believe-it-or-not? There's a tunnel that does its job 15 feet under the bottom of the same St. Clair River. This St. Clair Tunnel, "more than a mile in length..., is the Canadian National Railway tube connecting Port Huron and Sarnia, Ontario," comments a brochure. "The tunnel is a major highway for double stack container trains that...move vast amounts of freight across the U.S.-Canadian border."

Or under the border? Completely aboveground, by contrast, is the new Blue Water YMCA, the new civic pride and joy that welcomes everyone, member or not. Completed in 2008, the 65,000-square-foot facility overlooks the river while offering more than 150 programs for the entire family.

Perhaps less believable, "The Y is the single largest provider of health, wellness, fitness, childcare, and non-school-related physical education in the area."

Back to the river for a bulletin for the Isaak Waltons who know the HOWs but keep notes on the WHERES. "The St. Clair River is famous for its BIG fish," says the author of "Fishing in Vacationland." "Trophy winning walleye are taken from its fast-flowing waters all year; spring months are best for jumbo marble-eyes, although trophy fish are taken from the river as long as it remains open."

And so on almost including locations of "hot spots," where walleye prowl after sundown, when a trolled lure comes in handy, and the odds are on fishing from Port Huron's piers."

If the fish indigenous to the St. Clair River are leaving the biting to the mosquitoes, the city has an alternative up its sleeve: the Black River. A much narrower flow, the Black joins the St. Clair not far below the international bridges. Along the Black's shores boat owners find one of the largest marina complexes on the Great Lakes, with docking for more than 700 pleasure craft.

The Black also performs various other chores. It's home water to the River Street Marina, for example, which provides such critical boater services as seasonal and transient slips, rentals, on-site trailer storage, gas and diesel fueling stations, pumpouts,



A freighter that has just passed under the Blue Water bridges heads south down the St. Clair River. A lone onlooker (in white shirt) marks the ship's progress.

and 30 and 50 amp electrical connections.

"The St. Clair River is part of the central section of the world's longest ship canal--the 2,347-mile St. Lawrence Seaway," notes a visitors' guide. As one result, the Lakes Pilot Association is responsible for supplying pilots to foreign ships that travel on Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, the Detroit and St. Clair rivers, and Lake Huron.

With two small boats, the *Huron Belle* and the *Huron Maid*, both stationed at the mouth of the Black River in Port Huron, the LPA dutifully ferries pilots to all the foreign flag vessels that are traveling the Seaway. The pilot boats operate 24/7 throughout the shipping season.

A bonus for a boat watcher accrues when he/she catches sight of one of the speedy little ferry craft. The pickup point lies in Lake Huron as the foreign ship is approaching the St. Clair River.

Sports, Entertainment, Diversions

Not to be outdone in the realm of Things To Do, Port Huron offers life-size portions of just everything that classifies as sport, entertainment, or diversion. The single exception that automatically springs to mind is bull-fighting; but corrida aficionados, dry your tears and read a sampling of what this city of some 30,000 planned for the summer of 2009, citing only the highlights. . .

Black River Canoe Race: fireworks; Taste of Port Huron; Rockin' the Rivers (Port Huron Idol competition); cruise Night and Car Show; Blue Water Womens' League Tot Contest; Rotary Int'l Day Parade; Hot Air Balloon Festival; PH Yacht Club Race Series (Lake Huron Int'l Regatta, Great Lakes Championship, and St. Clair River Race); Coast Guard Appreciation Days; Black River Raft-Off; Annual Port Huron to Mackinac Race, and Mercy Hospital Charity Golf Outing.

Add another that wafts the lakes' seaweedy gusts and breezes right into Port Huron's downtown area: the sailcraft taking part in the yearly Chicago to Mackinac Race were invited to keep sailing until

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they reached and relaxed in Port Huron. The race course from Chicago to the Blue Water bridges covers some 490 miles.

Interested in organizing your own activity? The arena stands ready. To quote, "Whether you're planning a wedding reception, sporting event, concert, play, convention, or trade show, the versatile and well maintained McMorran Complex in downtown Port Huron is as fine an activities center as you'll find in Michigan."



The Veterans Memorial in Port Huron commemorates the American men and women who served their country in all the nation's wars.

Fact is, "the McMorran Theatre is the center for performing arts for the Blue Water area. The PH Civic Theatre, PH Town Hall (for its lecture series), the International Symphony Orchestra, and the SC4 Symphonic Band all call the McMorran Theatre home. The theatre, some say, is at its best when it's hosting a movie on the building's big screen.

To make a short story longer, while you're walking in one of Port Huron's 17 beautiful parks (including two tot lots), you may stumble upon Pine Grove Park and the Children's Peace Garden. That plot is

a spot of loverly blooms in an enshrinement of the unsophisticated hopes of two little girls. These two, Samantha Smith of the United States and Katerina Lycheva of Russia, joined their urgent appeals here for enduring global peace. The dedication took place in 1985.



A floral shrine blossoms in memory of the two girls, one American and one Russian, who met here on their pilgrimage to promote world peace. The girls were Samantha Smith and Katerina Lycheva. Samantha was American. Katerina Russian.

A final advisory notifies us that Port Huron's sportin' life goes on year-round. While dreaming of that all-Tchaikovsky concert in the McMorran Complex, you can be strolling the sales outlets that give Port Huron one other title--"Antique Hunter's Paradise"--or playing Wimbledon-level tennis at the Sanborn Courts. Or swimming after a splash-bash at the Court Street or Sanborn pools. Or leaving the Port Huron Sports Hall of Fame in the Thomas Edison Inn, you can stop at Studio 1219, the town's principal home of the arts.

One friendly injunction. Don't drive around looking for your former favorite arm exercise, the one-slot bandits. The casino just ain't there. The only casino within easy driving distance is across the St. Clair River, in Sarnia.





















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Lyric in the Gardens by the Lake

Sunday, September 13th and 20th, 4 p.m.

The International Friendship Gardens, Michigan City, presents two delightful concerts that preview Lyric Opera of Chicago's 2009/2010 season.

Enjoy fine music and refreshment under the canopy in the beautiful Symphony Garden at International Friendship Gardens. Selections from Tosca, Faust, The Merry Widow, Ernani, The Elixir of Love, The Damnation of Faust and The Marriage of Figaro will be performed.

On Sept. 13, Kenneth Donovan – tenor, Robert Morrissey – baritone, Rose Guccione – soprano, Janet Mensen Reynolds - mezzo-soprano, and pianist Matthew Ganong are featured. Cornelius Johnson – tenor, Andrew Schultze – bass-baritone, Kimberly Jones – soprano, Jessye Wright - mezzo-soprano, and Ed Zelnis – pianist are the featured performers on Sept. 20. Charles V. DeWitt, Jr. will narrate both concerts.

All proceeds from these concerts go to support and maintain International Friendship Gardens. Ticket purchases and contributions are tax deductible.

Standard price tickets are \$25; Series tickets are \$40; Premier seating tickets are \$35; Premier seating series tickets are \$55.

Seating is on a first come, first serve basis. Premier seating tickets are limited to availability. A \$2.00 service fee applies to each ticket. Tickets are advance sale only and can be purchased with credit cards by phone from Star Tickets at 800-585-3737 or online at www.friendshipgardens.org

International Friendship Gardens is located on US Hwy 12, 1-1/2 mi. east of the junction of Rt. 35 on the north side of Michigan City. In case of rain, the concert will be moved indoors. 219/878-9885.

This series is made possible by the generous support of sponsors who include The Pauls Foundation, Marilynne Besse and an anonymous donor.

Fox Park Music Fest

Sat., Aug. 22, noon-9:30 p.m., LaPorte, IN

This event will be held rain or shine! An afternoon and evening of fun and music for the whole family. Bring blankets or chairs; food, drinks and a beer garden will be on site. Scheduled entertainment will include *High Noon*, *Dr. Groovy & the Soul Surgeons*, *The Current*, *Point'n Fingers Band* and *Spellbound*. Also featuring: *Takabite* and *Teaser*.

Advance tickets are being sold at \$5 each at Charlie's Bar, Denny's, Schoop's Hamburgers and American Auto Body in Michigan City; and, Electric Beach Tanning, Gracie's Fishing & Hunting Supply in LaPorte. Or you can phone 219/363-2888 or 219/229-4564. Web site: www.foxparkmusicfest.com

Tickets at the gate will be \$8 each. Proceeds from this event will go to support veterans, troops and those less fortunate.

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Left Behind: Native American Artifacts from the Robert Schoon Collection

On exhibit: August 25-Nov. 20

During his lifetime, Indiana resident Robert Schoon assembled a wonderful collection of Native American artifacts, many found in regional farm fields. His widow, Pearl Schoon, generously donated the collection to the Brauer Museum of Art in his honor. Curator Patricia Korzeniewski, a Valparaiso University student, highlights selected items from this large collection in an informative and fascinating exhibition.

An opening reception will take place Fri., Aug. 28, 7 p.m., in the Brauer Museum of Art on the campus of Valparaiso University. More information at 219/464-5365 or www.valpo.edu/artmuseum.

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Thurs., August 20, 2009, 8 p.m. MI time

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Fri., August 21, 2009, 8 p.m. MI time

Corky Siegel and His Chamber Blues Band.

-- www.chamberblues.com/

Tickets are \$25; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www. acorntheater.com

Sat., August 22, 2009, 8 p.m. MI time

Opera At The Acorn presents Christine Steyer and Franco Martorana in Puccini's "Madama Butterfly."

Tickets are \$25; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www. acorntheater.com

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"The Woman in Black" at Mainstreet



Zach Rogers in the suit coat, Clint White in the vest and Victoria Chavez in the shadows.

The final production of the Festival Players Guild's Canterbury Summer Theatre Season will be Stephen Mallatratt's "The Woman in Black." The production opens Thurs., Aug. 20 and continues through Sat., Aug. 22, at Michigan City's Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St. Performances at 8 p.m. with an additional 5 p.m. Saturday performance.

Based on Susan Hill's 1983 gothic novel of the same name, the play centers on Arthur Kipps' recollections of his youthful days as solicitor. The framework of this spine tingler is unusual. Kipps is troubled by persisent dreams of the scary and haunting events occuring when he attended the funeral of an elderly recluse. There he caught sight of the woman in black, the mere mention of whom terrifies the locals, for she is a specter who haunts the neighborhood where her illegitimate child was accidentally killed. Anyone who sees her dies!

Cast members include Zach Rogers as Kipp, Clint White as the Director and Victoria Chavez as Janet Humphrey, the Woman in Black. Rogers appeared in last year's production of "A Life in the Theatre."

Dr. Ray Scott Crawford, Canterbury's Artistic Director and Associate Professor of Theatre as Bossier Parish Community College, directs this production. Staff members include Chelsea Hockaday, Stage Manager; Matt Carroll, Ass't. Stage Manager; Keith Bruce, sound & lighting design; David White, set design; Rona Leber, costume design; Tommy Young, onsite Technical Director, Rose Clayton, properties.

Tickets are \$12.50/Thursday and \$14.00/Friday and Saturday. Group, senior citizen and student discounts are available. All seats are reserved; phone the Mainstreet Theatre Box Office, (219) 874-4269 or by e-mail at info@festivalplayersguild.org









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Fall Classes at the Lubeznik Center

The Lubeznik Center for the Arts is proud to announce its new roster of fall classes which has something for every age group. Classes will be presented at the Lubeznik Center at 101 West 2nd Street in Michigan City and most will begin right after Labor Day. Among the classes are some old favorites, but there are also brand new offerings in the line-up. Visit www.lubeznikcenter.org and click on the "education" link for full descriptions, dates, times and

One new class, Beginning Knitting, is for anyone who wants to learn the basics or enjoys the camaraderie of knitting with others. Joanne Hale will teach student's a variety of techniques and one can expect to make a scarf just in time for winter. For the experimental at heart, Mono-printing & Collage instructor Amanda Heise, will demonstrate the beautiful qualities of prints with the direct spontaneity of painting. Students will also explore collage and mixed media to enhance their hand-printed images.

Self-portraits have been a method of self-exploration since humans gazed at their own reflection in a pool of water. In the eight week, Self-Portrait Workshop, Debra Sawyer will explore artist's selfportraits throughout history and teach different mediums to help students find interpretive methods of expression of our own self image.

For the delight of children, Alison Jaksa, who taught the Lubeznik Center's wonderful summer camp, returns for the after-school Young Artists' Studio. Art projects will relate to the exhibitions the Lubeznik Center for the Arts has on display in its three galleries. The children will learn about art while creating their own.

Also new on the schedule is the Monthly Critique Group. This offering provides a rare opportunity for beginning and advanced artists to get objective feedback on your work from a distinguished expert in the field. Tom Mapp served as the Director of the Undergraduate and Graduate Programs at the University of Chicago from 1975 to 2001. He is experienced in assessing all the visual disciplines; painting, sculpture, photography, etc.

The Lubeznik Center's most popular classes will be offered again and include Adult Watercolor instruction and Drawing for Young People, both taught by Michigan City treasure, Neil Kienitz. Connie Kassel, also a cherished, local artist will teach an all-level Acrylic Painting class. Ms. Kassel is also an instructor at Purdue North Central.

Most classes begin the week of September 8 and run through December. Visit www.lubeznikcenter. org to read full class descriptions or contact Janet Bloch, Education Coordinator, Lubeznik Center for the Arts at 219-874-4900 or jbloch@lubeznikcenter.

org

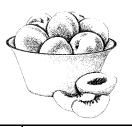


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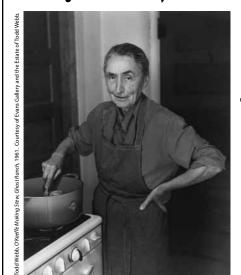
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Art Exhibit at Michiana Resources

Michiana Resources will host a public "Meet the Artist Reception" for Creative Concepts artist Ed Galloway on Mon., Aug. 31 from noon-2 p.m. in the Michiana Resources Creative Concepts Gallery, 4315 E. Michigan Boulevard, Michigan City.

The event is open to the public and light refreshments will be served. Galloway will welcome guests to view his works of art that are exhibited in the gallery. Most of his art, along with that of other Creative concepts artists, will be available for purchase. His art ranges from large oil paintings to greeting cards. As with the sale of all items created by Creative Concepts artists, half of the sale price goes directly to the artist, the other half is invested back in the program to help fund the purchase of supplies and equipment used by the artists.

Galloway has been painting with the Creative Concepts art program since it was introduced at Michiana Resources about five years ago. Creative Concepts provides therapeutic services for Michiana Resources consumers and helps them expand their imaginations, enhance their artistic abilities and provide a means of expression. The artists have created works of art that include watercolor portraits, murals, ceramic figurines, collages, painted benches, birdhouses and oil paintings.

Galloway notes that one of his favorite paintings is the one he made by rolling his wheelchair through paint on a canvas, done with the help of his previous art instructor Nancy Lahage. Another other favorite is the painting of his church created with the help of current instructor Kelly Tokoly-Rothermel.

The Creative Concepts Gallery opened in October. Guests are invited to stop by Monday through Friday to view and purchase original works of art. Other items made by Creative Concepts artists also are for sale in the gallery including costume jewelry, cards and gift items. For more information, phone Michael Horton, CEO Michiana Resources at 219/874-4288, ext. 307.

Coolspring Crazy Camp

6-8 p.m., Fri., Aug. 28 -- Coolspring Branch of the LaP. Co. Public Library, 400N & Johnson Rd., MC

Fun activities for kids will be held on the lawn. Topics are camp skills, storytelling, crafts, fire safety, and camp cookery. There is no charge or registration. More information at 219/879-3272.

Harbor Country Book Club

The Harbor Country Book Club will meet on Tues., Aug. 25 at 7:30 p.m. MI time to discuss <u>Postville</u> by Stephen Bloom. Monthly meetings are the last Tuesday of the month at the Harbor Grand Hotel in New Buffalo and are open to anyone interested in learning more about the club.



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Scarlet Macaw Request for Memories

On Saturday, October 10, 2009 the 5888 Building, home of The Scarlet Macaw Community Art Center in Sawyer is planning to celebrate its long past due Centennial Birthday. The following request came from them:

You are cordially invited to contribute your stories and photographs about the history of Sawyer. We feel that this collection of local antidotes will be a wonderful accompaniment to our current historical wall

We are asking any present or past resident of Sawyer, especially the older citizens of our community to write an anecdote or story from they're past and send it along. Please note that there are no prizes or fees involved, only the heart-felt thanks from future generations and ours.

The type of story can be poignant, a fond memory of a place or person, touching, humorous or informative. We are looking for the kind of story that you would share with your children or grandchildren. The length is optional, short or long. Don't worry about the spelling, between the computer and our volunteers we will correct any misspelled words. Just make sure that the writing is legible. And if you don't really want to write, feel free to stop by the SMCAC and we will be happy to type it up your tale for you.

Our historical wall is full of wonderful photographs that the residents of the area have already contributed. But if you have any other, Sawyer Photos of prominent people, landsteads or buildings that you think would add to our collection, please feel free to drop it by. We will return the original to you after we have reproduced it. So, make sure that you identify what is shown in the photograph on a separate piece of paper and be sure to add your name and address so that it may be returned to you.

If you would like to assist in this delightful task, either E-mail your story to ScarletMacawCAC@ aol.com, or mail it to the Scarlet Macaw Community Art Center, P.O. Box 158, Sawyer, MI, 49125 or drop it off at the SMCAC located at 5888 Sawyer Rd., downtown Sawyer. Don't forget to include your name, contact number or and your age. (optional)

Red Hot Days of Romance Book Swap

6 p.m., Tues., August 25 -- LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., downtown LaPorte

Celebrate Harlequin's 60th anniversary with a book swap, live music and refreshments. Local vendors will be displaying information on romantic products and services such as chocolate, travel, and wine. Door prize drawings for those present will also be held. Bring paperbacks to swap if you want. Leftover books will be given to the Friends of the Library book sale. More information at 219/362-6156.





Saturday, August 29, 2009 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

HealthPartners • Pavilion Entrance 1225 East Coolspring Avenue, Michigan City

The American Cancer Society recommends that men begin screening for prostate cancer at age 50. Men who are at higher risk of developing prostate cancer, including African American men and men who have a first-degree relative (father, brother, or son) diagnosed with prostate cancer at an early age (younger than 65), may need to start screening at age 40. Screening includes a free PSA (prostate specific antigen) blood test and DRE (Digital Rectal Exam).

Men should talk with their health care professionals to see if they would benefit from the screening.

Please call (800) 931-3322 to schedule your free screening.

For more information, please contact Debbie Swanson MSN, RN, OCN at 219-861-8892



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Lincoln Highway Topic of Program

At the Center for History's Insights in History for Seniors taking place at 1:30 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 2, Jan Shupert-Arick, past president of the Lincoln Highway Association and past national director of the Indiana Lincoln Highway Association, will talk about the famous Lincoln Highway. She is author of the recently-published book, The Lincoln Highway Across Indiana and also guest curator for the Center for History's exhibit, Appeal to Patriots: The *Lincoln Highway*. A tour of the exhibit is part of the program.

In 1912, Carl Fisher and James Allison conceived the idea of developing a highway that would span the country. Henry Joy, President of the Packard Motor Car company, urged them to name the roadway after Abraham Lincoln. It would have, he said, great patriotic appeal. Thus, the Lincoln Highway was created.

Admission is \$3 and reservations are required by August 31. The Center for History, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend, IN. (574) 235-9664 or visit www.centerforhistory.org

Bookmarks at the MC Public Library

Friday, August 21, 2 p.m.

Little Heathens by Mildred Armstrong Kalish will be reviewed by Betty Canright at the Michigan City Public Library. The program is free and open to the public.

The author grew up on her grandparent's Iowa farm during the Depression and counts herself among the lucky ones of that era. Kalish had a caring family who possessed the pioneer virtues of their forefathers, teachers who inspired and befriended her, and a barnyard of animals ready to be tamed and loved.

Filled with recipes and how-to tips, Little Heathens portrays a world of hardship tempered by kinship, kindness, and simple pleasures. Recounted in a luminous narrative filled with tenderness and humor, Kalish's childhood memories show how one can not only survive, but thrive in even the bleakest of times.

Madama Butterfly at The Acorn Theater

Bellissima Opera's production of "Madama Butterfly," with music by Giacomo Puccini, will be staged at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI, Sat., Aug. 22nd, 8 p.m. MI time.

Christine Steyer will sing the part of Madama Butterfly, accompanied by Franco Martorana as Pinkerton, Paul Geiger as Sharpless, Dominique Frigo as Suzuki, and Daniel Vines as Goro.

Director is Carl Ratner and pianist is Anatoliy Torchinskiy. For tickets, phone 269/756-3879 or visit www.acorntheater.com



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Report Banded Birds When Found

The Department of Natural Resources asks individuals who come across Canada geese, mourning doves or wood ducks that have been banded, and are in a position to read the band, to report that information to the national Bird Banding Laboratory.

Reports can be filed by phoning 1-800-327-BAND or going online at www.reportband.gov. The data collected are compiled by the BBL and sent to program participants twice a year.

"When we band geese, we attach an aluminum band to one leg," said DNR waterfowl biologist Adam Phelps. "Since each band has a unique number on it, this allows biologists to identify each bird that has ever been banded, if it is captured again or harvested by a hunter.

Phelps said that when the DNR bands a bird, it plots that point on a map. If the bird is caught again the following year, harvested by a hunter, hit by a car, or if a birder reads the band number through binoculars, and the person reports the band, the program has another point on a map for that bird.

"Two points give us a line," Phelps said. "With thousands of such lines, we can develop movement patterns for these geese or other birds."

Indiana's breeding geese move around much more than most people think. Birds banded in June in Indiana have been harvested by hunters from Idaho to Delaware, and from Hudson Bay in Canada to Alabama.

Bird banding provides more than information on movement patterns. With enough reported bands, biologists can determine survival rates and harvest rates (the rate at which geese are taken by hunters).

Program data from 1986-2007 suggest that hunters take a high proportion of geese that are relocated from urban areas to Fish and Wildlife Areas. This means that moving birds from places where they conflict with humans to FWAs is likely to be an effective strategy for reducing these populations. Because these species of birds are migratory, jurisdiction for their management lies with the federal government. The BBL, a federal agency within the U.S. Geological Survey, is responsible for the management of all migratory bird banding in the U.S.

Michigan City In-Water Boat Show

Mark your calendar for Thurs., Aug. 27 through Sun., Aug. 30, for Lake Michigan's largest in-water boat show. See the latest in motor yachts, runabouts, cruisers, fishing boats, jet skis, sailboats and more. View 500 new and pre-enjoyed boats up to 70 feet long and \$2 million! There will also be hundreds of accessories, equipment and service displays. Held at the Michigan City Marina in Washington Park. There will be an admission fee.

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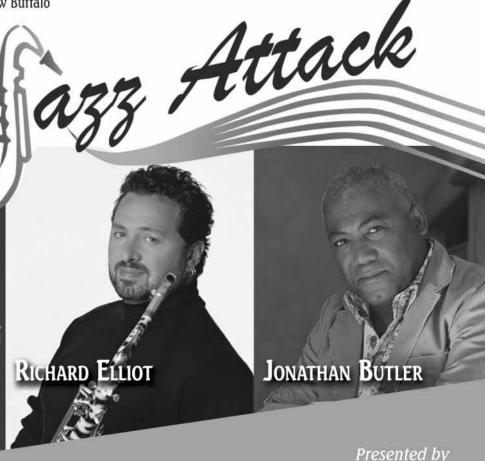
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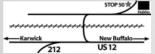
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Cyberseribbles

by Paula McHugh

What a week this has been! Picks this week vary from "Old People Talking About the Internet" to "Emails from Crazy People." These are real websites. I usually don't receive emails from crazy people and I and my friends do not consider ourselves old. In between these sites, I discovered the North American Truffling Society and Diagramming Sentences. I know you want to know all about these picks, except maybe for the diagramming site.

Old People Talking About the Internet (www. oldpeopletalking about the internet.com). These illustrated ditties are meant to be funny, but most miss the mark, in my humble opinion. They are made up. Probably by a team of novice comedy writers who are struggling hard at their craft. But since people have different tastes in humor, you may find something funny here.

Emails from Crazy People (http://emailsfrom crazypeople.com/). Not all of the samples of the website are emails. Some are regular letters. Here is an example of one such note from a teacher to the student's parent:

Dear Mrs. Xxxx,

You may already know this, but in case Alex has neglected to tell you, I am assigning him to detention for one hour this Friday...The reason is as follows:

Alex consistently defied me. During class he contradicted me numerous times when I insisted that the length of one kilometer was greater than that of one mile. Every other student in class accepted my lesson without argument, but your son refused to believe what I told him, offering such rebuttals as, "You're lying to the class," and commanding other students to challenge my curriculum.

Although he was correct, Alex's actions show a blatant disregard for authority, and a complete lack of respect for his school. Alex would be better off simply accepting my teachings without resistance.

Please see to it that your son understands this.

Time to find a new career for that teacher. Anyway, there are some funny emails, some of questionable authenticity, some not meant for youngsters' eyes, and some worth skipping completely. But real life is stranger than fiction, and this site provides a healthy dose.

North American Truffling Society (www.na truffling.org). One thing I heard about truffles is that they are difficult to find. So was this website, which I more or less stumbled upon. Those who are interested in truffling (finding fungi, not chocolate) generally live in and around Oregon, or in the proximity of the Cascade mountain range. The rest of us have a chance to learn from these experts and hobbyists just exactly where those truffles hide, and what the procedures are for uncovering the fungi

without destroying their reproductive parts. Be it with a dog, pigs, or rakes, these hobbyists take their hunting seriously. These hobbyists could collect some serious money selling their harvest to local gourmet restaurants. Be prepared for travel west and a lot of patience if you want to become a trufflist. I'm just sayin'...

Diagramming Sentences (www.geocities.com/gene_moutoux/). Today's schoolkids don't know what they are missing, because they have no idea what diagramming is all about. (If I diagrammed that last sentence, my about would be dangling helplessly). Or, they could find out, if they left their MySpace or Twitter pages for a few minutes to head over to this website. Just think how much easier it would be to write those term papers if you had this taught to you in school. Those of us who remember the drills in English classes can look upon this site with nostalgia.

Symphony Announces Auditions

September 8, 2009 - La Porte High School Band Room, La Porte Indiana

The La Porte County Symphony and Music Director Philip Bauman announce auditions for the 2009-2010 season. The orchestra is seeking qualified musicians to fill the vacancies in the following string positions: Concertmaster, Associate Principal Viola, Associate Principal Cello, Associate Principal Bass, Section Violins and Section Viola.

The La Porte County Symphony Orchestra has a unique apprentice program, which places highly skilled high school students side-by-side seasoned professionals. These paid positions offer advanced and motivated students a chance to learn first hand the discipline, motivation, character and musicianship necessary to perform at a professional level. A limited number of Student Apprentice positions are available. A private teacher recommendation is requested to secure an audition time. Please contact the LCSO Personnel Manager for more information and availability.

The 2009-2010 season will feature a Children's concert, two classical concerts, two pops concerts and performances of the Nutcracker. The La Porte County Symphony Orchestra is a per service orchestra offering contracts on an annual basis offering over 12 concerts and 40 services per season. All positions are paid and include an additional mileage stipend. The 60 piece orchestra, led by music director Philip Bauman includes musicians from Michigan City, La Porte, Chesterton, Valparaiso, Merrillville, South Bend and Michigan.

More information, including specific audition requirements may be found at www.lcso.net or by contacting Emily Warner, Personnel Manager at personnel@lcso.net

Musicians must sign up for an audition time in advance, preferably online or through email.

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VU Announces Theatre Season

One of Shakespeare's most delightful comedies and the musical adventure "Cabaret" are among the highlights audiences will enjoy during Valparaiso University's 2009-2010 theatre season.

Valpo's Department of Theatre (valpo.edu/theatre) will present four mainstage productions at the Center for the Arts on campus during its upcoming season:

- "Fuddy Meers" by David Lindsay-Abaire, Oct. 7-11.
- "Cabaret" by Joe Masteroff, John Kander and Fred Ebb, Nov. 11-15.
- Valparaiso University Dance Ensemble, Feb. 12-14.
- "Twelfth Night" by William Shakespeare, April 21-25.

"Fuddy Meers," a comedy that will leave audiences guessing and laughing in equal measures, opens the season with a cast full of colorful characters. The critically-acclaimed play, which debuted in 1999, centers on Claire, who suffers from a type of amnesia that erases her memory every night when she goes to sleep. After being kidnapped, Claire endures a roller coaster ride as she attempts to decipher her fractured life.

The play will be directed by Dr. Orchard, with performances at 8 p.m. Oct. 7-9 and at 2 p.m. Oct. 10-11 in Valpo's Studio Theatre.

The Broadway hit "Cabaret" will open in November, bringing to life Berlin's seedy Kit Kat Klub on the eve of the Nazi's rise to power. Revolving around the relationship between English cabaret performer Sally Bowles and American writer Cliff Bradshaw, the musical features energetic songs and dancing along with jazzy instrumentals.

R. Andrew White, associate professor of theatre, will direct "Cabaret," with Maura Janton Cock, adjunct instructor in music, providing musical direction. Performances are at 8 p.m. Nov. 11-13 and at 2 p.m. Nov. 14-15 in the University Theatre.

The VU Dance Ensemble will open the spring semester with its annual concert – a colorful program of original jazz, ballet, tap and modern dance numbers choreographed by faculty and students and set to music. Performances are at 8 p.m. Feb. 12-13 and at 2 p.m. Feb. 13-14 in the University Theatre.

Ann Kessler, assistant professor of theatre, and Kathleen Dominiak, adjunct assistant professor of theatre, will direct the dance concert, which features original costumes and lighting design. Invited dancers from throughout the region also will participate in the program.

Pranks, mistaken identities, distorted gender roles and all the humorous elements audiences hope for in a Shakespearean classic will be on display in Valpo's production of "Twelfth Night." Set in motion when Viola is separated from her twin brother after a shipwreck, then disguises herself as a pageboy to enter the service of a duke, this tale of the madness of love and how unexpected events can lead to happy endings will conclude Valpo's theatre season.

Performances are at 8 p.m. April 21-23 and at 2 p.m. April 24-25 in the University Theatre.

Students in Valparaiso's Department of Theatre also will act in and direct two annual productions in the University's Studio Theatre:

- The 1-2-3-4-5 Series Students have 30 days to rehearse for these productions, taking place at 8 p.m. Feb. 19-20;
- Directing Showcase The work of the Department of Theatre's student directors is showcased in this annual presentation of one act plays, ranging from modern classics to the best of contemporary drama, taking place at 8 p.m. Dec. 9-10.

Season subscriptions to Valpo's four mainstage theatre productions are available at a discounted rate of \$51 for adults and \$34 for senior citizens and students. Holders of season tickets can reserve the same seats for each production. Tickets to individual performances are \$15 for adults and \$10 for senior citizens and students.

For more information about upcoming productions or to purchase season tickets, phone the VU Box Office at (219) 464-5162. Tickets to individual performances may be reserved by calling the Box Office or online at valpo.edu/vuca/ticket.php. Groups of at least 10 may reserve seats together and get a \$3 discount per seat by calling at least two weeks in advance of each production's opening.

Tee Off Against Women's Heart Disease

The 6th annual 2 BigHearts Foundation Golf Outing and Silent Auction is to be held Sun., Sept. 13th, at the Long Beach Country Club in Long Beach.

Full golf day starts at 12 noon and is \$150 per person. It includes: •18 holes of golf •Lunch •Cocktail hour •Dinner •Silent auction (Cash bar at 7 p.m.)

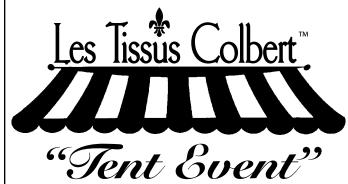
Dinner starts at 5 p.m. and is \$50 for non-golfers. It includes: •Cocktail hour •Dinner •Silent auction (Cash bar at 7 p.m.)

Sponsorship Opportunities include:

- Hole Sponsorships \$100 each
- •Beverage Cart Sponsorships \$200 each
- •Halfway House Sponsorships \$200 each
- Other Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Silent Auction: The 2 BigHearts encourage you to participate and donate in their silent auction. Your tax deductible donation will be prominently featured in the event program which will offer your business exposure to the community. The Foundation thanks you in advance for your investment toward early detection of heart disease. Phone Leigh Ann Flora (219.879.1223) with any questions you may have about donations. Sign up at: www.2bighearts.org

If you wish to be a sponsor or have any questions, contact: Jim Clarke at 219.680.0270.



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For two hours some waited, turning a small gravel parking area near the Amtrak crossing at Lake Street into a mini festival. There was an expectant buzz in the air.

Some set up tripods for their video cameras and others checked the angle of the sun to make sure they would be in the right place to get the perfect camera shot.

Others waited in their car, listening to railroad radio communications on a scanner, keeping tabs on where Southern Pacific Steam Engine 4449 was.

Known as the "Daylight," the engine was the star of this makeshift festival, and when it rounded the sweeping curve as it headed west into Michigan City, its arrival was announced by the deep, low moan of its whistle. There were excited shouts of "there it is."

People scrambled into position and as it approached, shutters snapped and video cameras whirred.

The striking black, orange, silver and red steam engine, its coal tender and a dozen other passenger cars slowed to a crawl as it approached the turnstile bridge at Trail Creek.

Inside the passenger cars (all of which are privately owned), travelers took their own pictures and waved.

For Bill Moit of Rensselaer, sitting in a lawn chair beside his red pickup truck, the sight of SP4449 was worth the two-hour wait.

"This is a piece of history. You hardly ever get to see an operating piece of history like this," said Moit. "It is such a beautiful engine. I have a picture of it in my office."

Moit admits he's more of a model train buff. He's a member of the Lionel Modular Train Club in Crown Point, but when he heard the Daylight would be in Northwest Indiana, he said it was an opportunity he simply couldn't pass up.

"It captures a bygone era," said Moit.

And that was the attraction of Jason Powers and Don Sillece, friends from Mishawka, Ind., who came to Michigan City to see the train.

"This was something I just couldn't pass up," said Powers.

Sillece, who took a vacation day to follow the train across Northwest Indiana into Chicago, said he was excited to see the art-deco train.

"I've been interest in trains since I was young," he said.

The object of all this attention was a sleek, 110-foot long, 433 ton steam engine built in 1941 by the Lima Locomotive Works in Lima, Ohio, for the Southern Pacific Railroad. It's one of several in a fleet built for the Southern Pacific, but it's the only one left.

The train mainly operated between Los Angeles and San Francisco in the 1940s and 1950s, but also ran routes from Bakersfield to Oakland, Calif., and to Portland, Ore., and El Paso, Texas.

A Piece of History Steams into Michigan City by Rick A. Richards



Photos by Tom Montgomery





SP4449 as it was designated, last ran on Jan. 7, 1955, and in 1956, was put into storage in the Southern Pacific yard in Bakersfield, Calif. In October 1957, it was donated to the City of Portland, where it was put on display in that city's Oak Park to become the centerpiece of a transportation museum.





Photo by Steve Sweney



Steve Sweney's love of trains comes from his grandfather, Don (second from left in this 1905 photo), who worked for the CB&O Railroad. (Photo provided by Steve Sweney.)

Over the years, however, it began to rust, and it wasn't until December 1974, when it was given new life as the engine for the nation's Bi-Centennial America Freedom Train. The locomotive was taken to the Burlington Northern roundhouse in northwest Portland, and for six months was restored, emerging as a red, white and blue locomotive to lead the Bi-Centennial American Freedom Train. As it traveled the nation, it's estimated that some 25 million people saw the locomotive.

After that experience, the engine was returned to Oak Park in Portland, where it remained until 1981. That year, the engine was taken to the Southern Pacific roundhouse in southeast Portland, restored to its original colors and began life as an excursion train to Sacramento, Calif., for the opening of the California State Railroad Museum.

Ever since, it has continued as a working steam engine, making appearances at train festivals as a sort of goodwill ambassador for the City of Portland.

In May, it took part in National Train Day in Portland, and on the trip that brought it through Michigan City, it was taking part in the Train Festival in Owosso, Mich. The route from Portland to Owosso took the train across the northern U.S. where it made stops in Spokane, Wash., Havre and Whitefish, Mont., Fargo and Minot, N.D., Minneapolis, Chicago and Grand Rapids, Mich.

As SP4449 traveled through Michigan City, it also caught the attention of Steve Sweney of Michigan City.

A huge train buff, Sweney said his affection for trains came naturally. His grandfather, Don R. Sweney, worked for the CB&O Railroad after graduating from the University of Illinois in 1896.

His grandfather died before the end of World War II, so Sweney never got to meet him, but he grew up with a large photo of his grandfather posing with a train crew alongside a locomotive in 1905.

"My dad worked summers in the roundhouses to help pay his way through the U of I, graduating in 1929," said Sweney. "His experience and love of these incredible machines were one of lore and wonder. On vacations, we visited steam engines. I actually was able to travel in Europe on a steam train from Germany to Venice, and learned whistle signals to close the window before entering a tunnel."

Sweney has traveled on trains across Canada and in the United States.

"Every sight of steam locomotives bring stories and memories of Don R. and my father from looking at the great, powerful engines, putting pennies on the tracks and listening to many train songs from Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger and local Ron Buffington to the Grateful Dead," said Sweney.

Those songs and the stories involving his family have kept Sweney interested in trains.

"There is great art in these machines," said Sweney.

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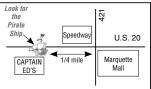


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For a truly enjoyable experience pack up the lawn chairs and bring the family to a Grinders game. Cheer on the hurler, the striker, the rover and the behind. Games are free. Enjoy a sarsaparilla (for sale on the sidelines) or hot dog.

The Grinders, playing since 1991, are charter members of the Vintage Baseball Association, a national organization formed to preserve, promote and perpetuate the game of baseball as it was played in its formative years in the mid-nineteenth century. Contact the Grinders at 219-947-1958 or DRGrinder@aol.com or their website www.lakecountyparks.com

See them play on Sun., Aug. 30, 2 p.m. against the Vermilion Voles out of Danville, IL.

Deep River County Park is located at 9410 Old Lincoln Highway at the intersection of County Line Road and 73rd Avenue. From I-65 and Route 30 go east 4 miles on Route 30 to Randolph Street, then north to the first stop sign and east to the park.

Smooth Jazz at South Shore

Sat., August 29, 7:30 p.m.

This smooth jazz extravaganza will feature Rick Braun, sax player Richard Elliot and Jonathan Butler, a musical genius from South Africa. Held in the beautiful Guy Foreman Amphitheater in Washington Park, Michigan City, tickets may be purchased through www.StarTicketsPlus.com at 800/585-3737 or www.michigancitychamber.com. More information at 219/873-4850.



Places to Visit in the Area

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

Beverly Shores Depot Museum and Art Gallery, 525 Broadway, Beverly Shores, IN. Sat-Sun, 1-4 pm. 219/871-0832.

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

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

Indiana Dunes State Park, North Hwy 49, Chesterton, IN. 140 campsites, Nature Center, picnic shelters, hiking trails, swimming/beach. Entrance fee charged; call for current prices. 219/926-1390.

International Friendship Gardens, 2055 E US Hwy 12, Michigan City. Open 10 am-4 pm Wed.-Sun. Adm. \$4; 12 yrs. & under free. Info: 219/878-9885.

Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, MI. Open Mon-Wed, Fri/Sat 10-4, Thurs 10-9, Sun 1-4 MI time. Free adm. 269/983-0271, www.krasl.org

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

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

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

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

Rag Tops Museum of Michigan City, 209 W. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City. A collection of classic, antique & unusual vehicles & memorabilia. Open every day 10 am-7 pm. Adm. \$6/adults, \$5/sen. cit, \$4/kids, free/under 3. 878-1514.

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

Washington Park Zoo, Lakefront, Michigan City. Open 7 days, 10 am-5 pm (gates close 4 pm). Adm. MC resident (with ID): \$4.50/adult, \$3/senior (62+) & kids 3-11 yrs. Non resident: \$5.50/adult, \$4/seniors & kids 3-11 yrs. Kids under 12 yrs. not admitted without adult. Groups & special events, phone ahead: 219/873-1510.





foodstuff by carolyn mcconnell

Back in year 2002 a *Beacher* story titled "The Esoteric Whistle Stop" appeared. It was all about the Whistle Stop shop in Union Pier MI that produced fantastic foodstuff. Marilyn Lieberman (the owner) was described as, "The woman who never stops. She's as rare a bird as the coffee on her shelves....... that esoteric little shop is a spectacular upscale asset for our neighborhood." However, Lieberman left the shop a few years ago and many of us were saddened by the fact she wasn't around anymore. Well! She's back now! And she has a brand new restaurant in New Buffalo, opened since early Spring this year. Totally different from her previous shop, only breakfasts and lunches are served and the place is remarkably decorated.



Lieberman is a busy busy woman. Having grown up in New York and, as a child, enjoying her mother's luncheonette, she hasn't always dealt with food. Some years ago, her enormous Chicago job was installing swimming pools throughout the Midwest; she'd employed hundreds of employees.

Her New Buffalo shop (yes, its name is Marilyn's) has been handsomely decorated by Susan Fredman (You may have read a Beacher story about Susan Fredman back in 2006. She'd planned a Kitchen Walk, a most marvelous week-end treat. An all-day event, it included a "wine down" reception and a fabulous silent auction. Folks, the '09 Kitchen Walk is dated Saturday, October 17 of this year.)

Ah, the food. Read below – all tastefully described and written by Marilyn.

EGGS BENEDICT - 2 Ways

The classic English muffins with Canadian bacon and poached eggs – or, vegetable style: poached eggs with slices of tomato, sautéed spinach and mushrooms. Topped with Hollandaise sauce and served with breakfast potatoes.

Marilyn's "We Know You're Hungry"



Marilyn's café was decorated by Susan Fredman

BREAKFAST BURRITO

Scrambled eggs and potatoes are wrapped in a flour tortilla and topped with sliced avocado, sour cream and tangy house-made pico de gallo.



Kelly, Laurie and Julie visited from Berkley, MI

PANCAKES AND EGGS, ETCETERA!

Include a couple I found interesting:

Michigan Sour Cherry Pancakes, our signature dish. Buttermilk pancakes studded with cherries, served with choice of whipped cherry or plain butter and maple syrup.

BRIOCHE FRENCH TOAST

Ooo-La-La! @ three hand-cut slices of Brioche, dipped in rich egg batter and griddled. Served with whipped cherry or plain butter and maple syrup.



Wait staff, all handsome



John and Anne Purdy, joined by friend Liz Burns

OMELETS include:

Tofu Scramble – Asian-style scramble with firm tofu, mushrooms, bean sprouts and scallions, seasoned with sesame oil and soy. Another, Guilty Pleasure. We use all-beef Kosher bologna, fried up crispy and scrambled with eggs. Live a little!



Marilyn's fancy auto is one of her faves



Lots of customer photos on lots of walls - beautiful

Sides include whipped cherry butter and sweet potato fries.

And sandwiches. We're told all sandwiches are accompanied by your choice of sweet potato fries, hand-cut fries or cole slaw. One is described, "Seasonal grilled fish... at market price. Every season brings its own best catch and that's what we serve. Grilled simply with olive oil, salt and pepper; fresh lettuce, tomato and onion served on herbed ciabatta with tartar sauce on the side. Please ask your server for this season's selection."



Photos of their chefs, too

A plate of fish is offered every week. Included are lobster omelet w/roasted red pepper, pastrami sandwich, Chorizo, burrito, shrimp or crab omelet. Of the many soups, matzo ball seems to be everyone's fave. Corn beef hash is another popular order. Fresh bread, made in their own kitchen, appears daily. All salads are served with dressings they make themselves. It's certainly an original restaurant.

Remember... no dinners are served, only breakfasts and lunches, and with fantastic food plated.

Marilyn's, Harbor Landings on Buffalo Street, New Buffalo MI



Marilyn is certainly a happy woman

Going the Distance for Cancer Care on August 23

by Charles McKelvy

You can combine some great exercise and support of local cancer patients on Sunday, August 23 by biking, running or walking the 2009 Tour de La Porte.

The Tour will take place at a new location this year, the La Porte County Fairgrounds, 2586 W. State Road, La Porte, so you have added reason to participate in a popular event that has assisted 80 cancer patients and their families since it began on a beautiful August day in 2002 with 274 participants.

La Porte Hospital Foundation Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Maria Fruth says that "hundreds of community members have benefited from additional education provided to Center for Cancer Therapy of La Porte Hospital staff, funded by the proceeds of Tour de La Porte. Additionally, community members have participated in 3,663 free cancer screenings funded by the proceeds of Tour de La Porte."

Past participants have been cheered on by grateful patients, friends, and family and community members, and teams have gone the distance in their support.



Cyclists pass a cornfield on the Tour de La Porte.

Last year, for example, a blessed contingent of bicyclists calling themselves "Team Pat" rode the Tour in support of cancer patient Pat Wellinski. In 2008, the Tour raised more than \$28,000, and since 2002 patients and their families have been assisted for a total amount of \$187,866.

Maria Fruth says the idea for a bike ride through beautiful La Porte County came from an avid cyclist named Larry Noel. "Larry had participated in several bike rides in an effort to raise funding for national cancer organizations, and Larry and I recognized an opportunity to create a spirited event to promote community awareness and create the connection to assist cancer patients within our community."

As a veteran of two of those "spirited events," this reporter can say with satisfaction that he is counting the seconds until the start of the 2009 Tour de La Porte on Sunday, August 23.

Cyclists again may choose between routes ranging from five- to 100-miles throughout Indiana's most scenic county. Runners and non-competitive walkers are invited to take part in the 5K route. Runners will be timed by T&H Timing using chiptimed technology with results posted online.



Runners head out for a 5K Tour de La Porte in support of local cancer patients and their families.

New to this year's event is the Mini Tour Fun Run for children beginning at 9:30 a.m. Children may participate in a 50-year, 100-yard or 200-yard run for \$1 each.

Open registration/check-in and breakfast are available from 6 to 10 a.m. (CDT). Runners and walkers must check-in no later than 7:30 a.m. as the 5K shotgun start will be at 8 a.m. Lunch will be provided by Al's Supermarkets from 11

a.m. to 3 p.m. Emergency contacts and rescue vehicles, as well as refreshment/rest stops will be available along the routes until 3 p.m.

Costs for the bike tour include: \$25 for an adult before August 8 and \$30 for an adult after August 8, \$10 for children 5 to 12. Costs for the 5K run and walk include: \$20 for an adult before August 8, \$25 per adult after August 8, \$10 for children to 12 and free for children 4 and under. You can also get a combination package for the bike and 5K run and walk.

Friends, families and co-workers also may go the distance for cancer care together by signing up as a team. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For more information or to register, call 219-326-2471 or 877-265-4539. Online registration is available at: www.laportehealth.org/foundation/events.

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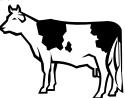
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From the Independent Cat Society

Kitten Season has arrived and the ICS is overflowing with new kittens or young mothers with kittens. The organization is desperately seeking foster homes for their many kittens or mothers with kittens and also permanent homes for the many homeless cats presently in the shelter.

If you are interested in providing a permanent home for a cat or kitten, check out www.catsociety. org or visit the shelter and see them in person. Shelter visiting hours are Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday 1-4 p.m. The shelter is located on the N/E corner of Route 6 and County Line Road in Westville, Indiana. Further information at (219) 785-4936.

ICS also offers Assisted Spay/Neuter vouchers which you can purchase that are used at participating vets for a complete spay or neuter as well as initial shots (some restriction apply).

Movie in Washington Park

Fri., August 21, approx. 8 p.m.

The Michigan City Public Library and the City of Michigan City Parks and Rec Department are collaborating again this year to bring family films to the Jaycee Stage in Washington Park. "Bolt" will be shown August 21.

It's about a TV super hero dog who buys into his own image and thinks he possesses the traits of his fictional character. The film features the voices of John Travolta and Miley Cyrus. Movies begin right after sunset; films are free, however, cars are subject to regular parking fee.

Belly Dancing at the County Library!

10:30 a.m., Sat., August 23

Go to the large meeting room at LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave., downtown La-Porte to meet Wendy Eaton from Silver Moon Dancing. She will perform and share some history of this beautiful kind of dancing.

There is no charge or registration. Information, and to request signing for the hearing impaired (2 days in advance), phone 219/362-6156.

Lake Shore Dr. & Moore Rd. Closing

Please note that the Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department is hosting their first annual Triathlon on Sat., Aug. 22nd. Athletes will begin in Washington Park, continue down Lake Shore Drive turning on to Moore Road making their turn at Notre Dame Church then returning back to Washington Park.

Lake Shore Drive and Moore Road will be closed during the hours of 7 a.m. – noon for this event. For more information, contact the Michigan City Parks & Recreation Dept at 219-873-1506.



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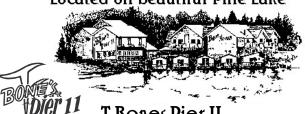
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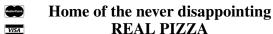
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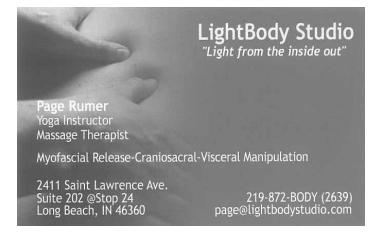
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American Red Cross Blood Drive

When: Friday, Aug. 28, from 8 a.m. until noon Where: St. Anthony Memorial Hospital in St. Francis Hall, 301 W. Homer St., Michigan City.

All presenting donors will receive a t-shirt. Also, give blood or platelets now – Sept. 7 and enter to win a \$500 Meijer gift card. A winner will be drawn each week!

If you are at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and are in good, general health, you may be eligible to donate blood. All donors need to present positive identification. For more information or to schedule your blood donation appointment, phone 1-800-448-3543.

3rd Thursday @ Molly Bea's Ingredients

Thursday, August 20th at 7:00 p.m. at 761 Indian Boundary Rd., Chesterton. phone 219-983-9401, Email mollybeas@verizon.net

The evening's presentation will be: "Let's Make Great Breads" presented by Mimi Wilson. Mimi Wilson will be sharing her knowledge during an entertaining & interactive evening of bread-making.

She is a registered dietitian with a world of experience teaching & managing school nutrition programs. As we look toward cooler fall weather, here's a chance to learn from a real pro how to make that healthy & tasty bread.

There is no charge for attending, but seating is limited to about 30. To reserve a seat, phone 219/983-9401 or email mollybeas@verizon.net with your name and the number in your party.

You may also want to check other scheduled events at www.mollybeas.com

Tutors Needed at Library

The library's Learning Center is in need of tutors for reading, math, English, and writing. If you have an hour or two a week to help someone learn to write and punctuate a sentence, your help is needed. Many people want to go back to school but lack the basic skills to do so. You can help someone help themselves and find personal reward, too. Phone Cyndie McKinney at 873-3043 for more information on being a volunteer tutor.

Basket Weaving Class at Library

Saturday, August 22, 9:15 a.m. Michigan City Public Library

Margie Warner teaches a one session class and each person will make a basket to take home. The class includes all materials. A \$10 non-refundable deposit is required. The total price for the basket this month is \$25. Prices vary according to size of basket. The basket is on display and sign up is at the library circulation desk.

Long Beach Community Center

879-3845

2501 Oriole Trail Long Beach



Did you know the Long Beach Community Center has a built-in book shelf full of paper back books just inside the Fitness Center entrance that are available to take, read, pass on or bring back at your leisure. Plus you can often find current magazines on the top shelf. Stop by and grab a great read for the beach or drop off your contributions. Please be sensitive to the topic headings when adding your donations to the shelves.

We are accepting Fall Girlfriend Sale clothing drop off appointments on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays every 1/2 hour from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. starting Aug. 18th. Phone the Center at 219-879-3845 and leave a message with your name, telephone number, and date and time you would like to come in. We will confirm your appointment with a return call. As always please pick your best 30 items for resale, you will receive 50% of the selling price of your items sold, and there is a \$10 entry fee to participate.

Ballroom dance instructor Mary Chandler will start an Advanced Dance Class on Wed., Aug. 19th, 7:15 p.m., a New Beginner level A on Tues., Sept. 8th at 6 p.m. and an Intermediate class at 7 p.m. You do not need a partner to participate. To register phone Mary at 219-680-9261.

Ryan Casey and the Long Beach Fitness Center are offering new classes in Yoga on Monday and Wednesday morning from 10-11 a.m. Class cost is \$10, suitable for all ability levels, and you do not need to be a member to participate. Drop in or call 219-879-1395 for more information.

FUNdraising YOGA classes with all proceeds to benefit the Community Center are held on Fridays, 10-11:15 a.m. in room #9. There is a suggested \$50 donation for 5 classes; however all donations will be accepted. Participants will also receive \$10 off a Thai Yoga Massage or Private Lesson. Phone Lauralee at 219-861-7394 for more information.

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

Watch for details on the 2009 Holiday Home Tour fundraiser for the Michiana Humane Society scheduled for Sat., Nov. 14th and Sun., Nov. 15th.

Keep in mind we have space for rent by the hour/day/month/year for your business, event, class.

----submited by Susan Vissing



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WEEK HISTORY



On August 20, 1887, Philadelphia Phillies Dan Casey, who struck out in the ninth inning of a game against the New York Giants, became the inspiration for Ernest Thayer's poem "Casey at the Bat."

On August 20, 1970, the United States and Mexico signed an agreement which specified that the center line of the Rio Grande was the official border between the two countries.

On August 21, 1951, Congress authorized construction of the "Nautilus," the world's first atomic-powered submarine.

On August 21, 1959, President Eisenhower officially proclaimed Hawaii to be the fiftieth state of the United States, and a new 50 star flag was unfurled at the White House.

On August 22, 1787, a huge crowd lined the banks of the Delaware River as inventor John Fitch successfully demonstrated his "side-paddle" steamboat.

On August 22, 1846, the Territory of New Mexico, formerly part of Mexico, was annexed by the United States.

On August 23, 1859, the first elevator was installed. It went in New York's new six-story "Fifth Avenue Hotel."

On August 23, 1979, Soviet dancer Alexander Godunov defected while the Bolshoi Ballet was on tour in New York.

On August 24, 1956, the first nonstop transcontinental helicopter flight was completed. It covered a distance of 2,610 miles in 31 hours and 40 minutes.

On August 24, 1959, Hawaii's Daniel K. Inouye was sworn in as the first Japanese-American member of the House of Representatives, just three days after Hawaii won statehood.

On August 25, 1875, Captain Matthew Webb became the first person to swim across the English Channel. It took him 22 hours to cover the distance from Dover to Calais, France.

On August 25, 1916, The National Park Service was established as a branch of the Department of Interior.

On August 25, 2005, the Miss America pageant announced it was leaving Atlantic City, its home for 84 years. The pageant ended up moving to Las Vegas.

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex," was adopted by Congress.

On August 26, 1945, Japanese envoys boarded the *U.S.S. Battleship Missouri* to receive World War II surrender instructions.



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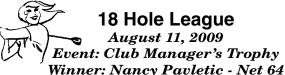
a ghost play adapted by StephenMallatratt from the book by Susan Hill

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Low Net: N. Pavletic M. Walsh

Low Putts:

"D" Flight

Low Net: G. McMahon Low Putts: A. O'Donnell

L. Wilson #16 & #5, J. Dillon #7 & #8, **Birdies:** D. Hennard #17, E Nondorf #12, N. Henry #2,

S. Luegers #17

Sunken Approaches: J. Dillon #7, C. Excell #3, D. Hennard #17, S. Roule #10 & #13, N. Henry #2, M. Walsh #17, N. Pavletic #16 & #17 & #2

9 Hole League

August 13, 2009 **Event: Regular Golf Championship Flight**

Low Gross: **Eunie Nondorf** Low Net: Pat Kelley **Putts:** Mary Weithers

"A" Flight

Low Gross: Nancy Henry Low Net: Jean Guerin

Putts: Jill Craig

"B" Flight

Low Gross: Aimee Sullivan Low Net: Rima Binder **Putts:** Sally Allen

"C" Flight

Low Gross: Anne Robson Low Net: Regina Bradley **Putts:** Peg Carey

Birdies: Eunie Nondorf #5, Nancy Henry #15,

Rima Binder #16

Kathy Kenefick #4 **Sunken Approaches:**



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Columbus Replica Ships Put Into Port of Michigan City

by Charles McKelvy

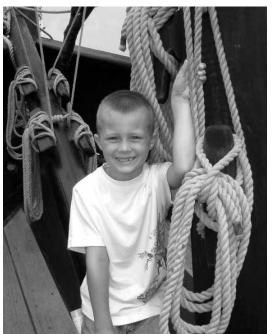


Columbus Day came early to Michigan City this year.

Columbus Day came early to Michigan City as faithful replicas of Christopher Columbus's *Niña* and *Pinta* made a port call from August 11 to 16.

The Columbus replica ships will be calling on Huntington, West Virginia via the Ohio River on the actual Columbus Day in October, but they have left fond memories of the age of sail in their wake.

Christopher Blissmer, who was about to begin first grade in Lowell, Indiana, took time out from exploring the 65-foot $Ni\tilde{n}a$ to declare that, "this is good." Christopher's grandmother was hovering nearby, and she said her grandson would surely report on his visit to the two ships in his new classroom.



Christopher Blissmer of Lowell, Indiana said he would have much to report on his visit to the ships when he begins first grade.

The ships, which are owned and operated by the Columbus Foundation of British Virgin Islands, are faithful replicas of two of the ships used by Christopher Columbus on his first voyage across the Atlantic in 1492.

Benjamin Warde, who recently signed on as a crew member on the *Pinta*, said the foundation probably would not build a replica of the Columbus's third ship, *Santa Maria*, because that ship had a draft of 14 feet, as compared to the 7-foot draft of the other two. Warde said it would be difficult to operate such a ship in shallow waters.



Benjamin Warde signed aboard the *Pinta* a month before her visit to Michigan City. He is now comfortable saying things like: "take in the slack on the starboard brace."







Aft of the Pinta.

Pinta, according to the Columbus Foundation website, was recently built in Brazil to accompany the $Ni\tilde{n}a$ on her travels. At 85-feet in length, she is a larger version of the archetypal caravel, and, as she demonstrated in Michigan City, she has larger deck space for walk-aboard tours.

The *Niña* is a replica of the ship upon which Columbus himself sailed across the Atlantic on his three voyages of discovery to the new world, beginning in 1492. Columbus sailed the tiny ship more than 25,000 miles, and she was the only vessel in West Indian waters to survive the hurricane of 1495. Admiral Columbus brought her back to Spain with 120 passengers in 1496, and she was last seen making a trading voyage to the Pearl Coast in 1501.

There were plenty more facts and figures for young students like Christopher Blissmer to note during the ships's visit to Michigan City, but they could not miss the fact that the oldest crew member of the two ships was the indomitable "Miss Ellie" Kaiser. That's because the lively 82-year "from Wisconsin and New Mexico" was selling boarding tickets and telling folks that: "My doctor keeps telling me—go! He says I'm getting healthier as I go along. I had no idea if I would get seasick when I signed on, and fortunately I don't."

Miss Ellie Kaiser has served aboard the *Niña* for nine years and now considers it her ship. She had spent her life making military moves with her husband, raising three children and being a secretary in her Missouri Synod Lutheran Church. Just a few years into retirement, her husband died, and she became lonely, because as she said, "We did everything together."



Niña crew member "Miss Ellie" Kaiser is 82 and has her doctor's blessings. "He says I'm getting healthier as I go along." She is the oldest crew member of either ship.

So when her youngest son, Doc, suggested she join the $Ni\tilde{n}a$ crew, she gladly reported for duty. "I'd never done anything like this in my life, but I decided to try it in the summer of 2000. I love the adventure, and I love the ship."

In addition to selling tickets during port visits, Miss Ellie cooks and runs the gift shop.

She and her six shipmates report to Captain Kyle Friauf of St. Petersburg, Florida who said in Michigan City "that our current tour began in 1992, and we've been sailing ever since. We tour year-round—in the south in the winter, and the north in the summer. This is my full-time job, and I really enjoy it."

Captain Friauf noted that the ships fly the flags of Spain of 1492, including the one that represents the marriage of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile. They, of course, were the ones who gave Christopher Columbus his royal commission.

Pinta crew member Benjamin Warde said he signed aboard "because I was always on ships when I was growing up (in Minnesota). It sounded cool, and I have enjoyed it so far. And I now know a lot more about sailing than I ever knew before. And I



Niña Captain Kyle Friauf welcomes visitors aboard his ship in Michigan City.

find myself saying things like—take in the slack on the starboard brace—without thinking twice about it."

Warde explained that crew members receive free room and board and that shipboard accommodations and food are up to 21st, not 15th, century standards. He added that the two ships are nearly perfect examples of the caravel, which was a mainstay of the Great Age of Discovery. Caravels such as the *Niña* and *Pinta*, are characterized by their Scandinavian-style bows and square- and lateenrigging. Caravels were the best open-water ships available to Christopher Columbus.

The two Columbus replica ships did not actually sail away from Michigan City to their next port of call—Alton, Illinois on the Mississippi River. That's because the masts had to be removed so they could pass under the myriad bridges along the river routes to Alton. Yes, in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard regulations, both ships are equipped with engines.

Christopher Columbus would have been impressed.

But then the multitudes would not flock to the replicas of his ships if they were not impressed by what he and his brave sailors accomplished.

For more information about these amazing vessels and their crews, please contact the Columbus Foundation at: 284-495-4618. Or visit their website at: thenina.com.



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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

August 20 -- Michigan City Municipal Band concert. Each Thursday at 8 pm at Washington Park Amphitheater. Park entrance fee applies.

August 20 -- Super Happy Funtime Burlesque at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI. 8 pm MI time. A bawdy, musical sex comedy. Tix \$10; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com

August 20-22 -- "The Woman in Black." Canterbury Summer Theatre production at Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St., MC. Thurs/Fri 8 pm; Sat 5 & 8 pm. Tix \$14/Fri & Sat; \$12.50/Thurs. Reserve at 874-4269 or email info@festivalplayersguild.org

August 20-23 -- Riverside Marketplace. Indoor/ Outdoor vendors on the waterway at Pioneer Pier, (116 Taylor St), corner Hwy 12 & Michigan Blvd., MC. Thurs/8-3; Fri/37; Sat/8-3; Sun/11-3.

August 20-24 -- At the Vickers Theatre: "Moon." Official selection of the Tribeca, SXSW ad Sundance Film Festivals. Rated R. Thurs/Fri 9 pm; Sat/Sun 4 & 9 pm; Mon 9 pm. Also Showing: "Food Inc." A film by Robert Kenner. Thurs thru Mon 6:30 pm. Rated PG. Vickers Theatre, N Elm St., Three Oaks, MI. 269/756-3522 or www.vickerstheatre.com

August 21 -- Bookmarks at the MC Public Library. 2 pm. <u>Little Heathens</u> by Mildred Armstrong Kalish will be reviewed by Betty Canright. Free and open to the public. Info: 873-3049.

August 21 -- Movie in Washington Park. "Bolt" will be shown at the Jaycee Stage. Approx. 8 pm (at dusk). Free, but entrance fee to park applies for those without a parking sticker.

August 21 -- Corky Siegel and His Chamber Blues Band at The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI. 8 pm MI time. Tix \$25; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com

August 21-22-- Farmer's Market at Schoolhouse Shop, 278 E 1500 N, Chesterton, IN. Fri/Sat 10am-4pm. Info: 219/926-1551.

August 21-23 -- "The Shadow Box" at 4th Street Theatre, 125 N. Fourth St., Chesterton. Fri/Sat 8 pm; Sun 3 pm. Tix \$12; 219/926-7875.

August 21-23 -- "The Apple Tree" at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., MC. Curtain 8 pm; Sun 2 pm. Tix \$12; reserve at 874-4035.

August 21-23, 28-30 -- "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." Dunes Summer Theatre, 288 Shady Oak Dr., Michiana Shores. Fri/Sat 8 pm; Sun 7 pm. Tix \$15/adults, \$12/seniors & students; reserve at 879-7509

August 22 -- Mainstreet Farmer's Market, 8th & Washington streets, Michigan City. 8 am-noon.

August 22 -- Triathlon in Washington Park, MC. 7 am. Swim, bike, run in Olympic level or Sprint level. Also a Kids Tri. More at 873-1506 or www. michigancityparks.com

August 22 -- Fox Park (LaPorte) Music Fest. Noon-9:30 pm. A family event featuring lots of bands and refreshments. Beer garden will be available. Adm. \$5 in adv; phone 219/363-2888 or \$8 at the gate. www.foxparkmusicfest.com

August 22 -- Opera at The Acorn presents Puccini's "Madama Butterfly." Starring Christine Steyer and Franco Martorana. 8 pm. Tix \$25; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com

August 23 -- Deep Fried Pickle Project Family Show, Concert and Workshops at The Acorn Theater. 2 pm MI time. Tix \$10; reserve at 269/756-3879 or www.acorntheater.com. 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI.

August 25 -- Harbor Country Book Club. 7:30 pm MI time at the Harbor Grand Hotel, New Buffalo. Postville by Stephen Bloom will be reviewed and discussed. New members welcome to attend.

September 13, 20 -- Lyric in the Gardens by the Lake. Preview of Lyric Opera's upcoming season at International Friendship Gardens. 4 pm. Tix \$25 ea. concert or \$40 for both; premier seating \$35 ea. concert or \$55 for both. Reserve at Star Tickets at 800-585-3737 or online at www.friendshipgardens. org. Phone 219/878-9885 for more info. In case of rain, concert will be moved indoors.

Farther Afield:

August 18-23, 25-30 -- Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival featuring "Twelfth Night." Tues/Wed/Thurs 7:30 pm; Fri 8 pm; Sat 2 & 8 pm; Sun 2 pm. (Eastern time) DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on campus. For tix, 574/631-2800 or www.performingarts. nd.edu

August 21-22 -- "Revival at Possum Kingdom Community Church." 8 pm MI time. Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI. Tix \$15/ adults, \$12/seniors & students; reserve at 269/983-3688 or www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

Through September 13 -- Georgia O'Keeffe and Her Times: American Modernism from the Lane Collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo, MI. Tix \$8/gen. adm.; \$6/students, seniors & groups. Tues/Wed/Sat 10 am-5 pm; Thurs/ Fri 10 am-8 pm; Sun noon-5 pm. 269/349-7775 or www.kiarts.org

Through January 24, 2010 -- Appeal to Patriots: The Lincoln Highway on display at Center for History, 808 W. Washington St., South Bend, IN. Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; Sun noon-5pm. Eastern time. Adm. \$8/adults, \$6.50/seniors, \$5/ages 6-17. 574/235-9664 or www.centerforhistory.org

Through March 19, 2010 -- Harley-Davidson: Building a Legend. Exhibit at the Studebaker National Museum, 201 S. Chapin St., South Bend, IN. View 100 years of Harley-Davidson motorcycles and history of the company. Mon-Sat, 10 am-5 pm Eastern time, Sun, noon-5 pm. Adm. \$8/adults, \$6.40/ seniors (60+), \$5/ages 6-18 yrs. 574/235-9714.



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Real Estate: allow access to property for lease or sale by

Landscaping: report on signs of drought or flooding of

grounds, check irrigation system timers

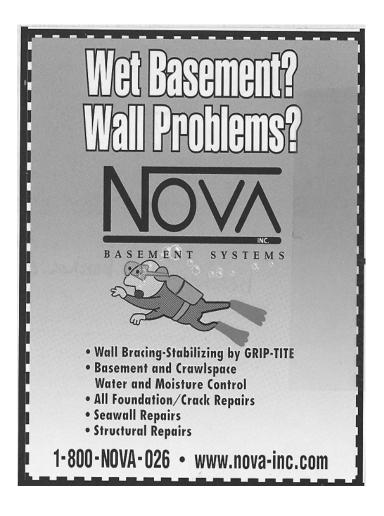
Trash: put trash/recycle out for collection

Mail: retrieve mail/forward to designated address

Safety: check for warm water/ thermostat reading; freezing

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www.MerrionRealty.com Ask about our seasonal rentals too.

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2 blocks from beach. Charming décor, beautiful surroundings,
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STOP 20 Summer Rental on Lake Shore Drive just steps to lake. 5BR, 2BA, CAC, wood burning fireplace. \$2,000/wk. Call 773-456-1182.

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Right on Lake Shore Dr. – 333 Lake Shore Dr. 1BR, 1BA Condo with access to Association Pool and Spa in season. Steps to beach. Could be furn./unfurn., W/D, d/w, open floor plan. Long Term Lease only-\$875/mo including utilities.

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SHERIDAN BEACH WINTER RENTAL. 3BR/2.5BA fully furnished & very spacious! \$750/mo + utilities or \$1,100/mo includes utilities.

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Call 269-815-3000.

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ANNA MARIA ISLAND (Holmes Beach) 2BR, 2BA Gulf beachfront condo. Beach and poolside decks, heated pool. Monthly rental only.Sam Harnish, 219-879-3265.

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SHERIDAN BEACH 3BR 1950s cottage on large lot. Wooded, private, lots of parking. 1 blk. to beach. Near Beachwalk Development. Call for web pix. Asking \$224,900. Call 219-879-9319.

INDIANA-LaPorte on Pine Lake in Shore Acres. 511 Closser Ave. ½ blk. to beach. Home sits on 3-lots with beautiful cross light. Birch floors, 2-fireplaces & spacious room sizes. \$189,900. View property on www.forsalebyowner.com (listing #21766749) or call 708-212-1637.

LONG BEACH POINTE TOWNHOME

2BR, 1.5BA with 1 car garage. \$139,000. Call 630-971-0862.

GRAND BEACH – Eiffel Tower on Lake Park Dr. One of the last wooded

lots (100'x200') with views of Lake Michigan. \$930,000. Call Michele Cihak at Merrion & Associates. 219-872-4000 or 219-861-2073.

ON THE WATER CONDO – MARINA PARK SOUTH. Everything new: beach color siding, windows, granite and hardwood. End unit with 1BR, 1BA, fireplace, 50 ft. pier. 219-988-4318 or 219-776-1699.

BEACHY LOT FOR SALE. Fully landscaped with driveway – JUST NEEDS YOUR HOUSE. Call NOW 219-210-1181.

Upcoming Porter County Events

Sat., Sept. 5, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

Taste of Duneland -- Sample the cuisines of local restaurants and non-profit organizations. The event will take place at Thomas Centennial Park in downtown Chesterton, IN. www.DuneBIG.com

Sat., Sept. 12, 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Valparaiso Popcorn Festival

See the Orville Redenbacher Parade, over 500 food and craft booths, live entertainment, kid's games and rides in downtown Valparaiso, IN. Also a 5-mile run (Popcorn Panic) and a 5K Walk. More information at 219/464-8332 or www.popcornfest.org

Taste of Porter County 2009

This tasty event will take place Aug. 21, 22 & 23 at the Porter County Fairgrounds & Expo Center, Valparaiso. Hours are Fri/3-8 p.m.; Sat/11 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sun/11 a.m.-8 p.m. Free admission; parking is \$5. More at www.tasteofportercounty.com



SARAH

WATERS

LITTLE

STRANGER



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Little Stranger by Sarah Waters

"I first saw Hundreds Hall when I was ten years. old. It was the summer after the war, and the Ayreses still had most of their money then, were still big people in the district. The event was an Empire Day fete: I stood with a line of other village children making a Boy Scout salute while Mrs. Ayres and the Colonel went past us, handing out commemorative medals; afterwards we sat to tea with our parents at long tables on

what I suppose was the south lawn....I recall most vividly the house itself..."

The war referred to was the First World War and our narrator is Dr. Faraday now recalling the events of almost thirty years ago. It is now post-World War II England and Dr. Faraday is in practice in the small town of Litcote in Warwickshire.

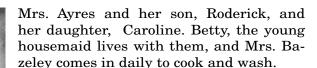
Before you're about to moan "oh boy, a country doctor in rural England story, ho hum," let me explain to you that this is probably like nothing else you're ever read. Part mystery, part love story, and a whole lot of psychological drama goes into these 463 pages. Prepare to read when you pick up this book! And prepare to become so involved in the story that, like me, after each chapter you will find yourself hedging bets as to what just happened? and what will happen next? and did we just cross the fine line between the normal and the paranormal?

The first chapter will either draw you in or not. But I must remind you that the story does not move along at breakneck speed, rather it's like a fine wine that slides down the throat slowly and tastefully. The story unfolds and grabs your attention to the detriment of everything else you were supposed to do that day. I'm rambling along because I'm really enthused about this story, so let me let you in on a little more of the plot...

Faraday's mother was a maid for a while at the aforementioned Hundreds Hall when he was a small boy, and when he grew up wanting to be a doctor, his simple country parents sacrificed much to send him to medical school. Now they both are dead and Faraday lives in Litcote alone above his medical office.

One day he is called out to Hundreds Hall to look at the housemaid who has come down with something. The doctor who normally goes there is unavailable and Faraday is next on the call list. He goes gladly as he is quite curious to see one of the last large estates in the county. The teenage girl in question is faking a stomach ache because she's homesick. Faraday tells her he will keep her secret from Mrs. Ayres.

The big old house now holds only the widow



Faraday is shocked to see the disrepair the house has fallen into. What was once the grandest house for miles around, was now slowly fading away.

Mrs. Ayres invites the doctor in for tea to give Betty's diagnosis and have a cup of tea. He's not impressed by the son ("His

tone was friendly enough, but had a touch of languor to it; as if he were bored by the sight of me already."). Caroline was more friendly. ("She smiled as she spoke, and offered me her hand. Her grip was firmer than her brother's had been, and more sincere.") Mrs. Ayres still had the deportment of a grande dame and was gracious and charming.

Sounds pretty boring so far, right? Well, as the song goes, "You ain't seen nothing yet!"

Dr. Faraday finds reasons to keep coming back to Hundreds Hall as the days and weeks go by and he comes to see how hard it has become for the family to keep going. Land and possessions have been slowly sold off to keep going, but soon other things begin to happen to bring Faraday to doubt everything his medical training has taught him.

Roderick has a bad leg and facial burns from his stint in the RAF during the war, and as time goes by he becomes more agitated trying to take care of the estate until one day...

(I love this part, keeping back the juicy bits from you!).

Suffice it to say that strange things, explainable if you want to be perfectly logical and dismiss them, or unexplainable if you prefer the more emotional and non physical reasons, begin to happen: strange markings appear on the walls, phantom phone calls, tappings and whispers; all the things that seem to amplify in such a large home and finally bring the inhabitants to -- what?

Part Hitchcock, part Dickens, part Twilight Zone, this is one story that will keep you reading and reading. Also a great reading group choice as it begs you to discuss its possibilities with others.

As further proof of her writing ability, Sarah Waters has oodles of accolades to her credit: to wit, her <u>Tipping the Velvet</u> was named a *New York Times* Notable Book; <u>Affinity</u> won her the *Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year Award; <u>Fingersmith</u> and <u>The Night Watch</u> were both shortlisted for the Orange Prize and the Man Booker Prize. She has also been named one of Granta's best young British novelists. No surprise--she lives in London.

Till next time, happy reading!



Debbie BurkeBroker/Owner



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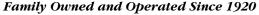


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