Beaver Island Volunteer Fire Department gets new Firetruck
Out of the Blue – Episode IV: Secrets
Beaver Island Students excel in & out of the classroom: The artwork of Pat Boyle
Beaver Island News and Events, Stories, History, People, Places, Photography, and Art...
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2636 Back Highway
P.O. Box 86
Beaver Island, Michigan 49782

Lot 842 Port St. James Sub. No. 9

69.4 feet of Lake Michigan frontage at the south end of Donegal Bay. This is a very beautiful dunes lot facing west between the Conner home at 36985 Allen’s lake View Rd. and the Foster Palmer home at 37005 Allen’s Lake View Rd. Although it’s wedge-shaped (because of the Townships’ dividing line on its north line) it is wide at the building site because it is 128 feet at the road. With the lot south of it being 90 feet of frontage and the Palmer Lot #841 north of it with 150 feet of frontage it seems as if this Lot #842 has about 125 feet of its own frontage. Since it is in critical dune area it’s highly unlikely that anything could ever be built in front of this lot’s building site that would impair the view of the lake and the islands to the west. The beach right now is not excellent because of 9 years of low water but under normal conditions it has always been what we call good sand swimming beach. Asking price $179,000.

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Hunting 1938

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The Beacon welcomes Island Stories, Articles, and Letters to the Editor, and would like to thank all those who call and e-mail with news and events.
News from the Townships

St. James Township
The St. James Town Board held a brief meeting on November 1st at which it was announced that the Library had converted from fuel oil to propane, the downtown sewer system permit has been extended to 2010, and the Charlevoix County Sheriff agreed to split the cost on restoring the former DNR building, which will house the new deputy. A new deputy, just out of the Academy, has been assigned to Beaver Island: Jacob Waslewski.

The Board decided to ask for new bid submissions for snow-plowing in which the work is done as needed at an hourly rate. The Township Employee will concentrate on the Municipal Airport snow-plowing, and will also have time for the Town Hall and the Transfer Station, but will be too pressed to do the new Governmental Center, which must be done in a timely manner because it is the base for the EMS.

The Zoning Administrator reported that a contractor disturbed a protected dune without getting the required permit, and wanted to know what kind of citation was in order; the property owner was unaware of the problem.

The meeting between the Township and the Port St. James Property Owners’ association was postponed because the Association’s attorney was still battling ill health.

Peaine Township
The Peaine Town Board also asked for by-the-hour bids for snow-plowing, and would not accept a submitted bid that made reference to an unspecified gas surcharge.

A CD that had earned 3¼% was rolled over into a new CD at 5%.

Supervisor Works thanked the election inspectors; despite a record turnout and mandated new voting techniques, the election was held without a single problem.

Fire Chief Tim McDonough reported that, thanks to the good agency of Bob Turner in Chicago, the annual grant made by the Fireman’s Fund Insurance Co. in Chicago will be awarded to Beaver Island. Tim proposed using it to purchase a new tanker; the current one is 27 years old, requires a lot of maintenance, and has some limitations.

The BIFD had investigated two possible tankers. One was a used 3,000-gallon single axle that would cost $130,000. A better choice, Tim thought, would be a new double-drive-axle 3,000-gallon vehicle with roll bars and a diesel pump, which would allow pumping down a long driveway. Five or six years ago the Grand Rapids Club gave the BIFD a 50’ ladder, which could be carried on the bars. It would cost $170,000 (see page 32.)
The Fireman’s Fund award is based on a percentage of sales. It was currently at $87,000, although the calculations for the last two and the next few months have not been finished; when they are, it could grow to well over $100,000. Tim had arranged a bank loan with the Charlevoix State Bank that would allow for a quick purchase (a 2001 loan has been paid off); when the Fireman’s Fund grant is issued, the bank loan would be paid down.

The new tanker would be kept at St. James, the old one on the East Side.

Election Results 2006

St. James Peaine Island
Democrats 41 35 76
Republicans 28 47 75
Total votes 190 194 384
Granholm 103 86 189 52%
DeVos 82 94 176 48%
Stabenow 115 91 206
Bouchard 71 88 159
Stupak 148 126 274
Hooper 38 58 96
Proposal Yes/No Yes/No
#1 159 21 165 24
#2 110 73 119 72
#3 49 136 72 115
#4 150 33 162 27
#5 55 127 73 115
Cty Mil 105 73 88 92

Solicits Board Applicants

There are currently eight BIRHC directors. Because BIRHC by-laws allow for a maximum of eleven members, the Board is inviting any interested full- or part-time community residents to apply for the two unfilled positions. BIRHC board members serve without compensation. Members are expected to attend the majority of the organization’s 4 to 6 meetings per year either in person or by speaker-phone at their own expense.

In addition to regular attendance at meetings, board members are also expected to be champions for the Health Center, contribute time and talents, avoid conflicts of interest, and be team players. Because fundraising is so crucial to the BIRHC, board members should also be willing to commit substantial time to organizing and helping at fund-raising events, financially supporting those events, and helping to solicit prospective donors.

Letters of interest should be sent to Connie Wojan, President BIRHC Board of Directors c/o BIRHC, PO Box 146, Beaver Island, MI 49782, by January 10, 2007. Candidates will be reviewed and a slate presented at the January Annual Meeting. For more information call Connie Wojan at 231-448-2379.

BI Rural Health Center

Celebrate the Holidays with Family & Friends And Please Accept our thanks for shopping at Montaage

We appreciate your support of our business—and the Island economy. Let us know if there is any way we can better serve you—we value our local customers and visitors!

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Open 4 days a week from 11:00 to 5:00–Wednesday through Saturday
But we’re open for interested shoppers anytime—just call us at home: Judy or Liz (2441)
Honor Roll at the BICS

The following Beaver Island Community School students have been recognized for Consistent and Exceptional Performance by earning a 3.5 or higher grade point average in a rigorous academic program: seniors Emma Adams, Saygan Croswhite, and Brenna Green; juniors Eric Albin, Brenden Martin, and Andrea Moore; sophomores Caitlin Boyle, Hannah Connor, Patrick Cull, and Maeve Green, freshman Alex Kuligoski and 7th grader Jenna Battle. This represents nearly 28% of the students enrolled in grades 7-12.

The following Beaver Island Community School students have been recognized for Commended Performance and Achievement by earning a 3.0 or higher grade point average in a rigorous academic program: seniors Tony Bousquet, Bailey McDonough, Dave Schwartzfishe, and Jared Wojan; junior Samantha Kuligoski; freshman Kristy Bousquet, 8th graders Levi Connor, Jake Drost, Clairessa Kenwabikise, and Brontae Lemmink; and 7th graders Matthew Cull, Dan LaFreniere, Billy Lemmink, Brogan Maudrie, Michael McCaffery, and Olivia Schwartzfishe. This represents approximately 33% of the students enrolled in grades 7-12.

Virtually all of the rest of the students in grades 7-12 were recognized as having Average Performance, which means that they earn between a 1.67 (C-) and a 2.99 (B-) grade point average. All students take a core academic schedule which includes high-level math, English, social studies, and science, along with electives that may include music, p.e., art, allied health, computers, work placement, and online foreign language.

– Kitty McNamara

Response From Our Troops

The Beaver Island Youth Consortium is excited to report more good news from the ‘Support Our Troops’ September project.

In appreciation of the youth and community support, the students have received correspondence from the troops as well as an American flag that has been flown over Fallujah, Iraq. The flag and accompanying certificate of appreciation will be on display along with other correspondence at the Beaver Island District Library through the end of November and at the Beaver Island Community School from December 1st to December 15th.

BICS has Grades Online

The Island school has added a new feature for parents wondering how their kids are doing: go to the BICS site and click on the Centerpoint, and there the grades now are. Some of the teachers are even posting grades on homework assignments.
Letters to the Editor:

Thanks to Students; School Community Service Project

Dear Ms. McNamara,

On October 31st, I had the opportunity to work with your students on the School’s Community Service Project. Three of your students, Eric Albin, Daniel Runberg and Jared Wojan, joined me in this effort. We cleared the Little Font Lake trail, removing new growth in our path, lopping off protruding branches and cutting up dead trees and branches that where strewn across the trail. When we reached the access point to the Lake, now little more than a beautiful bog, we descended down to it. We opened a part of the trail that had not been seen or used for at least a decade or more. There were numerous dead trees, bushes, branches and new growth that had to be removed.

I ran the chain saw while the guys removed the cut debris while lopping up a storm. At the bottom we cleared an area where two benches had been hidden. From that point we cleared to the bog’s edge, opening a window to yet another beautiful and wondrous spot on Beaver Island. It was there that we took a small break to take in nature at its finest. I shared some of my history from crowded Europe and why wilderness beauty and serenity like this is difficult to find and enjoy, a reason we must protect it here on the Island.

Then it was back up to the main trail for more cutting and trimming. Standing dead trees that threatened the trail were removed either by saw or well-placed karate kicks by Daniel, Jared, and Eric. When we finished the trail we had enough time left to have a look at the Hidden Valley Trail. We found the trail well raked and looking great. The school’s hard-working young ladies had left the best-manicured trail on the Island in their wake. We removed a dead tree that arched over the trail, posing a risk to hikers, and expunged numerous dead trees close to the trail, just like before. We visited the remains of the fallen-down house at the end of the trail, and the guys tossed a few apples from some very old apple trees. Then it was back to school and scholastics.

On behalf of the Port St. James Association board and its 400 plus members, please accept our sincere thanks for all the hard work provided by the islands hard working students. They have provided a great service to everyone who’ll be using these trails for a long time to come. It was a real pleasure to have worked with these fine young men.

— Jack R. Spanhak, Port St. James Association president.

Let’s Fix the Roads

No one is perfect—that’s why the Peaine road millage issue missed the fall election. But Peaine officials have vowed to have the additional 1 mil on the ballot for the February election.

If passed, this money will stay on Paine and be used on our roads. Vote yes–so we can all breathe better!
This was a night that defied most, but not all, expectations. As the audience filed in, they knew the evening would be different—after all, they had never seen the chairs arranged in this manner before, for one thing. And the interactive nature of the dramatic play presented on December 2 was another new twist: the audience had to search

Gingerbread Auction
This year the team of gingerbread-house craftsmen will have at least 4 exotic, unique, gingerbread houses up for auction at the first home games of the season, December 15th, to benefit the Sports Boosters. The gingerbread contractor who got it all going, Heidi Connor, will be building a windmill, to take it to the next level this year!

Beaver on YouTube
Tom Burke’s YouTube video, Beaver Island Campfire, begins with the camera approaching a campfire, and finding Joddy, Stryder, Corey, and John McCafferty playing while seated as Jennifer Bousquet sings behind them: youtube.com/watch?v=LZnP-uixFms

This splendidly invokes our community cohesiveness and musical talent.
Island Musician now Acting

Those who saw the Central Park Players’ production of Inherit the Wind in Grand Haven in late October might have seen a face familiar to Beaver Island: Rich Scripps, who was making his non-musical acting debut, taking on the challenging role of ‘Meeker’ in this story of the Scopes Monkey Trial.

He had appeared as a musician twice in productions of the Emerald Isle Repertoire Theatre, and as a percussionist in five Christmas Cantadas. He has also played in many Island concerts, and has a strong following by fans of Beaver Island gospel music. Once word was received that he had this talent, the Island Players scouted him for the lead in their Elvis Lives!

out clues to the termination of the judging of a bake-off. To add to the fun a real bake-off was held simultaneously with the one depicted on stage. What was expected, though, was the smashing performances delivered by the cast and the sterling direction and staging. Like most of our local productions, this one was an awful lot of fun.

A very merry Christmas and Season’s Greetings from the Beacon.
The Needlers of Beaver Island have been knitting hats for babies in the faraway mountains and jungles of Burma. As people flee from the Burmese Army, they escape with only what they can quickly pack on their backs as they look for a safer place to live. The Army burns their villages and plants mines around them so that return is dangerous.

Earth Mission, a non-profit corporation supported by the people of Beaver Island, is working to provide help to the Karen people hiding in the mountains and jungles of Burma. Dr. Mitch Ryan, an Earth Mission-supported physician and a visitor to Beaver Island when home on leave, provides medical treatment and supplies to the persecuted Burmese people. He trains medics in the Karen villages who provide basic medical help for such things as trauma from landmines, or gunshot. Mules and porters carry in basic supplies of clothing, rice, medicines, medical supplies, and now little colored caps for babies made by the Needlers.

WHO (World Health Organization) ranked Burma as the second-to-last health system in the world. Only Sierra Leone was worse. It is a desperate medical situation. Laura Bush recently spoke of the Burma situation at the UN.

The Island churches and individuals send donations to Earth Mission, which enable the doctor to work with the Karen people in eastern Burma.

They have also sent badly needed school supplies. The hats and other items are sent to LD and Sue Ryan, who send them on to Thailand. Then they are carried into Burma. Caryl Ryan, Dr. Ryan’s wife said, “The people just love the little colorful hats. Can the Needlers make larger caps for children?”

Anyone interested in knowing more about this situation or how you might be of help can contact LD or Sue Ryan at sryan@gtlakes.com or at earthmis@cox-internet.com.

Many babies are being warmed with the Beaver Island hats, and their mothers are given hope knowing someone cares about their sad plight. Thank You Needlers!
With many hurdles behind them and high hopes ahead, a group of twenty Community House friends from Beaver Island decided to attend a performance in Chicago of The Pirate Queen, directed by summer resident (and Tony Award-winner) Frank Galati.

Most of the group took advantage of the good weather to drive down on Friday, November 10th, but some could not get there until the next day because of other commitments. After seeing the sights, they reassembled for a sumptuous pre-play dinner at Petterino’s in the historic Goodman Theater building—famous the world over for its Judge Rizzi Wedge.

Then it was on to the Cadillac Palace Theater on Randolph Street. The large-cast (40) musical is based on the real-life story of the legendary Irish clan leader, Grace O’Malley, who led an extraordinary life as a pirate chief, lover and mother in 16th Century Ireland. If only it had mentioned the role her great-grandchildren might very well have played in bringing that warm and humane culture to Beaver Island.

Throughout the performance, the Beaver Island crew could not help wondering if this play could be cut down to a size befitting the Community House’s stage. After all, Frank and Peter had asked the Island contingent for any suggestions on how to tweak it for Broadway, its next destination.

But whether or not this can be done, it seemed to all that with construction going well on the Island, the goal of creating a wonderful venue is finally within reach.

The Preservation Association has fought through many obstacles, and come a long way, yet there is still money to be raised to finish the building; for example, although over a hundred chairs have been endowed, thirty are still available—call 448-3192 for information on how you can help, or on how you can get in on the next junket of the Friends of the Community House!
Our Health Center

The BIRHC Board presented a year-end wrap-up of its finances on 11-18. The results were encouraging: income was up $30,000 over projections, while expenses were almost $1,000 lower. The primary cause of this good news was a $45,000 increase in payments for medical services–due to an 8% increase in visits, the gradual shift toward a broader range of procedures, and residents making greater use of the facility than before.

Connie Harris’s before-8:30, after-5:00 program produced 309 visits. She has reduced her educational indebtedness instead of taking extra pay for this, but in a year that will be gone and extra pay will have to be offered.

Thanks to a last-minute flurry of ticket buying, the Truck Raffle did better than expected, providing $22,300. Another Raffle will be held next summer, but the vehicle will likely be an SUV.

Pete reported that the Beaver Island Development Corporation has obtained $600,000 from the Department of Agriculture and $75,000 from the state, so it has almost raised the money it needs to begin construction of its planned senior living facility. It received support for a $50,000 grant request to the Grand Traverse Band.

The Endowment Fund is over $925,000 (including pledges receivable.) The staff of the Health Center recently addressed and mailed the letters for the next Annual Appeal. Another 50 surveys were sent out, and 12 were returned, with the remarks generally positive. The Special Projects Fund is just over $95,000.

A special fund-raising event is being planned for the Saturday before Homecoming, a party and auction, to be held in one of the Island’s most impressive homes. A professional auctioneer from Traverse City has offered his talents at no charge.

Use of the Health Center’s telemed service is increasing. The Center is close to gaining access to PowerChart, software that would allow instant access to patient’s records to or from such facilities as Northern Michigan Hospital.

The Lighthouse School students were thanked for raking and mowing the grounds and washing the windows.

A letter of support will be written for the EMS, which is applying for a GTB grant. The BIRHC and the EMS are going to work together to buy supplies.

Two unfortunate occurrences were reported. In the first, NorthFlight, the Traverse City medical evacuation agency that flew here 27 times in the last period, 5 at night, said that because of the plane-meets-deer incident on the Municipal Airport’s runway, its insurance carrier has told it not to fly to Beaver Island after dark unless a better, taller fence is built.

Island Airways is looking into ways it might alleviate the problems this causes, at least for life-threatening cases.

In the second, despite Bob Drebbenstedt’s efforts, a snafu within the VA hierarchy has added much difficulty to veterans who want some procedures to be performed here instead of at a VA hospital. A requirement for going to Saginaw and paying a $150 fee to get qualified was accepted by several veterans six months ago, but their application has not yet had any effect, and the Va’s Fee-basis Supervisor there has decided that non-emergency medical services performed here will not be reimbursed.

The Annual Meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. on January 20th at the Health Center’s Community Room. Board officers will be elected.
Winter Sports Return
by Frank Solle

With the autumnal euphoria of a successful soccer season just now settling down, don’t put away your school spirit or book up your Friday nights (or Saturday mornings for that matter) quite yet — the winter sports seasons at Beaver Island Community School are suddenly upon us.

Weather permitting, the Islanders will take to the air the weekend of December 1-2 to face the rival Lakers of Mackinac Island in a pair of volleyball-basketball doubleheaders.

The teams will have one home series, Dec. 15-16 against the Ojibwe Eagles, before the holiday break.

Game times throughout the season are Friday at 6:30 pm, while the morning action on Saturday begins at 9:00 am. Don’t miss the action.

Both Islanders teams will be looking to improve on last year’s performances. The volleyball team, led by coach Connie Boyle, finished last season as co-champs of the Northern Lights League with a 9-1 league mark, tied with Mackinac Island. The team was 12-1 overall on the season before dropping their district semifinal match to Mackinaw City in five games.

A core of returning players will anchor a large, 17-girl Islanders team, led by seniors Emma Adams, Bailey McDonough, and Brenna Green. Juniors Andrea Moore, Samantha Kuligoski, Brittany Crandall, and Melissa Peters return, as do sophomores Maeve Green, Caitlin Boyle, Hannah Connor, and Deven Cook. Sophomore Heather McDonough joins the team this year as do freshmen Alex Kuligoski, Jenna Butler, Lindsay Kenwabikise, Briana Maudrie, and Kristy Bousquet.

Coach Mike Myer’s basketball team dropped a pair of games to Mackinac Island last year, putting them in second place in the NLL standings at 8-2. Overall, the team finished the 2005-06 campaign with a solid 11-2 mark before advancing to district tournament play, where they lost an 86-60 decision to 18th-ranked Central Lake.

Leading this year’s team is senior Jared Wojan who topped the Islanders in scoring last year. Senior Cory Sowa returns, while seniors David Schwartzfisher and Tony Bousquet will suit up for the first time. Juniors Eric Albin, Brenden Martin, and Dan Runberg will play pivotal roles in the Islanders lineup, with sophomore Patrick Cull and freshmen Dereck McDonough and Bryan Timsak returning to the squad. Newcomers freshman Cameron LaVasseur and eighth-grader Jacob Drost (the Booble champ) round out this year’s 12-player roster.

Winter Sports Schedule
Dec. 1-2 at Mackinac Island
Dec. 15-16 vs Ojibwe
Jan. 5-6 vs Hannahville
Jan 19-20 at Paradise
Feb. 2-3 vs Mackinac Island
Feb. 9 Basketball and Volleyball at Munising Baptist
Feb. 10 Basketball at Munising Baptist
Feb. 16-17 at Hannahville
Feb. 23-24 vs Grand Marais
Mar. 3 Volleyball District Tourney
Mar. 5-10 Basketball District Tourney
Previously: Last month several Islanders and visitors to the Island displayed supernatural powers after being exposed to a mysterious flu-like sickness. Some Islanders suspected the illness was related to strange blue rocks that were being discovered around the Island. Nearly every Islander became ill, but not all gained superpowers. Although most were recovering nicely, a federal government declared a quarantine of the Island and brought in the National Guard to ensure no one escaped to the Mainland. The military brings all the essentials to the Island by air, but failed at first to satisfy the large demand for toilet paper and, of course, beer. Islanders can receive mail and TV, but the mail they send is censored for ‘national security,’ and telephone and Internet service has been cut. Nearly every Islander became ill, but not all gained superpowers. Although most were recovering nicely, a federal government declared a quarantine of the Island and brought in the National Guard to ensure no one escaped to the Mainland.

Winter is one of Beaver Island’s best-kept secrets. No one tells the summer people about the serene beauty of the snow-covered island, or the breath-taking exhilaration of walking into a scouring, frigid wind from the North, or the buildup of ridges of remarkably blue ice and fields of ice hills on the thick ice shelf that steadily grows out into Lake Michigan as far as the eye can see.

This winter, with Islanders stranded in a medical quarantine enforced by the US military, they have many more secrets to hold close.

No one has left the Island in more than a month. Air service and the ferry boat were shut down. A Coast Guard vessel armed with machine guns patrolled the harbor and the Island’s watery perimeter until Christmas, when severe cold gave a good start to the process of icing in the Island until April. No one has left and no one has arrived, except doctors and scientists to study the strange illness that infected Islanders, and some 200 armed troops to enforce the quarantine. Dozens of Islanders have been stranded on the Mainland, a fate worse than death for some, and separated from their families. And dozens of Mainlanders have been trapped on the Island, living in motel rooms and homes provided by Islanders at no cost. The military brings all the separation from the mainland has always defined the identity of Islanders; for many it is a point of pride. But most of the year, unless terrible weather descends and stills the boats and planes, an Islander can readily end the separation and head to the mainland.

Connie Wojan’s Jeep sped by on King’s Highway — without a driver.

A lifetime in construction has taught me the value of honesty, communication, and dedication to craftsmanship.
Christmas, when severe cold gave the Island, living in motel rooms and weather descends and stills the boats of the Island’s watery perimeter until Mainlanders have been trapped on the Island. Most of the year, unless terrible weather descends and the cold is frigid wind from the thick ice.

Many hills on the North, or the Internet service are best-kept secrets. No one tells the scientists to study the strange illness, but failed at first to satisfy the large number of Islanders who have been stranded but the mail they send is censored for being supernatural.

Last month several Islanders and visitors to the Island displayed supernatural powers after being exposed to a strange illness. Federal government declared a quarantine of the Island and brought in the National Guard to ensure no one escaped to the Mainland.

Winter is one of Beaver Island’s no one has arrived, except doctors and ‘essentials’ to the Island by air, and, of course, defiance. By the middle of January, these feelings—and other factors—have led to mysterious doings and more secrets on the Island.

Which senior citizen is using marijuana in a room at the Rural Health Center?

How can Connie Wojan’s SUV be moving around the Island without a driver?

Why did the feds lock up Judy Lanier?

Who is planning a ‘Great Escape’ from the Island, and how are they going to do it?

Who are the ‘clone brothers’ and why are they on the Island?

January 18, 2007, 3 pm...

Inside the Rural Health Center a National Guard private is on patrol. He smells a pungent, oddly familiar scent and traces it to one of the rooms. He puts his ear to the door, but hears nothing. He pulls his sidearm from its holster while slowly turning the doorknob, then pushes into the room. Three people look up, startled. Phil Gregg is lying on his back on a table. The private can see little needles stuck in his arms and legs, and one stuck in his forehead, right between his eyes. Phyllis Moore is sitting in an armchair; she has needles sticking out of her ears.

The third person is hovering over Phil, but turns toward the private and extends a smile and a hand.

“Hi, I’m Matt Leismier.” The Guardsman starts to reach out to shake the offered hand, but realizes his hand is gripping his pistol. “Where's the pot?”

“Pot!!” Leismier stammers. Phil and Phyllis stare wide-eyed at both men. “Oh, there's no pot. That smell, it's moxa, not pot.”

---

“The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad.”

Psalm 97:1; New American Bible

The Paradise Bay Coffee Shop will continue to be open 8:00 am to 2:00 pm every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

In addition to our regular menu, we will be featuring gourmet Christmas gifts through December.

As our Christmas gift to the Island, one dollar will be deducted from the price of every meal served December 8, 9, and 10, and each customer’s name will be placed in a drawing for $10 gift certificates.

Merry Christmas!
“Smells like pot to me.”
“It’s an easy mistake to make,” Leismer says. “Let me explain. I’m an acupuncturist. I live in Petoskey, but I’ve been stuck on the Island. I’m treating Phil for some of his aches and pains, and Phyllis is trying to stop smoking. Sometimes I burn moxa, a Chinese herb, over the needles. That’s what smells like marijuana. See?” He holds up a tube of a dried, green substance. “It’s perfectly legal.”

As the soldier relaxes and starts to put his gun away, he looks out the window toward The King’s Highway. Through the bare trees he sees a white Jeep heading into town right at the speed limit—but no one is driving.

At the wheel of the Jeep, Connie Wojan has forgotten that she is invisible. A few weeks ago, she discovered that she could, at will, become undetectable. Like Wendy White, Galen Bartels, and a handful of other Islanders exposed to the illness and the blue ‘rocks’ of unknown origin, she has gained a supernatural power. “We’ve got mutants, just like an X-Men movie,” an Islander had quipped, but no one revealed this to the National Guard.

Since then, Connie has been sneaking unseen into the headquarters of the military-medical ‘occupiers’ at the cavernous Beaver Island Transfer Station to learn their secrets.

Minutes earlier, she had overheard big news. The Centers for Disease Control reported that the illness was not bird flu, but was caused by an unidentified and highly contagious virus; its origin is unknown. And the military was looking for a plane that months ago, just before the illness started, had flown over the Island and dropped something onto the Island. Connie is driving to town to pass the information on to Judy Lanier, the next link in the Islanders’ secret ‘telegraph’ system.

Judy is standing in front of the Beaver Island Post Office. She watches as Connie, now visible, drives down Main Street and begins to make the left turn onto Frankie Lane. The Jeep starts to skid on the ice, sliding fast toward the building—a nasty accident in the making. Judy steps in the way of the two-ton vehicle, stretches out both of her arms, and with her hands grabbing the hood, she meets the impact without flinching. The Jeep stops dead in its tracks. Judy flashes a smile at Connie, then steps away as though nothing unusual has happened.

Unfortunately, her little demonstration of super-strength has been witnessed by the head of the National Guard unit, who was driving by. He stops and orders several Guardsmen to take Judy to the Transfer Station for questioning. But when he looks around for the other woman, the one in the Jeep, she is gone.

After Sunset…

In a summer cottage on the north shore of the Island, three men meet in cold darkness. No lamps on, no flashlights even—nothing that could be spotted from the road. Mike Deur, ‘Kayak Ken’ Bruland, and Tom Whitman have been planning an escape from the Island for several weeks. Mike has a seriously ill relative in Indiana, and Ken was supposed to take care of some paramedic business downstate; both desperately want to get off the Island. They realized that leaving meant defying the government,
but they'd been trapped on the Island for more than a month and, anyway, didn't believe that bird flu was the cause of the epidemic. They had recruited Tom, who, as the Island's volunteer firemen would tell you, is a good man to have with you in a tricky situation. Tom had suggested that they get away in snowmobiles, sledding across the iced-over lake to the Mainland. He'd heard from one of the Guardsmen that, for the first time in years, the ice was solid to Waugoshance Point. The men had added home-rigged mufflers to the borrowed snowmobiles to reduce sound and avoid detection. Mike, a veteran snowmobiler, had helped Tom and Ken practice driving in the dark. Tonight they are ready to make the run.

"Remember the plan," says Tom. "We go over to Garden Island first, then follow the path along the little islands and shoals. Don't turn on the headlights until we're well east of Beaver. If they see us, they will shoot."

They tie a thick rope from one machine to the other. "If, God forbid, one of us goes into the water," says Ken, "the other has to get him out really quick or it's all over."

Minutes later the trio is riding across the ice toward Garden Island. Suddenly, though, Tom turns his snowmobile sharply to the right and cuts the engine. "Look out!" he yells. "Don't hit it!" Mike and Ken stop quickly. "There's something there," Tom calls out, pointing into the dark. "I think it's a body."

The men rush toward a long dark lump on the ice—a sleeping bag, maybe, wrapped around a motionless man. "Is he dead?"

"No," says Ken, holding the man’s pulse. "But he will be soon if we don't get him warmed up. We have to take him to the Health Center." Mike and Tom immediately agree to abandon their escape plan. "Who is he?"

"I don't know, but he looks familiar. Not an Islander, but I've seen him around."

They carefully move the man onto one of the snowmobiles. "Take this, too," says Tom, tossing Ken a small cloth pouch that was also on the ice.

The Rural Health Center, 8 pm...
Environmental Disruptions draw Closer

Word has reached us of a bird die-off less than fifty miles away, with preliminary reports blaming the mix of pollution and invasive species.

The unexpected mass deaths of over 2,500 grebes, cormorants, gulls, mergansers, and loons has been observed on the western shore of the Leelanau Peninsula in the past few months as bird bodies washed up on the beaches of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

Most experts fear this may be the looming edge of a zone of greater environmental disaster, which is decimating fish in Lake Erie. Their theory is that a kind of botulism (type E) caused by zebra mussels (which also displace traditional food sources for the Great Lakes' larger fish) is taking a toll on the smaller species at the beginning of the marine food chain. They warn that an unwelcome transformation in what fish can be found in the Great Lakes may be underway.

Unfortunately, the added water clarity due to the zebra mussels' filtering promotes the growth of *cladophora*, a native seaweed, which then provides the organic material needed for the botulism bacteria to grow. Then the mussels play a second role: when a storm turns up the lake bottom, zebra mussels ingest the botulism bacteria, and the toxin is passed on to another invasive species, round gobies. When birds or large fish eat the gobies, they can become infected and die.

In Lake Erie fish deaths are being reported along with the death of birds; tons and tons of dead fish wash up, from time to time. Biologists there have identified another culprit, the viral hemorrhagic septicemia known as VHS. This virus has not yet infected Lake Michigan, but we don't know how to hold it back and some observers feel it is surely on its way.

One of the many memorable aspects of life on Beaver Island is the haunting, melodic call of our loons. We have our Loon Rangers, friends of the loons, and loon music. But the Inland Seas Educational Association reported finding 188 dead loons in just August and September at Sleeping Bear, with no countermeasure yet derived. Could this pox reach us? Who can say—but it's not that far away.

Stupak remains concerned about the ‘live-fire’ zones

Three weeks after the Charlevoix meeting to discuss the Coast Guard’s ‘Live Fire’ plans, congressman Bart Stupak remains cautious about the proposed exercise. He is concerned that adequate means of alerting boaters have not yet been decreed, that the 7,000 pounds of lead the program will dump into the Great Lakes may have a negative ecological effect, that the tribes (whose title to the Great Lakes is merely held in trust by the federal government) have not been consulted, and that no reason for instituting the program now has been revealed.

As for Beaver Island, he stated that the proposed live fire zone between here and Charlevoix may require the ferry to take a different route, increasing the time and cost of the crossing and possibly hurting our tourist-based economy.

Lead Elsewhere

Discussions about the wisdom of shooting 7,000 pounds of lead into the Great Lakes annually frequently turn on the perceived threat of the heavy metal. In California, hunters, environmentalists, and Native Americans sued state wildlife regulators for allowing the condor population to be poisoned by lead ammunition, which they feel has reduced the numbers of this bird with a ten-foot wingspan to only 138 currently flying free.
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few people know Pat Boyle as the mason who built the wonderful stone fireplace on Sybil Larson’s home, now owned by Pat’s family, but most recognize him from the Stop for Art stand he sets up and mans in front of his own home next to the Emerald Isle Hotel.

Those who have stopped there, or seen him at the Historical Society’s annual Art Show during Museum Week, have discovered his exceptional talent for drawing well-composed nature scenes. Usually people are so impressed they have to buy one of his original drawings, or a high-quality print.

After thirty years of finding his greatest satisfaction in his art, Pat has begun a remarkable new venture: a sequence of fantasy-engendering black-and-white drawings of tree houses that invite the viewer to imagine a miniature, elfin world. As with all his work, all he has to do is pick up a drawing pen and a sheet of blank sketch paper, and new ideas flock to

A doctor suggested that a book like this might be a benefit to various therapeutic enterprises. So Pat assembled ten sets of drawings and sent them to ten Michigan hospitals, along with SASE-enclosed queries for anyone who colored them to fill out and return.
his mind like hungry hummingbirds flocking around a hive full of honey. The imaginative Pat has never been at a loss for something to draw.

But these drawings are different from anything else he’s conceived, because these will bound in a book. A coloring book.

This project began when a customer remarked that Pat’s black-and-whites were crying out for color. Pat had heard their pleas, and agreed. To see if this might lead to something, he colored some of his drawings himself, and the results took his work to the next level.

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If all goes well, his first two coloring books will be published in the spring—watch for news in the *Beacon*. 
Wireless in 2007 at last?

After visiting the Island in October, Hudsonville, MI OnWeb90 is planning to provide Beaver with wireless broadband Internet. Plans include 1500 kbps down/256 kbps up, 3000/512, and 5000/768 residential options, as well as 1.5 mbps/1.5 mbps and 3.0/3.0 commercial plans. “While keeping the pristine beauty of the Island intact, OnWeb90 is bringing them a complete Wireless network, including Voice-Over-IP service to the entire Island” says Nick Welsheimer, www.onweb90.com

Mason, MI NGWirless, Inc., directed by Brian Tort, also has expressed interest in providing wireless broadband for Beaver Island with a visit on November 15th and mailings to all box holders. With an Island connection, NGWirless, Inc. pledges “Internet access to benefit year-round residents and travelers to the Island, with service to be available by April 1, 2007,” according to www.ngwirelessinc.com.

The Acacia’s new home

For years we looked forward through the long cold winter to the arrival of the Coast Guard cutter Acacia as a sure harbinger of spring. But the Spring of 2005 was the last appearance of the 180’ ship, which was retired.

Now comes word that the Acacia is headed for Chicago, where, after wintering on the south side, she will become a museum. A bevy of Coast Guard cadets will maintain her while a program of exhibits is being devised. Her operational readiness will also be maintained—just in case.

A downtown berth is being sought, and the hope is that the new museum might be open by as early as next Memorial Day.

The exhibits are to represent Great Lakes nautical history.

Contributions to the museum should be sent to Dan Hecker, 10319 S. Laporte in Oak Lawn IL, 60453

Don’t Miss Santa

Once again the AmVets and the Emerald Isle Hotel will bring Santa to the Island on December 16th from 11:30 to 1:00, with free pictures, presents, and the world’s best hotdogs.

School Improvement

Teachers and staff at our school have begun to notice some shortcomings in the building layout. This led to the formation of a School Board committee, which recently gathered input from Grand Rapids architects who specialize in school redesign— the second such firm to be interviewed. Among the goals are better space for art and music education, an up-to-date science lab, better storage for maintenance equipment, insufficient electrical outlets, a better and more efficient heating system, and an upgrade for the playground equipment. The Board hopes to select architects to explore concrete ways to achieve these modifications in the near future.
Dear Friends of Beaver Island,

Amidst the joys and celebrations of this holiday season, there is another happy occasion to anticipate and celebrate: Baroque on Beaver’s return to Beaver Island next July 25-29.

For the sixth consecutive year, Baroque on Beaver will provide some seventy Beaver Island and visiting musicians opportunity to present, and hundreds of audience members multiple opportunities to enjoy, an exceptional festival of classical music. The 2007 festival will include two evening concerts by chamber groups and soloists, two full orchestral and choral performances at the Parish Hall, and other special events. Also, that week all Beaver Island Community School students will be invited to participate in Baroque on Beaver Music Camps.

Over the past five years, Baroque on Beaver has received financial support from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs – and from many individual donors. Proposals will be submitted to those and other potential grant-makers for 2007, but to assure the festival’s continued success we must reach out to all our friends. Whether you are permanent or seasonal residents of Beaver Island, or regular or occasional visitors, we ask that you make a year-end gift to help Baroque on Beaver continue to thrive and grow.

Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association, a newly formed Michigan nonprofit corporation, is now the sponsor of Baroque on Beaver, with continuing support and guidance from former advisory committee members Jeanne Howell and Constance Currie. Its dual purposes are to present the festival and to help provide cultural arts education and performance opportunities for BICS students during festival week and throughout the school year. (We were able to make a $2,500 grant to BICS for the latter purpose during this school year.) Your gift will help fulfill these purposes and be fully tax deductible, because the IRS recently issued a determination that BICAA has 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. Please send your check to the address shown below. On behalf of the entire Beaver Island community, we thank you in advance for your generous support and look forward to celebrating Baroque on Beaver 2007 with you.

BICAA Board of Directors

Baroque on Beaver – a festival of classical music!
www.BaroqueonBeaver.com

P.O. Box 326 Beaver Island Michigan 49782
On This Date

Ten Years Ago By the end of Opening Day, Bill and Tim McDonough had logged in, dressed, and butchered 80 deer. One hunter who'd been coming here for 50 years and had not taken a buck for 35 took one this year: Father Tony Majirkowski. The Hunters' Dinner was held at the Shamrock and featured rabbit stew, elk roast, venison, roast coon, turkey, and whitefish. The cooks were Pinky, Erik Peterson, Madonna, Joy, Rose, BJ, Lil, and Emma Jean.

Dave Roop reported that the deer herd was growing; hare were down by 30% but still plentiful; grouse were as plentiful as last year; hare were down by Dan Higdon replaced Dick Capman in the Airport Community here, and included songs by old-timers Pat Bonner and Johnny Green, including: "The Bay" O'Donnell, Rita Gill, Fix-it, Bauman's Bluff, Pebble Beach, and a fierce wind kept the lake out of business. Power was disrupted in several parts of the Island by falling trees, and a snowplow. The EMS offered a 4-course curriculum at the school: Medical First Responder, MFR to Emergency Medical Technician, Basic EMT, and Basic EMT Refresher—all taught by Joe Moore.

Passings noted included Dorothy Fox, the daughter of Peter and Dolores Gallagher, and Patty Rasch, the wife of Rasch brother Clint.

Twenty Years Ago Two bids to replace the sidewalk in St. James were almost identical: $10,675 from Greg Cary and $10,684 from Jon Bonadeo. So the Town Board decided to give them each half of the job.

Gary Comer offered to extend the paved runway at the Municipal Marina by 1,000'. Members of the Airport Committee were in favor, although at least one seasonal home owner was afraid such an expansion would bring in too many jet planes. The extension was estimated at $125,000, and there was a chance of receiving a $50,000 grant from the Michigan Aeronautics Commission.

Dan Higdon replaced Dick Capman as Airport Manager.

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Island Sports and Rental, with Dan McCafferty winning, followed by Dave Roop and Dave Fritz. Karl Heller reported that the Game Club had acquired two coyote dogs and was looking for help feeding them. The Beaver Island Gun Club was formed to provide a venue for trap shooting; it cost $20/month to belong.

Passings noted included Captain John 'Clifford' White, who was born in Illinois and married Beaver Island's Catherine ‘The Bay’ O'Donnell, and Francis O'Donnell, Rita Gillespie’s brother, who lived in Chicago.

Thirty Years Ago Due to a shortfall of funds, the Civic-sponsored Beacon terminated complimentary copies, although the subscription rate remained at $5/year.

Most of the issue went into a story written by Pat O'Donnell and submitted by his brother, Anthony, with references to several Beaver Islanders. The story was framed to seem to be written by a dog. Sinbad, who was locked in a concentration camp when his owner went away. The dog talks about his trial, at which Anthony O'Donnell acted as his attorney. There was a long list of charges, everything from bringing fleas into the house to snapping at a grouchy mailman and barking at unknown visitors. Despite a good defense, poor Sinbad was sentenced to six months in an outdoor cage.

A Christmas card from Island businesses bore these names, among others: Circle M, Stan Floyd’s auto rental, Wojan’s Island Rental (“how much for Garden?”), Gillespie Oil and Transit, Beaver Island Oil Company, Mister Ed’s Fix-it, Bauman’s Bluff, Pebble Beach lots, Ed-Pat’s TV & Electronics, Ruthie’s Bits of Beaver, and Vic Shapley’s Island Telephone Company.

Forty Years Ago The Beacon proclaimed, “The Blizzard of ’66 will long be remembered by those who were trapped on the Island for a full week during deer season. Hunters near the south end could only sit and wait for a snowpaw. Power was disrupted in many parts of the Island by falling trees, and a fierce wind kept the Beaver Islander in the harbor.”

The James Pooler story, When Santa missed the boat for Beaver Island, was reprinted; he had spent several years living here as a boy before going to work for the Detroit Free Press.

Passings noted included Ralph Johnson, father of Skip McDonough.

Fifty Years Ago A welcome party for the Island’s new doctor featured John Gillespie and Ron Gallagher singing a parody of a Gilbert and Sullivan song.

The opening of deer season brought 186 hunters to the Island. They took away 45 deer. The largest, a 9-point weighing 185 pounds, went to Leon Marks of Kalamazoo. A 12-pointer weighing 165 went to Bob Southern of Rochester. Chuck Kleinhizen topped the local effort. The bow-and-arrow season drew 16 hunters. The Conservation Officers made 6 arrests.

One of the hunters was Ronnie Kolenda of Grand Rapids, who was induced to give a polka concert with his accordion at the Parish Hall.

Historical Society co-founder Rus-sell Hoffman announced plans for a Beaver Island Cookbook. A granddaughter of King Strang, Mrs. E. J. Bovan of Milwaukie, Oregon, sent an original front page for the last edition of James Jesse Strang’s paper.

Mort Neff featured the Island on his Michigan Outdoors TV show.
Lillian Noel Moore

Philip Michael and Jessica Moore, currently of Eatonville, Washington, are excited to announce the arrival of their first child, Lillian Noel, who arrived on November 14th, 2006. “Lily,” weighed in at 7 ½ pounds and is 19 inches long. According to the proud papa, she also has red hair. Grandparents are Tom and Kathy Baker of Calumet, and Joe and Phyllis Moore; great-grandparents are Phil and Lillian Gregg, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miller of Grand Marais. Congratulations, Mike and Jessica!

Benefit Party

A very BIG thank you from the Benefit Committee goes to all who attended a Benefit Party and generously donated to the fund for Wendy Ken and her family. At the party alone we took in almost $5,000! In addition to what was collected that night, checks have been coming in to the Bank and Debbie Robert. As of Dec. 1, almost $6,400 has been donated!

Thanks go to Kitty McNamara for her auctioneering skills. The highest priced auction for 2 Nights at the Grand Traverse Resort and Round Trip Airfare for 2 on Fresh Air was won by Larry and Mary Rose Birch for $275. And Pat Anderson of Beaver Island Marine was the top bidder at $250 on a Brian Cole photograph of the Beaver Islander.

Thank you to Island Airways for donating 3 round-trip tickets to be auctioned/raffled at the Benefit, and also for helping Johnny go to the mainland to see his daughter. Also, to Fr. Pat/Holy Cross the party alone we took in almost $5,000! In addition to what was collected that night, checks have been coming in to the Bank and Debbie Robert. As of Dec. 1, almost $6,400 has been donated!

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Locals Man becomes new CCCF chairman

Local resident and BIRHC stalwart Don Spencer was elected to chair the Charlevoix County Community Foundation’s board of directors, an organization he has been serving for five years. Many Island organizations have their Endowment Funds with the CCCF, and Islanders Judy Lanier, Skip McDonough, Kitty McNamara, and Joe Reed have played major roles.
26. Congratulations, Mike and Jessica!

Richard Miller of Grand Marais, and Mr. and Mrs. Phil and Lillian Gregg, and Mr. and Mrs. Phyllis Moore; great-grandparents are Kathy Baker of Calumet, and Joe and red hair. Grandparents are Tom and

According to the proud papa, she also has

at 7 ½ pounds and is 19 inches long.

November 14, 2006. “Lily,” weighed in

first child, Lillian Noel, who arrived on

excited to announce the arrival of their

photographs by Dan Keto

Wendy and her family still have a long road ahead of them. Let’s keep them in our thoughts and prayers especially during the upcoming holidays. Donations can still be sent to:

Kenwabikise Benefit Fund
Charlevoix State Bank
111 State Street
Charlevoix, MI 49720, or
Debbie Robert
P.O. Box 78
Beaver Island, MI 49782

Margaret Abigail McCafferty

Michael, Erin, and Susi Myers McCafferty would like to announce the birth of their baby sister Margaret Abigail McCafferty. Maggie was born on November 10th, 2006 at the Charlevoix Hospital to Dan and Sarah McCafferty. She weighed 7lbs 9oz, and was 19 inches long. The proud Grandparents of this new happy and healthy Beaver Islander are Michael and Susan Myers, and Madonna McCafferty. She’s sleeping while she has the chance, before the welcoming parties get underway.

and for the assistance in getting Wendy and her husband here.

And a very special thanks to Joan LaFreniere who won $470.00 in the 50/50 and generously donated it back.

Also, thanks to everyone who brought food. And to the musicians; Ed Palmer, Cindy Gillespie Cushman, John McCafferty, Shaker Heights, Brandon Maudrie, Cory Palmer and Keith Szczepanski who all donated their time and talent.

A New Ferry to our South—or not

Plans for a new ferry line between Frankfort and Wisconsin are stalled over the lack of a Michigan-end dock. Brian McCaughrin, the owner of a nautical shipping business based in Wayne, already purchased a ferry “made in, and for, the Great Lakes,” but doesn’t want to also pay for a dock. The failure of Frankfort to provide a dock has put the plan in jeopardy.

by Marie LaFreniere

photographs by Dan Keto

and talent. Beaver Island, MI 49782

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‘Baroque on Beaver’ Tax Exempt, Expanded Concerts

Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association, the new nonprofit corporation that has taken over management and presentation of Baroque on Beaver, was granted a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status by the IRS. This means that individuals’ financial gifts to support the festival and BICAA’s other charitable activities, including grants to the Beaver Island school for enhanced music education and performance opportunities, will be fully tax deductible.

BICAA also announced an expanded line-up of concerts for 2007, which will be held July 25-29, 2007.

There will be two main concerts featuring full orchestra and chorus with approximately seventy performers, both local Beaver Island talent and visiting musicians, at the Parish Hall on Saturday and Sunday, the 28th and 29th.

No Big Rock Park

Those who were looking forward to having a park at the Big Rock nuclear generator site were disappointed to learn that the DNR’s plans were scuttled over concerns, raised by the Michigan Environmental Council, that the site still bears traces of radioactivity—even though it was deemed safe by the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The 450 acres, which includes a mile and a half of undeveloped Lake Michigan shoreline, was up for sale for $19,300,000 by Consumers Energy, an amount the DNR had hoped to obtain from the DNR Trust Fund.

A Difficult Hunt

Some deer hunters on Beaver Island were doubly disappointed this year. First, the weather was unseasonably warm, and second, there seemed to be few deer. Some hunters got lucky, but many didn’t. The eleven hunters who braved the rough water to camp on Garden Island were the unluckiest of the lot.

Some residents are blaming the upsurge in coyotes, heard on most nights boasting on the ridges and in the woods. “There could be a thousand of them,” one hunter maintained. “Last year we put the number at three hundred, and they had a good season. With five to eight pups, you do the math.” Others said there were plenty of deer, and more importantly, plenty of fawns—more than last year. So maybe it was simply due to the weather.
Veterans’ Day

On 11:00 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month, 18 proud veterans gathered alongside the Holy Cross Church for a ceremony to honor all those who died in service of their country, including eight Beaver Islanders. It was too cold for Post Chaplain Bob Hoogendorn to play his horn, so Taps was heard in an electronic version. Despite the 30º day, two dozen patriots stood stiffly as Doug Hartle conducted the event, which included the reading of a poem written about the War to End all Wars.

Beaver Island has long been known for the patriotism of its residents.

Nancy and Roger Sommer are pleased to announce the high school graduation of their daughter

JULIE MAUREEN SOMMER
from the Beaver Island Lighthouse School

Julie plans to attend college in the Fall of 2007, possibly Olivet or Kendall School of Art and Design

Please help us celebrate her graduation by coming to an open house party at the home of her aunt and uncle, Kathy & Rick Speck (across from the Christian Church) on

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th from 12 to 3 p.m.
Beaver Islander in Service

GAO, Mali—It’s another extremely hot day in Gao, a small village north of Bamako, in the West African country of Mali. A U.S. military team has assembled at a local village, preparing to perform tasks that would make the average person cringe. A team member is struggling to get a grip on a cow’s tongue. Another tries to stop an infestation of worms from spreading, while another has only a few minutes to reach into a mouth full of teeth… and take one out.

This is not an episode of the popular television show Fear Factor. MEDCAP, as it’s known, is a humanitarian operation designed to provide medical, dental, and veterinary outreach to local civilian populations. During November, the team, consisting of a physician, a nurse, a dentist, and a veterinarian, deployed with Special Operations Forces to Mali. While U.S. Special Forces focus on interacting with the Malian military to strengthen counter-military capabilities, the medical teams serve the local community by providing free basic medical and dental care for villagers and their livestock. Winning the ‘hearts and minds’ of the locals with these MEDCAPS is part of that strategy. The Veterinarian Capability (VETCAP) program focuses on tending to the livestock of local villages and is considered to be a key element of the program.

The team pulled together to assist U.S. Army Capt. Jeremy Bearss, DVM, a veterinarian with the Northern Europe Veterinary Detachment, administers anti-parasitic medicine to livestock during the latest in a series of Joint Combined Exchange Training events near Gao, Mali. Bearss and other military medical/dental professionals deployed with Special Operations Forces as part of the latest in a series of efforts of the United States effort to maintain positive relationships while bringing stability to the region.

“One of the most valuable things the villagers have is their animals,” said Bearss, who calls Beaver Island, Michigan, his home. “If their animals are healthy, then their children (and their nutritional status) will be, as well.”

Special Operations Command, Europe forces will continue to rely on the assistance of medical teams to perform Medical Capabilities Exercises as Special Forces focus their efforts on developing nations like Mali.

U.S. Army Capt. (Dr.) Jeremy Bearss, the team’s veterinarian, to assess the health of local livestock and provide treatment as necessary. Bearss, who serves with the Northern Europe Veterinary Detachment at the Royal Air Force Base in Lakenheath, England, provided anti-parasitics and vitamins to the village’s animal populations… more than 192 animals in three hours. The team tagged some of the animals so their health can be monitored in the future.

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WELCOME TO THE END OF THE DAY.

11800 US 31 N - Charlevoix, Michigan 49720 - (231) 237-0988
The deep green gem beckons to me from across the saltless sea. Fall is preserved in time; cushioned within the water’s blanket of insulation. So, too, protected cultures of those who venture into a world of timeless wonder. Storytellers weave their thoughts in a tapestry of history, culture, and relationships, and we drink from the rich colors. Going there with a dear friend, I feel intoxicated by the opportunity to share in this special world. The isle allows only those who care for her shores and the Thousand Acre Wood. Few see Pooh Corner.

At night, the constant swishing of the waves and brushing of the tall tree branches lull you to sleep. We wonder, too, at the dance our taste buds do when the Isle Chef makes a magic ‘stew.’ It is cold and wet this fall, but we remain warm and dry; wrapped in friendships, favorite stories, color, and the wonder of it all on Beaver Island.

– Pamela Morehead

As Chicago’s current ‘historic’ Christmas Tree Ship, USCGC Mackinaw was loaded with 1,000 Christmas trees by Ogema Heights ROTC members in November. The loading was accompanied by a donation event, with the Salvation Army, the Cheboygan post of the Michigan State Police, Cheboygan County Police, and the Cheboygan City Police present. 200 trees will be donated to the Salvation Army during this time. The trees were purchased by the Chicago’s Christmas Ship organization from a tree farm in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. They are of various species and sizes and will make the historic journey from Cheboygan, past Beaver Island, and to Chicago for a Dec. 1, 2006 arrival.

For the first time in the long history of this charitable cruise, the trees will be sharing deck space with buoys as Mackinaw will be decommissioning lighted aids and replacing them with winter markers on the voyage to and from Chicago.

50’ of Ladder, 100’ of Heart

Christmas came early for the Beaver Island volunteer Firemen this year with the answer to their prayers: a brand-new tanker,
Ode to Beaver Island

The deep green gem beckons to me from across the saltless sea.
Fall is preserved in time; cushioned within the water's blanket of insulation.
So, too, protected cultures of those who venture into a world of timeless wonder.
Storytellers weave their thoughts in a tapestry of history, culture, and relationships, and we drink from the rich colors.
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It is cold and wet this fall, but we remain warm and dry; wrapped in friendships, favorite stories, color, and the wonder of it all on Beaver Island.
– Pamela Morehead

with all the bells, whistles, lights, and sirens. The chief and some of his men took a break from their day jobs to check it out. Their smiles indicate they were pleased.
One Hundred Years Ago
by Joyce Bartels

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, December 6, 1906 Local News: “Dr. A. M. Wilkinson and family of St. James have been spending several days including Thanksgiving with relatives here.”

“John S. Gallagher, of St. James, was in town several days the past week.”

“Rev. Paschal Foerster, of St. James, was here over Sunday, and officiated at the Catholic Church.”

“The tug J. V. Taylor laid out Monday and Capt. Tim Roddy goes as second mate of the Ludington car ferry the remainder of the winter.”

“Navigation is still open and active. The Beaver is making her trip with ‘spasmodic regularity.'”

Beaver Island News: “Steam barge R. C. Wente loaded here last week. She will make one more trip.”

“John C. Gallagher spent Sunday at Charlevoix.”

“Miss B. Boyle returned home from Escanaba.”

“Mr. and Mrs. P. McCauley of Manistique will spend the winter here with their daughter, Mrs. Fred Nackerman.”

“Two tugs Effie B. and M. McCann have commenced fishing for whitefish spawn.”

“Our barber Mr. Martin is having quite a little sport showing some of his customers how his new electric massage machine works.”

“Mr. Al Sterling, former foreman for the Lumber Co, visited the Island for a few days.”

“Mr. M. J. Bonner has been quite sick for the last few days.”

“Sister’s (sic) Clementina and Leo spent Thanksgiving in Grand Rapids.”

“Mrs. Capt. Tim Roddy who has been quite ill for the past week, is reported will again.”

(Note: “12-11 Snow-snow-snow” F. Protar)

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, December 13, 1906 Local News: “The close season ends Saturday night, and the fishing fleet is in commission Sunday morning and doing business. At Beaver Island the tugs McCann and Effie B. are fishing for whitefish spawn for the government, with very small results yet, but improvement is expected. When these tugs are released, the Effie B. will join the other two Wolverine tugs here. It is expected that ten steam tugs and several gasoline outfits will operate here for at least six weeks.”

Beaver Island News: “Captain Tim Roddy returned home for the winter.”

“Squaw Island light station has closed for the winter.”

“Mr. M. J. Bonner who has been quite ill the past 10 days is able to be out again.”

“Mr. Noble Stevens and family of Manistee, have moved here for the winter. Mr. Stevens is a brother of W. E. Stevens of this place.”

“Mr. John Floyd’s team ran away in front of McCann’s store and completely demolished the sleighs and harness and seriously injuring one of the horses.”

“Word was received here a few days ago that Peter D. McCauley, brother of Mrs. J. C. Gallagher and Mrs. Tim Roddy of this place, was dangerously ill at Duluth, Minn.”

(Note: “12-15 Thaw” F. Protar)

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, December 20, 1906 Local News: “Supervisor W. J. Gallagher and Mr. Sheid, bookkeeper for the Beaver Island

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**Floral Designs by Colleen**

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Lumber Co., were here Monday.”

“The big steel steamer L. C. Waldo, of Detroit, was stranded on ‘Can Bouy Reef,’ to the northwest of Garden Island last Sunday noon. She was loaded with coal bound for Milwaukee. After vain efforts to get assistance, she began Monday morning to jettison her cargo and kept fifty men from St. James busy until Tuesday noon when tug Favorite arrived and released her. She was injured very little and proceeded up the lake. The Waldo is 450 feet long, and is a fine vessel. She was in plain view from the portage at Beaver Harbor.”

**Beaver Island News:**

“The barge R. C. Went made her last trip here a few days ago.”

“The steamer Crescent was in the harbor a couple of days last week storm bound.”

“C. E. Tilley returned home from Traverse City, where he had gone to purchase a lathe mill.”

“Miss Mell O. Gallagher who has had a severe attack of typhoid, is well enough to be out again.”

“Miss Ida B. Gallagher has accepted a position in district number away from the Island for the past two years returned home for the winter.”

“Spawn fishing has ended here for the season, and Mr. A. T. Stewart who has had charge of the government work in that line, has left for home.”

“Our Township Treasurer received a check a few days ago for something over $2000 primary money. This makes the tax very light in St. James township. Only 1 percent being levied.”

“The Tug Burger, of Manistique, brought the remains of Capt. P. D. McCauley, who died at West Superior a short time ago, and they were interred in the family cemetery here. Capt. McCauley was quite widely known in Marine Circles. Having for the past eight or ten years held various responsible positions of trust on the lakes. Capt. McCauley will be missed by numerous friends and relatives.”

(Note: “10 - 20 Some track [open road], but bad! Ultra bad!” 20 - 27 No track. F. Protar)

**Charlevoix Sentinel** Thursday, December 27, 1906

Local News: “The steamer Beaver went to Boyne city this morning with submarine diver Sam Rose and his outfit to make a search for the body of Frank Watson, who was drowned Christmas Day.”

“W. W. Boyle and Anthony Malloy, of St. James, have been in town several days the past week.”

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**Notes from F. Protar’s diary with the help of Antje Price**
Real Estate, For Rent

SUMMER RENTAL AT HOOKER’S POINT – A lovely, furnished three bedroom, two bath home, featuring large deck with sunset view, bay stone fireplace, path to beach with firepit, active bird-life, including Bald Eagles and most importantly, PRIVACY. Available June through September for $1,200.00 per week. Property can be viewed at www.msnuers.com/Beaversland/Property Call the Hookers at (231) 947-3823 if interested in booking your time.


SAND BAY – “BAY HAVEN” COTTAGE – WEEKLY RENTAL - Lake Front, Sandy Beach, 3BR, great view, laundry, East Side Dr., brand new home. Only available the first three weeks of June and after September 1st, 2007. Call Laurie Bos at (616) 786-3863 or email lauriesbos@chartermi.net Photographs of Bay Haven can be viewed online at bayhaven.beaversland.net

DIONEGAL BAY COTTAGE - Nicely furnished 3 BR, 1 bath, washer/dryer. On dune w/ beach access. $775/ July & August $600 off-season weekly. Dana Luscombe (248) 549-2701 eve or dpluscombe@msn.com

Calendar of Events

Dec 9th - 10th Christmas Cantata 3:00 at Beaver Island Christian Church
Dec 12th: Secret Santa workshop @ School, 9:00 a.m. - lunch
Dec 14th: Cookie Carnival, Christian Church, 1:00 - 5:00

Dec 16th: Christmas Party with Santa, at the Emerald Isle Hotel. Free lunch provided by the AmVets from 11:30 - 12:30 @ conference room; Presents and Pictures with Santa from 12:00 to 1:00.

Dec 19th: The Twelve Days of Christmas, a K-8 Christmas play at the Parish Hall, 7:00

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Please Mail to: The Beaver Beacon . Box 254, Beaver Island, MI 49782
BEACHFRONT HOME FOR RENT: 3 bedrooms and loft – total 5 beds, hot tub, gorgeous views, solitude, wood stove, May-Sept. $1050. Off-season $795. Call Perry at (313) 530-9776 or e-mail pgatliff@hotmail.com

COFFEE ISLAND AERIE: Overlooking harbor next to Nature Preserve, easy walk/bike to town, 3 bathrooms, 4 BR w/ 2 king and 10 twin beds, large 1st floor decks, 2nd floor wet bar and deck, 3rd floor game room, all modern amenities and appliances, great for multiple families and groups. $1600/week, reduced off-season and extended-stay rates. Call John and Jan (989) 866-2159

LOCHEWOOD SHORES – This house is located about four miles from town on the beach of Sand Bay. It has three bedrooms, two with double beds, one with two twin beds, one and a half bath, washer and dryer, full kitchen, gas grill, large deck that you step off onto the beach, gas fireplace, dish TV and VCR/DVD player, and a gorgeous view of Lake Michigan. Reduced rates for June, September, and October. For rentals, call Bill or Tammy: (231) 448-2733 or (231) 448-2499 or email tammymcd107@yahoo.com.

WEEKLY RENTAL - Harbor Beach Two-bedroom Condos. $500/week. Call Satch Wierenga at (231) 448-2808.

COTTAGE BETWEEN THE SHORES – Conveniently located 1 block from harbor district, yet tucked away on McDonough Rd. 2 king, 1 double, 1 twin, 2 sleeper sofas. Fully equipped kitchen & laundry facilities. Linens and towels provided. Arbor deck with hammock swings and gas grill. $750/weekly. Call Beth Anne at (989) 561-5079 or (989)-330-9528.

SECLUDED 1940’S LOG CABIN JUST ONE BLOCK FROM LAKE and market on one acre. Sleeps 4-6, pets welcome ($100 deposit.) Washer, Dryer & linens furnished. Bicycles, canoe, grill available $600/wk; weekends available. (219) 253-6500. Continued on page 38.

COTTAGE AT HOOKER’S BAY Luxurious home on secluded beach. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1 double and 6 single beds, washer/dryer, wrap-a-round deck with sunset view, bay stone firepit, path to beach with firepit, active bird-life, including Bald Eagles and most species of migrating birds. Full housekeeping. Full house equipped kitchen, dining room, parlor, bedrooms, baths, and bedding provided. Fully equipped TV/VCR Grill. Upon availability, bikes & auto for your use. Sleeps 6-8. No Pets. $790/week. Off season rates available April thru June 15 & Sept 15 thru Oct. Evenings (708) 389-0621

For Reservations: Call Nina’s: 231-448-2396

BEAUTIFUL SUNDAY GARDEN & SQUAW ISLANDS. $1200/week. View of High Garden & Squaw Islands. Exciting cottage with view of High LAKEFRONT 3 ½ baths, 3 kitchens, 2 large decks, 2 BR, bunks in 2 BR), 2 shower baths, 2 half baths, Solitude, wood stove, fireplace, dish TV and VCR/DVD player, and a gorgeous view of Lake Michigan.

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Real Estate, For Sale

HARBOR-LAKE FRONT:
(one block W. of marina)
Sharp 3 bedroom, 3 bath, washer/dryer.
Sleeps 8. Awesome view of harbor from living room, kitchen/dining room, and master bedroom. $1,200 weekly.
Call Patti Fogg (616) 399-5067 or email pfogg@egl.net

SECLUDED BEAUTIFUL CHALET
FOR RENT: 10 Acres of pine with 360' of sandy Lake Michigan Beach. 2-BR (including loft), one bath, Great Room with 2 sofa sleepers. Fabulous views of the Lake. Large decks. Sleeps 7. Across from state land and hiking trails. Satellite TV. No pets. No smoking. $800 per week.
Off-season $200 off. Deposit required.
Call Ed or Connie Eicher (810) 394-5296 or (810) 814-2944

Real Estate, For Rent, continued from page 37.

RENTAL CABIN - for rent - Sand Bay- sleeps 8-amenities-available May-September $950.00 wk plus security deposit. (231) 582-5057 or email robin@robinleeberry.com

DONEGAL BAY - 3 BR 2 bath Home; sleeps 6; many amenities. $900 a week. Reduced rates for off-season. Phone (313) 885-7393, after 4:00 p.m.

SOMMER PLACE APARTMENT - ABOVE GIFT SHOP – 5-minute walk to town, unfurnished, non-smoking, 2-BR with 2nd story deck. $500/month. Call Nancy (517) 663-3477 (let ring)

WEEKLY RENTAL - Lake front. “The Last Resort” 2 BR house on Sand Bay, great view, beautiful sunrise, laundry pair, 1 ½ bath. Phone Bill McDonough at (231) 448-2733 (days).

Real Estate, For Sale

WOODED HOMESITE IN PORT OF ST. JAMES - Huge lot, surveyed, perked, power available, 3 minutes from Donegal Bay Beach, call (269) 857-6084.

10 ACRES OLD FOX LAKE ROAD
Beautiful, wooded, great building site; $39,000 MUST SELL, please call (231) 409-1214.

KING’S HIGHWAY LOTS ON THE EDGE OF TOWN - Two beautiful wooded lots right near town, the Brothers’ Place, and the harbor. Asking $40,000 each. Call (773) 646-1424.
Odatlo@sbcglobal.net


LAKE GENESERATH - Beautiful lot on Hemlock Point Rd. 111’ lake frontage with lovely view across bay into state forest. Entire lot level with large hemlocks & no wetland or restrictions. $78,000. 616-399-5164 or mfolkening@pol.net

BEAVER ISLAND HARBOR LOT
10.1 ACRES OF HARDWOODS - with 700 feet of frontage on West Side Drive one mile north of Fox Lake. For Sale by Owner. High ground with private road and fully cleared building site. $45,000. Call Bubba at (989) 821-5344

LAKE GENESERATH Lot For Sale
Parcel # 15-012-015-013-10, Hemlock Point Road; 140’ lake frontage on the North Arm of beautiful Lake Geneserath; lot approved for building w/o restrictions. Call (616) 773-9783/(616) 283-7227; or email - cschrotenboer@ghyfc.org

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BOAT FOR SALE:
1991 Pursuit 1850 (18' 6") center console, 115 hp Yamaha, Eagle trailer, full electronics. Great shape, one owner. $12,400. Call Rick Blaylock @ (269) 375-3639

FOR SALE: 27827 WHITE CEDAR TRAIL
Charming 1,132 sq. ft. home on two Port St. James wooded lots. Two bedrooms–one upstairs plus upstairs hot tub & exercise room. Full bath downstairs, ½ bath upstairs. Every room has a combination ceiling-fan light fixture.

Baseboard electric heat throughout the house which is well insulated, but there is also a propane heater downstairs. Kitchen with snack bar open to dining area. Close to Font Lake and the North Shore Park and about half-way between St. James and Donegal bay. $139,500.

Ed Wojan Realty:
Real Estate Office: (231) 448-2711
Toll Free Number: 1-800-268-2711

LAKE GENESERATH - For Sale
27827 W. White Cedar Trail
Lot 3
Charming 1,132 sq. ft. home on two Port St. James wooded lots. Two bedrooms–one upstairs plus upstairs hot tub & exercise room. Full bath downstairs, ½ bath upstairs. Every room has a combination ceiling-fan light fixture.

Baseboard electric heat throughout the house which is well insulated, but there is also a propane heater downstairs. Kitchen with snack bar open to dining area. Close to Font Lake and the North Shore Park and about half-way between St. James and Donegal bay. $139,500.

Ed Wojan Realty:
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Toll Free Number: 1-800-268-2711
HARBOR LIGHTS: a unique log cabin looking out over Paradise Bay. Enjoy the boat traffic from the huge deck, or sit around the fire pit on the beach. 3 bedrooms w/ 2 queen sized beds, 2 twins and 2 twin pullouts; 1 large bath. All the amenities. Spectacular views! $975.00 per week. (630) 834-4181 or (630) 995-0507 cell. E-mail to harborsightbim@aol.com

DONEGAL BAY COTTAGE: 3 BR, 2 BA, full kitchen, W/D, fireplace, secluded patio & deck surrounded by pines and bluff and overlooking one of Beaver Island’s best beaches. $850 per week June-September; winter rates available. Call (734) 996-3973 or suzigi16@comcast.net

THE BIRCH HOUSE ON FONT LAKE/DONEGAL BAY ROAD: Close to town, beautiful sunrise, fishing, and solitude. 3 bedroom (sleeps 6) and 1 ½ bath. Phone Mary Rose @ (630) 750-7570 or email mrdog@hotmail.com $750.00/wk off season rates available.

WATERFRONT COTTAGE - On the east side. Available by the week or weekend. One BR, full kitchen and bath. Enjoy the water and the woods, year round. Off-season rates. Complete privacy. (231) 448-2907. RENT YOUR COTTAGE: 1,200+ in print and online. Call (231) 448-2476, email beacon@beaverbeacon.com on the web www.beaver-island.com

BUILDABLE LOT - on the main part of Lake Geneserath. Call Julie @ (616) 566-3311 for details.

TWO LOTS IN THE PORT ST. JAMES near Font Lake. Perked, wooded, buildable. #708 & 709; electric and phone right there. $14,000 each. Call Peggy at (269) 671-5557.

EXCELLENT BUILDABLE LOT ON MCDONOUGH ROAD. 139 ft wide, left side 111 ft, right side 291 ft. $37,500 possibly on land contract. (231) 448-3088.


40 ACRES ON SLOPTOWN ROAD - Call Bud at (231) 448-2397.

HARBOR AREA HOUSE FOR SALE - Four bedroom, 1 ½ bath house on two lots with garage. Wonderful location near town and the harbor. Asking price $225,000. Call Jackie at (231) 448-2342.

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The Acacia is headed for Chicago to become a museum

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