Beaver Beacon

The Island Monthly Since 1955

March 2007 $2.50

Beaver Island News and Events, History, People, Places, Photography, Art, and more...

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Out of the Blue—The Decider
Wildlife Club hosts speaker on Cormorants
Islanders wrap up another strong season—volleyball team claims league title again
Happy St. Patrick’s Day – games begin at 1:00 p.m.
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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 Township Board meeting was postponed a week because of the death of the Clerk’s grandson in Iraq.

Garrett Cole was appointed to the Board of Review to replace Pinky Harmon, and will receive the necessary training.

Junk vehicles can be delivered to Charlevoix, where their owners will receive $100.

The Historical Society’s quarter-mil will be up for renewal on this May’s ballot.

The legal services contract offered to the Township was the same as last year’s, and was accepted.

A cost-of-living increase of 3.3% was recommended for the officers and trustees. This would increase the Clerk to $15,185, the Supervisor and Treasurer to $13,946, and the two trustees to $4,132 each, a total increase of $1,641. The sparse audience felt they would still be underpaid.

Sarah Owsinksi tendered her resignation as Youth Consortium director in order to spend more time with her young daughter.

The nuisance ordinance enforcement officer also wants to be relieved. There was some talk of having the Townships’ Assessor be one job, retained by Kevin White, and finding someone else to act as Zoning Administrator and Ordinance enforcement officer, for both the nuisance ordinance and the zoning ordinance. It was said that some parts of the zoning ordinance are not being adequately enforced at present because of time constraints.

In a rare example of reverse development, or even undevelopment, the Woolam Foundation sought to abandon a designed but unbuilt stub of road entering its tract opposite Lookout Drive, to help keep land acquired from Petritz and Marilyn Duda more pristine. There will be paths for walking and observing nature, but no benches or picnic tables.

Supervisor Don Vyse met with two DNR officers to discuss several township matters. He is negotiating a lease for the DNR building (which was just rehabbed at a total cost of around $6,000.) He was told that the DNR will not give up any land on Garden Island for a refuge or park. The DNR also said that turkeys range up to 30 miles, so no matter how far away from town they might be taken, they will return.

Skip Duhamel called to say he would correct any problems noticed near his fish store.

Snowmobilers were continuing to ride over the septic line and field short of the ‘snake curve’ on the Donegal Bay Road, driving the frost deeper. Kitty will be asked to mention this problem at school.
Peaine Township

Peaine Township suggested a CoL raise for its board: the supervisor would go to $15,107, the Clerk and Treasurer to $14,270, and the trustees to $5,014, for a total raise of $1,715.

The legal services contract Peaine had signed last year was accepted, without the anticipated increase of fees.

Cathy Jones asked why an attorney wasn’t present at meetings, as was the practice downstate. The answer was, it would be too expensive, and, besides, every issue with potential legal ramifications is discussed with the township’s attorney before any action is taken. She also reported on having found a potential source of funds for forested road improvements; this information will be investigated by Pete LoDico, head of the Roads Committee. She also suggested that now that the County Road Commission can grow from 3 to 5 members, a Beaver Islander somehow be put on.

The Planning Commission has been working on ordinance changes to cover towers, now that broadband seems on the way. They may also address adult stores.

Kathy Ruis, Peg Hoogendorn, and Betty Skoggin were appointed to the Board of Review.

A print-out of Planning Commission members’ starting dates was entered into the official record. The PC is now meeting in the Town Hall, which has created a vacancy in the Government Building. An effort will be made to locate another tenant.

Now that the law has changed and replacement members for the Board of Review can be selected, the Board unanimously appointed Jim Birdsall and Larry Kubic; they will be called on an alternating basis.

Our EMS

The January duties for our EMS included 8 runs, 5 more than January of 2006. Three were flown off by Island Airways; one was delivered to the Health Center, with no further transport needed; one required no transport at all; and one resulted in the arrival of the Biscayne Bay.

BIBCo’s New Schedule

A quick perusal of the new boat schedule for 2007 indicates a number of slight modifications. Plans are to begin earlier, but to have no Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday April trips—meaning there’ll be one fewer this year. From May into October, the schedule is essentially unchanged, but late October and all of November will have fewer trips. December’s schedule remains the same: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday trips until just before Christmas. Passenger and vehicle fares are up slightly, but the charge to bring over a pet remains the same.
It's March Already  
**Time to Celebrate Green**

- Enjoy Saint Patrick's Day  
  (3-17-07)
- Smile on the First Day of Spring  
  (3-21-07)
- Guess when PABI's Harbor Tower will Sink  
  when the ice melts—win some $$$ in the 2nd Annual  
  Beaver Island Ice Classic  
  (last chance to guess 3-20-07)
- Spend Some Money  
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School Board Chooses BETA Design

The Beaver Island Community School Board has hired BETA Design Inc. to aid in the assessment of its aged facilities and make recommendations for improvements. At its February board meeting, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Kitty McNamara to work with BETA Design to move forward in designing a building project that will more adequately meet the instructional needs of the school and community.

BETA Design Inc. is a full service architectural and engineering firm based in Grand Rapids, MI. They have extensive experience working with school districts throughout the state of Michigan and offer a wide variety of services, from facility studies, architectural design, and energy assessment to engineering, interior design, and landscape architecture.

“*The expertise of BETA Design will be specifically helpful in addressing the cramped setting of our existing classrooms, our lack of storage, poor air circulation, the energy inefficiency of our building, and our lack of flexibility for today’s methods of teaching and learning.***” said Kitty McNamara, Beaver Island Community School Superintendent. “They will also help us address issues of safety and security and our need for art, music, and science rooms.”

A community forum was held on January 23, 2007 to discuss the aging facilities of Beaver Island Community School and how the facilities are not only inefficient but are also failing to adequately meet the needs of students in the 21st century. There is a growing disparity between what the current facilities offer and what is required to maintain high-quality education.

“With interest rates currently favorable for bond issues and the District soon being debt free, it was decided that now is the best time to move forward on a bond issue,” said McNamara. “It is imperative that we respond to the changing trends in education to allow our students to reach their maximum potential as well as to respond to the current needs of our students and the community.”

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Island Residents show interest in School Board Openings

When the filing deadline for candidates hoping to fill open spots on the board of education ended earlier in the month, there were three candidates for two open positions. Filing nominating petitions for the open seats were: parent Tina Drost, community member Gail Weede, and former board member Rick Speck. The two positions are open as a result of expiring terms of long-time board members John Fiegen and Linda McDonough.
Island Students Recognized Academic Commitment

The following 7th–12th grade students are recognized for “Consistent and Exceptional Performance” by maintaining a 3.5 or better g.p.a. in “a rigorous academic curriculum.”

Jenna Battle, Jake Drost, Alex Kuligowski, Caitlin Boyle, Patrick Cull, Maeve Green, Brenden Martin, Andrea Moore, Emma Adams, Saygan Crosswhite, Brenna Green, and Bailey McDonough.

The following 7th–12th grade students are recognized for “Commended Performance and Achievement” by maintaining a 3.0 or better g.p.a. in a rigorous academic curriculum: Gus Conaghan, Matt Cull, Dan LaFreniere, Brogan Maudrie, Michael McCafferty, Olivia Schwartzfischer, Levi Connor, Clairessa Kenwabikise, Brontae Lemmink, Kristy Bousquet, Hannah Connor, Eric Albin, Samantha Kuligowski, David Schwartzfischer, and Jared Wojan.

Island Students Outscore Others on MEAP tests

Beaver Island Community School students in grades 3-9 joined students throughout the state in taking the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests last fall. When results were released by the state recently, Beaver Island scores were above average in all categories and at all grade levels tested, with one single exception.

In most grades and subject areas our students scored in the highest two levels on the test: Level 2 Met Expectations and/or Level 1 Exceeded Expectations. For example, in Social Studies, 100% of BI students scored in Level 1 or 2 versus 75% of students state-wide. In Writing, all Island students in grades 3 through 9 met or exceeded state standards. In Reading, all of our students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 met or exceeded state standards, and in all grades BICS students scored higher than the state average. In Mathematics, our students again outscored their peers state-wide; for example 100% of our 8th graders met or exceeded state standards, versus 65% of their peers state-wide.

While the scores are excellent overall, the staff will review the results and work on areas where Beaver Island students can show improvement. Principal Kitty McNamara credits a strong curriculum, good teacher-student ratio, student commitment, and parent support for the continued success of Beaver Island students.

Island Roads: Good Enough

On February 27th, 100 Peaine Township voters went to the polls and defeated the request for a mill for improving our roads. The vote was 68 to 32.
Thanks

On behalf of the family, I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, notes, cards, and many kindnesses shown us during this most difficult time after a lengthy battle with cancer. Her Trillium Studios, located at north Donegal Bay, was the locus of my grandson, Cpl Nicholas P. Brown, who – Jean Palmer

In Memory

Word has been received that the Island’s foremost potter, Jo Hooker, passed away at the end of January. Her Trillium Studios, located at north Donegal Bay, was the locus of the founders of the will be missed.
time of the untimely death of my grandson, Cpl Nicholas P. Brown, who was killed in the line of duty in Iraq. — Jean Palmer

for several partnerships, collaborations, and training sessions. She was one of the founders of the Community House project. Her friendly, outgoing demeanor and insouciance will be missed.

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One Hundred Years Ago
by Joyce Bartels

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday, March 7, 1907 Front page article:

“Contradicts Story: Son of ‘King’ Strang Denies Many Reports Concerning Beaver Island. From the Petosky News”

“At different times during the past this paper and many others in the country have published stories purporting to give some idea of the character of the man known as ‘King Strang,’ who ruled the destinies of Beaver Island during the days of Mormonism. A lady in this city is in receipt of a letter from the same King Strang’s oldest son in which he refutes many of the tales of imposition as practiced by the great man upon his people. The writer’s mother was one of the first women of the settlement, the ‘King’s’ first wife, who never espoused the cause or teachings of Mormonism, and neither has this, her son. But the letter, leaving out all personalities, is as follows:

“Ever since I read the clipping about the ‘pirate king’ I have tried to get time to write to you. You know there is an old maxim, ‘you can’t believe everything you hear, and only a small part of what you see.’ This applies to newspapers as well as to other stories.

“The Article in question—not a word of truth in it. If this and all the other stories were really true what a truly wonderful man he was. We had him charged with being ‘an omnivorous reader with a retentive memory.’ He read law and could quote page and paragraph for all his opponents’ citations; he was a most persuasive preacher and counted hundreds of converts to his religious ideas; he was always ready to meet any opponent in debate on any proposition and could quote Scripture freely from Genesis to Revelations.

“As a legislator he outwitted his enemies, conducted his own contest, and won out with the plaudits of the entire state administration, after a contest which was at that time the most remarkable in the history of the state; as a business man he bought and sold goods and real estate with a record of fair dealing and common honesty in every transaction; he bought timber, cordwood, and sold thousands of cords to the steamboats and made Beaver Island a lumbering station for all the larger steamers before the days of coal; as a lawyer and local peace officer he was feared because every offender knew that justice was dispensed impartially and without fear of favor; when he was persecuted by arrests for alleged offences he always defended himself and his people successfully, and during his lifetime he most successfully defended himself in the public press against every charge of violating the law, except that of polygamy, and that he admitted, defending and justifying his course without evasion or deceit. There were charges of piracy on the lake during his lifetime, but nothing was ever proven or even attempted to be proven in court. It would be just as sane to charge him with the responsibility of all the wrecks that have been piled upon the lakes and shoals during the fifty years since his death as to rehash the silly stories that are told from time to time in the daily press.

“There is nothing in the heritage to be ashamed of that I know of. True, he was a polygamist, contrary to state law, but he openly defended and justified his action and was unmerciful in the prosecution of the libertine and the prostitute. Both classes feared him. He encouraged early marriages and large families and made regulations and rules that encouraged the young couple to set up a home and fireside of their own with their garden, their cow, and their chickens. He made regulations that punished the husband for moral lapses and neglect of his family far more severe than so-called Christian communities do today, and for that he was feared and hated. He forbade the use of alcoholic liquors as a beverage in any form, and denounced the use of tobacco and snuff. He discouraged the use of tea and coffee by persons of normal health, reserving these stimulants for invalids and the sickroom. I have been told by persons who know that he practiced in his personal conduct all the things that he advised for others.

“You will continue to hear all sorts of stories while you remain in Petosky because of the proximity to Beaver Island, but do not worry. The family ancestry is just as clean and credible as anyone’s. Every family has its skeleton they would like to hide from public gaze, many of them in families of high social position.

“I could write you many more pages on this topic if I had the time, but this will give you an outline of how I feel in the matter. When a man comes to

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me with a criticism I tell him to pluck the beam from his own eye before he presumes to see the mote in mine.”

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday March 14, 1907 Local News: “Two Beaver Island boys aged eleven years, having a desire to see the world, ran away from home Monday, crossing the channel on the ice to Cross Village, a distance of 35 miles. Fortunately the mail went over that day and they were able to follow the track, else they would probably have been lost on the ice. The boys were taken in charge by the mail carriers, and taken back to their good homes and loving parents, and they went willingly. Cross village was enough. The boys had started for Mackinac Island, but being ignorant of directions followed the sleigh track. They had provided themselves with a sled, upon which they had loaded a considerable supply of canned food. They had also taken the side lamps from a carriage, and when it came dark these were lighted. The lights were moving so strangely that Cross Village people went out and brought them in about nine o’clock.”

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday March 21, 1907 Local News: “The Beaver Island mail came over to Cross Village Monday with very little trouble, although the mail carrier reported that the ice begins to show soft spots in the vicinity of the Islands. He returned Tuesday, and turned about for another trip next day. It is likely that this will be the last trip.”

Beaver Island News: “Quite a sad and deplorable accident occurred on the logging road last week, in which one man lost his life and several others were injured, but not seriously. While bringing in a heavy train of logs, with both locomotives attached, and running along at about six miles an hour, the head engine struck something which caused it to jump the track, bringing the other with it, piling up ten cars of logs. This means a heavy loss to the Lumber Co. as one locomotive was completely demolished, and it will take some time to repair the other.”

“The water is inside of the South point, and it will only be a question of a few days when a boat can enter the harbor.”

“The remains of ‘Ambric Olson’ who was killed in the wreck last week were brought by stage to Cross Village where they were shipped to his home in Suttons Bay.”

“E. C. Lidtkie returned from Manistee where he had gone to attend the funeral of his brother.”

“A. Malloy made a trip to Cross Village last week.”

“Raymond McDonald is just recovering from an attack of ‘Diphtheria’.”

“Fred Sendenderg and Will Gilden returned from Grand Haven with captains’ and engineers’ licenses.”

“Miss Ann Lafreniere went to Petosky last week.”

“At the caucus held in each township last week, all the old officers were placed in nomination again.”

(Note: 21, 22 Thawing, 33 degrees F. Protar)

(Note: 22 Last ice mail F. Protar)

Charlevoix Sentinel Thursday March 26, 1907 Front Page Article:

“FEARS FOR SAFETY”

“Beaver Island Mail Carriers Thought to be in Grave Danger

“Willie Gibson and Raymond McDonald left St. James at six o’clock Monday morning for Cross Village on a mail trip. The conveyance was a span of horses and sleigh.

“Monday night Cross Village reported that they had not arrived, and that there was a broad expanse of water all along that shore. Beaver Island reports by cable that they have not returned and that the ice in the channel between there and Garden Island has broken up, rendering it impossible for them to get back.

“Beaver Island people have hopes that they returned to Hog Island, and are there waiting to get home. Hog Island is the last island in the group that is traversed by the carriers on their way to Cross Village. There is a lumber camp on the Island, and a number of Indian fishermen.

“The situation is one that gives Beaver Island people very much concern.”

Later:

“Just as we go to press, information come that the mail carriers are on Garden Island, where they will probably remain until taken off by boat.

“They made an effort to get to St. James in a boat, but failed. They then built a big fire on the beach, and three men being seen near it, the Islanders are sure that the carriers are safe, and took this means to make it know.”
Little Traverse Conservancy reaches out to kids  
by Frank Solle

As part of its ongoing nature education program, the Little Traverse Conservancy (LTC) sends Education Specialists out to area schools to interact with students of all ages.

On February 27th Melissa Hansen of the LTC flew over to present three programs for preschoolers through sixth graders. These hour-long nature expeditions included snowshoeing, learning navigational skills with a compass, and simply being in the woods and observing what is there.

“We like to get the kids out into nature,” Hansen said after touring the small wood lot behind the school with the preschool and kindergartners. “We’re not so much scientific based,” she explained. “We just want kids to observe and appreciate what’s around them.”

Hansen opened her time with the school’s youngest students with a short story about a mitten, gaining the student’s attention and trust quickly. They then headed into the woods where their first stop was at some fresh squirrel tracks. Hansen used that finding to base a discussion concerning Conservancy’s main what animals might work. “But we also eat during the winter. make use of areas along the walk came well.”

A set of old deer tracks led to a boisterous discussion of how deer hide in and the bushes and then run out into the road. Hansen said she would like to take some of the Island students to one of the Conservancy’s preserves here on her next trip to Beaver Island.

As part of its ongoing nature education program, the Little Traverse Conservancy (LTC) sends Education Specialists out to area schools to interact with students of all ages.

The Little Traverse Conservancy (LTC) school with the preschool and kindergartners.

Hilary Palmer and Joe Bousquet are the proud parents of Ava Lorraine. Ava was born February 7, 2007 and weighed in at 8 ½ lbs. Grandparents are Edward and Mary Palmer and Kevin and Debbie Bousquet, all from Beaver Island.

Talent Show

The annual talent Show will be held at the Holy Cross Hall on March 23rd, 7:30 p.m. Contact director Sheri Timsak as soon as possible to enter the show. Free will donation at the door.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day

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cussion concerning what animals might eat during the winter.

Another stop along the walk came at a fallen dead tree, leading to an examination of what might live there.

At one stop students took turns breathing in the pungent aroma of balsam fir.

A set of old deer tracks led to a boisterous discussion of how deer hide in the bushes and then run out into the road.

“We like to take students to our preserve areas if we can,” Hansen said of trying to tie the field trips into the Conservancy’s main work. “But we also make use of areas around schools as well.”

Hansen understands working with school children as part of LTC’s education program, since the organization works with 50 different schools from the eastern Upper Peninsula throughout Cheboygan, Emmett, and Charlevoix counties.

A former Land Specialist with LTC, Hansen said she would like to take some of the Island students to one of the Conservancy’s preserves here on her next trip to Beaver Island.

Ice Classic

Don’t miss your chance to guess when the tower will topple into the harbor signaling the end of winter! (last chance to guess 3-20-07) Get your ticket, or contact Bob Tidmore.
It's the Little Things that Count
by Lois Williams

This is a story about whitetail deer hunting. I am a hunter, albeit an unconventional one. There are different approaches to hunting, but I prefer sitting in a blind, silently observing all that is around me. Hidden in a small cedar shack in the middle of the woods, I can sit for hours—a kind of Zen approach that borders on meditation.

It starts with an early morning walk into the blind long before daylight. Crossing a cedar swamp by way of makeshift bridges, I enter an upland area and finally the woods. The day ends when I head out just before dark. I sit for hours scanning the woods for movement. Since the woods are largely vertical shapes and movement is linear, it’s easy to spot the flick of a tail or even a snow-shape chartreuse and orange lichens. By late in front of me. I could see his erect ears

The 2006 season was most unusual because of the moderate temperatures, mostly clear, some sunny days, with very little wind. Opening day for me is like no other. I wait a year for the anticipation of the thrill it brings. Anticipation is the key here—it’s what makes hunting worth it. At 42º I didn't even have to wear warmers in my boots and pockets. On the first morning I saw several does and fawns, so when I broke for lunch I was excited about the hunt. Returning afterwards, I was struck by how quiet it was. It was so quiet you could hear the snowflake moths. A grouse strolled by, pecking along as it walked. As the afternoon warmed up I saw eight or so very small barely visible moths flying like helicopters up and down, maneuvering right and left above the balsams in front of me. Forty yards out I saw a log covered with chartreuse and orange lichens. By late afternoon the does and fawns returned. A button buck hung around so late I had to throw my water bottle out of the blind to get him to leave.

On the second day a spike came so close to my blind I could see his antler tips but not him through the slots in my blind. He had a strange configuration of antler spikes, the left slightly taller and both curling toward each other. My friend Roger saw him later in the same day and named him the can-opener buck. The grouse put a show on for me this morning. All ruffled out like an Elizabethan collar, I could see how they got their name: ruffled grouse. A pileated woodpecker landed on a dead tree 6' from my blind; I had never seen one so close. For those who have never seen one, let me tell you, they are impressive. They are a large bird about 18" in length. Their head is crimson and their black-and-white markings quite spectacular. Think about seeing 'Woody the Woodpecker' in person. As the afternoon sun began to cast shadows I saw a German Shepherd out in front of me. I could see his erect ears and the black-and-tan markings on his face. I knew that it just wasn't so, but I had to pull up the field glasses and take a look. Even after I confirmed that it was a strange looking log, it still looked like a German Shepherd, and did so until the sun retreated. Off to my far left there was a bracken fern that was the exact shape

‘Biggest Loser’ comes to B.I.

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center has borrowed a page from NBC and will be conducting its own Biggest Loser contest starting in March, complete with weekly prizes and a Grand Prize at the end.

Registration costs $10, or $20 for a family. After registering, there will be weekly (confidential) weigh-ins on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 5:00 and 6:00; other measurements are optional. The weekly prizes (cookbooks and baskets of fruit) will be purchased from the existing ‘Exercise Fund,’ but the Grand Prize, awarded at the program’s completion on May 1st, will simply be the total money collected through registration.

The BIRHC hopes to encourage patrons to adopt healthier lifestyles through its support and recommendations of diet and exercise programs. The Biggest Loser contest is designed to be a friendly competition. If the first run is successful, chances are it will be staged again.
and configuration of a great blue heron bronze filigree lawn sculpture. I saw real deer too, does and fawns. One doe stomped and stomped and looked right at me, though I know she never saw me.

I saw the can-opener buck again one morning at first light, checking out the scrape and licking branch that bucks use to leave their scent for mating does.

By afternoon the temperature was in the high 40s and the woods were alive with helicopter moths. A daddy longlegs showed up on my sill. With a slight breeze blowing the bracken, deer out in front of me were driving me crazy–with each breeze the ferns would sway, I would startle, then settle back down.

The following morning a pair of great horned owls was hooting across the trees when I walked in. It turned out to be the quietest day in history–so quiet that my growling stomach sounded like thunder. I hadn't seen a deer for two days so I decided to move the following day to another blind I have in the hardwoods, close to a cedar swamp.

The first morning in my other blind I could hear the Big Lake. It sounded like a low murmur. I heard a great horned again this morning and the squirrels were abundant. I sat for several days in this place, hoping my luck would change and I would get a chance to see a buck worthy of harvest. I saw a lot of does and fawns and even two spikes one day.

One doe and her button-buck fawn came within 20' of my blind. A button buck is a fawn that has prominent pedicles, sites of future antler growth. I started to sit for the evening hunt only, the last 2/3 hours of daylight. The season drew to a close and I began to already mourn its ending. As I packed my stuff up at dark on the last day, I made a decision–I would hunt during the mid-December black powder season.

The dates of the black powder season for this district were from December 8-16. The weather continued to be unseasonably mild. I decided to hunt only the last two hours of daylight. Each day as I hopped into my blind I held out hope that just at dusk I would see a nice buck. It was not meant to be.

I saw does and fawns. One day I saw a spike. It was so quiet. Just before dusk on most days I was rewarded with the sight of at least three or four deer.

On the evening of the last day I was watching a doe and her button buck browsing on the ridge in front of me. My eye caught movement from the right, and a small deer stepped out. Just behind it was another. I sat in rapt attention, not moving a muscle.

The first deer was a button buck. His pedicles were very apparent. The second deer was also a button buck, a carbon copy of the first. They were very spooky. The first deer ventured out a few feet, then ran back to his brother. He nuzzled him and I witnessed what I can only describe as a ‘deer hug.’ Together they moved across the ridge and disappeared behind the balsams and on into the woods. The season was officially closed; I did not get a buck. Did I have a good hunt? Did I have a good time? The answer to both of those questions is yes. That's when I decided, in hunting as in life, “it's the little things that count.”

Citizen of the Year – Nominate Your ‘Biggest Winner’ now!

Nearly every Chamber of Commerce has some kind of annual awards program. Many awards go by a variety of names but have one thing in common. Nominations come from a ‘select members committee.’

Here on Beaver Island, we do it differently. Community participation is a key to our unique program. Your Chamber needs nominations from the whole community. You don't have to be a Chamber member to make a nomination, attend the awards banquet or win the award. We want everyone to participate.

The Chamber Board will select a winner(s) by April 6th. The awards banquet is at Nina’s on April 28th. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a great meal, friendship and the awards presentation.

To get a “nomination package” simply call, write or email the Chamber: 231-448-2505, Box 5, Beaver Island, MI 49782 or chamber@biip.net. Or go to www.beaverisland.org to download a form. Nominating someone takes a few minutes. Participate in the Citizen of the Year selection. –Steve West

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Wildlife Club hosts speaker on Cormorants

Larry Meier was the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the club held on February 8, 2007 at the St. James Township hall. The meeting was well attended by members and interested Island residents.

Over the last few years Larry Meier has enlisted 55 organizations with memberships over 7,000 to get a cormorant control program underway. Larry started this movement eight years ago because communities such as ours have received no help from the State of Michigan or the Federal Government. He believes that if we work together we should be able to bring cormorant population to a reasonable level that is not destroying our fish, trees, and nesting areas of other birds.

Larry is a retired school administrator who loves the outdoors. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Science and a Master’s Degree and Specialist Degree in Administration. His expertise on cormorants comes through coordination activities nationally, and from many scientists and people who are fed up with losing their fisheries. Larry has worked closely with our president, Jeffrey Powers, to address the excessive cormorant population in our area. Jeff and Larry and others are trying to get Beaver Island and Ludington added to the cormorant control program for 2007.

Double crested cormorants (DCCO) have been given many names. Larry calls them the piranhas of the sky. He invites us to declare war on DCCO. Stating that it doesn’t do any good to scream, kick, yell, and drink beer, he said we need to pick up a pen and start writing to people who can do us some good—people like our senators and representatives on both the federal and state level.

Up until 1911 there is no history of DCCO in the Great Lakes area; 1931 was the first recorded appearance. By 1981 there were 8 nests recorded. In 1997 there were 100,000. (Nests, not birds, are recorded by the U.S. and the states.) They average 4½ pounds and can reach 6. They each eat 1½ to 1½ pounds of live fish a day. Although they prefer fish in the 6-9” range, they can eat a fish up to 17” long. Living 9-17 years, they start to produce young at age 4, but if their population is threatened they begin to reproduce at age 2. They produce 3.5 young per year per nest. Although they are in 24 states, the largest population is in Michigan. They nest on ground and in trees, and their guano kills vegetation in 2 years. Because of the good food source in the Great Lakes, their population has increased by 29% at a 90% nest rate. They have no predators. They are able to fly 25 miles a day to feed. They are very smart, social birds that work together. DCCO can dive to depths of 150’. The latest count puts our nest numbers at 11,000. Reminding us that these are nests, you have to do some arithmetic to conclude that each nest means a pair of adult birds, the 3.5 young they will produce, plus all the juveniles that remain juveniles for 4 years. The largest population of DCCO in the USA is in the BEAVER ARCHIPELAGO, with an estimated 50,000.

Cormorant war was first declared in the Les Cheneaux Islands in Lake Huron. Cedarville, once the perch capitol of Michigan, became virtually a ghost town when the perch fishery collapsed. Through Larry Meier a town meeting was called inviting the USDA Wildlife Service, Wildlife Division of the DNR, Debbie Stabenow, Bart Stupak, and fisheries biologists from the Alpena area. Pete Butchko from the USDAWS was on board. Using a 20-year study by Dave Fielder, MDNR, showing cormorant impact on the fishery, Butchko was able to get a depredation order from the US Government to start cormorant control.
The initial budget was $125,000 from the Federal Government to begin the research in 2004. It was the first major control program of its kind and is ongoing. Control must be done by reducing the young and the adults. The first year they killed 10% of the population and oiled all the eggs. They found that harassment didn't work, and destruction of the eggs didn't work, only oiling.

Note: the depredation order can only be implemented by the USDA Wildlife Service, the DNR, or American Indians on their tribal lands.

The town of Detour got on board to get cormorant control, followed by Brevort Lake. Groups like the Steelheaders Association, the Detroit Steelheaders and The Charter Boat Captains Association of Ludington started donating money, several thousand dollars, for cormorant control. (These donations can only be used in Michigan.)

Under the direction of Pete Butchko the Federal Government spent $225,000 last year and will possibly spend $300,000 this year for control. With the help of a lot of people they were able to get the State of Michigan, for the first time, to appropriate $150,000 for the 2007 control campaign.

The war spread to Alpena. Butchko met with sportsmen there. Port Huron wanted relief. Success in Cedarville was getting attention. Perch numbers have continued to rise as the cormorant numbers were decreased through depredation (by 40%). Control has also been done in Alpena and Escanaba.

Larry Meier pressed on, uniting communities and making a lot of contacts. As a direct result, hearings were held around Michigan, the fourth here on Beaver Island on May 19, 2006. The purpose of the meetings, sponsored by the Michigan House of Representatives Appropriation’s Subcommittee on Natural Resources, was to listen to people and hear their stories about cormorant problems. Before these hearings began, most of the lawmakers had never heard of a cormorant. Now Beaver Island’s best kept secret was exposed. We were now on the map as needing cormorant control.

Larry warned us that the worst is yet to come. Tom Rosich reported that cormorants ate 900 tons of forage fish in this archipelago last year. As forage fish are reduced, the need for the cormorants to find food will force them to do two things; fish differently, and fish the inland lakes. A flock of several thousand can force schools of fish into a shallow bay and decimate them. A large flock can wipe out an inland lake in two days by sending divers down to harass the fish to the surface while the remaining flock waits to devour the fish that come up.

Canada is experiencing the same degree of population inversion. Reports have been made public that speak to the devastation and destruction caused there by the DCCO.

So where is our DNR? The DNR has had money since 1994 to do cormorant control. Ray Rustin is in charge of the DCCO in Michigan (he is a wildlife biologist.) He denies that we have a problem.

Many of the fishery biologists, including Tom Rosich (our regional biologist), are in favor of control. The DNR has turned a blind eye to pleas for help. Papers are being published that omit entire islands and areas (such as Ludington) from being surveyed.

At the conclusion of the presentation Larry once again reminded us of the power of the pen. If we are going to see cormorant control around the Beavers we are going to have to work on the lawmakers who control the purse strings. We don't need anymore research; we need action.

—Lois Williams
Out of the Blue

Episode 7: “The Decider”

Previously: Beaver Island has gotten strange, the consequences of their impetuousness.

April Fool’s Day, 2007

An unseasonable cold wave has defied the arrival of spring, turning the crowd packed into Holy Cross Parish Hall into a foot-stomping, heavily-clothed bunch. But no one is leaving, because the President of the United States is coming to Beaver Island.

“He’s on his way!” yells Gerry LaFreniere, his ear glued to a crackling radio. The President’s helicopter, Marine One, has landed, as have the ever-present decoy choppers, and he’s been hustled into one of Gordon Heikka’s rental cars. A murmur pulses through the hall. Bailey McDonough tests her camera. Bob Hoogendoorn quietly hums “God Bless America” (although it sounds suspiciously like the U-M fight song).

At the corner of King’s Highway, Jeff Cashman is keeping an eye out for the President’s vehicle, hoping for a candid photo before the Commander-in-Chief put on his ‘game face’ for the town hall meeting.

Only a few weeks earlier, the reason for the President’s historic visit had been established. With April approaching, a delegation of the Island’s merchants, elected officials, and educators had demanded an audience with the commander of the federal troops stationed there. The soldiers had enforced the quarantine established more than three months earlier after a mysterious illness had contaminated hundreds of Islanders. It had been weeks since anything strange had happened on the Island, as far as anyone knew, and the tourist season was just over the horizon. The summer residents and day-trippers provided fuel for the Island economy and everyone was worried they wouldn’t be allowed to come.

Meanwhile, the students at Beaver Island Community School had not been in class since before Christmas. Supposedly they were studying their textbooks at home, but it was getting close to the point where the entire academic year might have to be scrapped, unless the state department of education was willing to bend its attendance rules.

“We’ll get back to you on this,” was all the federal czar had said. And he had—after consultations with Homeland Security, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Coast Guard, and the Federal Aviation Administration. But the response was not anything anyone expected.

At a press conference attended by mainland news reporters—the first “foreigners” to visit the Island since December—the feds released the conclusions of their study. Islanders, they said, had been the victims of mass delusion. No epidemiological evidence of a shared malady of any type had been gathered from anyone who fell ill, nor had researchers found any “vector” for transmitting the illness. There was no evidence of germ warfare; that was just a media-spread rumor, probably started on the Internet. The odd blue stones found around the Island were not extraterrestrial, even though the substance could not be identified, and had probably been spread as a prank.

“In conclusion,” announced the CDC Chief Scientist, “We believe that certain Islanders suffered a sort of respiratory ‘irritation’ generated by a random set of ecological factors, perhaps including an aquatic abnormality exacerbated by low water levels in the Great Lakes and distributed across the Island by prevailing wind patterns. And when certain Islanders fell ill, a strain of mass hysteria gripped the Island, perhaps making some people believe they had supernatural powers and even persuading some visiting hunters that they too were ill.”

In response to journalist Elaine West’s pointed interrogation, the official declared heatedly: “There was never anything wrong. It was all in your minds, especially the rumors of clones on the Island and of Islanders with so-called super powers.”

Even as the feds held an elaborate ceremony at the airport in Charlevoix to mark the end of the quarantine, Islanders were reaching their own conclusions. Mass hysteria? They knew darned well that wasn’t true, but they were willing to smile and go along with the story if it meant they could get their lives back to normal. The illness was gone, as were the blue stones, so why
worry about it? And if the super powers were not really gone—if Judy Lanier Gallagher could still lift the front end of a truck with one hand and Nancy White could still make pitchers of beer float around the Beachcomber—well, that was okay, as long as what happened on the Island stayed on the Island.

Now the President is coming to

prove to the world that Beaver Island was completely safe.

The Commander-in-Chief enters the Hall through the kitchen, so Jeff only gets a long-lens shot of his pugnacious profile. He quickly moves up the stairs to the stage. Holding a wireless microphone, the President looks out onto the gleaming faces. Without so much as a Texas 'howdy' he launches into praise for the efforts of the National Guard, CDC, and Homeland Security.

As the day progresses, many Islanders sit deep in thought, trying to figure out how to use the winter’s events to boost the summer’s revenues. Special theme days on the ferry with the crew wearing haz-mat suits? Commemorative T-shirts? “I survived Beaver Island.” Special ice-cream sundaes with “blue stone” topping? “Germ-warfare” ale?

To some, these plans might seem frivolous, even unseemly; profiting from misery. But, hey, no lives had been lost and the quarantine would give Islanders something to talk about for years and years. If Beaver Island had been special before, now it was like nowhere else in America.

Later that day...

At the other end of Lake Michigan, Chicago rises solildly alongside pulsing waves, a ribbon of sand here and there undeveloped and called a ‘beach.’ Two sons of the Island who live in the city are walking in the sand.

“This sure isn't Donegal Bay,” says David Plastrik, “but it'll do.” He is talking to Ryan Wojan as they head into a brisk wind.

They start talking about when they might make a trip to the Island. Both had been there at Thanksgiving, but the quarantine had trapped their parents on the ‘rock’ (with their Christmas presents!) and both were anxious to visit St. James.

Without warning, the sky turns dark and an ominous cloud pelts them with rain and hail for a few moments, then stops. They start jogging along the beach, back toward Ryan’s neighborhood, cursing the fickle Chicago weather.

“Whoa,” says David. “What’s that?” He bends over to pluck an unusual object from a pile of feathers and windblown litter.

They stare at the shiny thing in his hand—a single turquoise-bluestone.

They cannot know that they are not alone in this discovery. Other walkers on other beaches—in Florida and Hawaii, Australia and France—are picking up identical treasures and wondering what they are. None of them knows yet that the isolated test case on a remote island’s population had been a smashing success.
Ten Years Ago The Beacon stated that PABI had voted unanimously to continue pushing toward creating a Community House, despite a professional consultant declaring that the building was “structurally compromised.” They hoped to include the facade and “other salvageable materials” in the construction plan. A second unanimous decision was to try incorporating rental apartments in the new building to provide a revenue flow. The gas contamination has been cleaned up (although the Green across the street would require three more years), and proposals were expected from three architects.

The Community Players were gearing up to stage Thornton Wilder’s Our Town, directed by Jacque LaFreniere.

The Island basketball team was able to raise the $650 it needed to journey to the mainland to take on the Boyne Falls team, narrowly losing. It was 4 - 7 in the Northern Lights League.

BITA and others (including naval architect Tim Graul) toured the Washburn-and-Doughty shipyard in Maine for a mid-production inspection of the new Emerald Isle, and came away impressed.

A letter from Joe Reed revealed that the state’s Aeronautical Commission awarded a $270,000 grant to the Municipal Airport—provided the Island kick in $30,000 more. These funds would allow the apron surrounding the terminal to be doubled, the perimeter to be at least partially fenced, the airport to be prepared to serve as a base for a commercial air carrier, and for the maintenance building to be rebuilt. The grant funds came from fuel taxes and license fees. The state reported over 4,000 operations at the Airport in 1995.

The assessor was to receive a $6,000 computer for his work.

The Beaver Island JFG Playground Fund was created with a $2,500 donation from Peaine Township.

Eric Hodgson became the Chamber president, with Bill Palladino as VP, Gale Seger as Secretary, and Linda Roath as Treasurer.

Voters renewed the operating millage for the Historical Society.

A grant from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation enabled the school to create an intramural athletic program.

Twenty Years Ago Bingo games were held on most Tuesday evenings at the Fire Hall.

Claudia Schmidt gave a Thursday evening concert at the Christian Church, to benefit the Library.

Connie Boyle started a girl’s volleyball team, which won games against Mancelona and East Jordan. The team entered the Newberry JV Invitational Tournament, was alternately hot and cold, but held on through many ties in the final contest against Engadine to win the trophy. Later they won 2 of 3 games against Charlevoix.

The Beacon resumed printing short stories written by students at the Lighthouse School.

The annual Winter Games were held on the ice over Font Lake. Rene Gillespie won the 100-meter race for under-12s; Chris Speck won for over-12s. Chris Speck and Jayne Lilly won the men’s and women’s long-distance
ski contest. Jamie Martin beat Buz Anderson to win the snowmobile race.

The Island was putting together ideas for celebrating Michigan’s sesquicentennial.

People were asked to check the bluejays at their feeder for silver leg bands and report to Jacque LaFreniere.

The townships continued to appeal to the DNR and the Charlevoix Commission for a full-time combo deputy/game officer.

A seven-person Library Building Committee was formed.

Passings noted included Kay Sorensen, Marion Martin, and Paul Kenwabakise. Kay was married to long-time summer resident (and dentist) Nels Sorensen, who practiced in his home near McDonough’s. Marion Martin was born on Beaver Island, the daughter of Joe McGinnis and Sara Burns. She worked at Cole’s gas station, became the Courrier’s Island correspondent, and married fisherman Charlie in 1935. Paul Ken was born on High Island, and received the mantle of Chief when his father, “Old Paul,” passed on.

**Thirty Years Ago**

The Island raised $315 for the March of Dimes.

George Lasater held a public meeting on Beaver to introduce himself as our new sheriff and gather input as to what was needed.

St. Pat’s Day was celebrated with games and races on the harbor, at noon, followed by a special mass and a potluck dinner, and then a dance at the Parish Hall. Island kids got a ride in an old-fashioned horse-drawn sleigh, and the Christian Church hosted a pancake supper.

The fishing tug Elizabeth G, built on Beaver Island, was found, and a special Basket of Joy contest was held to raise funds for its purchase and restoration.

The Bicentennial effort produced a revived interest in local history, which led to such strong sales of Volume 1 of the Journal of Beaver Island History that a Volume 2 was being planned.

Alice Loesch of CMU’s Bio Station submitted an article about the larvae infesting the beech/maple/birch climax forests on the Island’s southwest quadrant. The night-flying moths that spend their larval stage as defoliators emerge in late May to early June, mate, and lay eggs, which hatch in ten days. In the final of four stages they climb trees and eat leaves on a ten-year cycle. Luckily their population here is controlled by natural predators, and she predicted that in the coming summer fewer moths would be seen.

The passing was noted of the Reverend Arthur Johnson, who presided over services at the Christian Church for several summers and was often seen riding around on his Honda. A graduate of Creton in Grand Rapids, he suffered a fatal heart attack in Butterworth Hospital.

**Forty Years Ago**

The telephone company’s office caught fire, temporarily destroying phone service. Using the Conservation Department’s radio was the only way to search for new equipment. Without phones, no news of the gala Chicago Party had arrived. A few days earlier, Willie Schmidt’s chimney caught fire—not once, but twice.

*Continued on page 22.*
Amvet Benefit Breakfast

For the benefit of the family of Cpl. Nicholas Brown (Jean Palmer’s Grandson) who was killed in action on January 22, 2007 in Iraq. Holy Cross Hall, Sunday, March 18, 2007. 8:30 am – 12:00 Noon. Free will donation.

Pancakes, Sausage links, Scrambled eggs, Fruit, Coffee, juice, and milk. If you are unable to attend the breakfast, you may still make a donation. Send it directly to: AmVets, P O Box 178, Beaver Island
When they neared the beach they shoved the horses out the open gangway and into the water. Once they were all ashore, the stallion herded the mares into an obedient group.

The resulting publicity stimulated letters of protest, and the Humane Society ordered the horses removed. So once the ice made in the winter, the herd was rounded up and brought to St. James, where they were auctioned off, one by one, in front of the Shamrock.

Shortly afterwards, the island was purchased by Warren Townsend as a place to raise cattle. He built a landing strip and a barn, and left his two sons in charge of the herd. But they couldn't cover the overhead, so that plan too was abandoned. Seeming to offer no further use, he sold the land to the state.

The passing of Archie Washegesic was noted. He had been born on Beaver Island, and served in the army in the war. Afterwards he moved to Charlevoix, where he fished. He was run down and killed there.

Fifty Years Ago This issue was printed on a thick, light-peg-green paper.

The Historical Society reported receiving recipes from far and wide for its cookbook, which is still in print.

A Polio Fund drive raised $44. Health officers visited the Island to talk about cancer.

Charlie Martin was tending his cattle on Hog Island, but ran out of food, so a pilot from Cheboygan airdropped him a load of bread.

The Civic Association announced that Bell Telephone seemed somewhat interested in providing phone service. Jewell Gillespie was chosen to chair this committee.

The Civic planned to build picnic tables to place around the Harbor.

A letter about taxes bemoaned the fact that the state just did not have enough money to meet its obligations.

Archie LaFreniere was finishing work on a two-story motel with four apartments, being built by Walt Wojan.

The passing of 'Aunt Maggie' Boyle at 91 was reported. She was born in what became John Gallagher's home at Whiskey Point, and went to school at Sand Bay. At 19 she went to Chicago, where she met and married Bill Quinlan. When he died she came back, and married Turner Boyle. They lived on a farm on Donnel Mor's Lane, and moved into town when a fire destroyed their home.

She took care of 'Doctor' Protar in his last illness and was there at his death. She christened the Emerald Isle in 1955 as the Island's oldest resident, a role given her daughter, Mary Bert McDonough, who had become the oldest resident, for the next ferry to bear that name.

Needlers Meet

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Techniques and patterns, commiseration, and lavish praise on accomplishments. Christian Church Rectory building. Bring a lunch.

Green Bags March On

After three years of declining sales of Green Bags, in which the total dropped from 15,200 to 14,400 to 13,380, there was a veritable explosion of green bag sales in 2006 to 17,200.
Islanders wrap up another strong season
Volleyball Team Claims League Title Again
by Frank Solle

February. The longest shortest month of the year. Winter is dragging on and on, regardless of the fact the current season was late to arrive. But if there was a bright spot during this time of dark days it truly was the Beaver Island Islanders sporting teams as the basketball and volleyball teams combined to post an impressive 11-1 record during a busy month of action.

When the dust clouds finally settled, the basketball team was left with a 10-2 Northern Lights League record, good for second place in the final standings, and a 13-2 overall mark. The volleyball team finished atop the NLL standings with an 8-2 mark and an 11-2 overall record.

While the month started out with another weekend cancellation between the Islanders and their favorite opponents, the Lakers of Mackinac Island, the Lakers did fly over the following Wednesday for a one day, one game showdown in each sport.

The basketball teams had split a pair of games at Mackinac in January, while the Islanders volleyball team had prevailed in both weekend matches. Thus the games here, in the eyes of the Lakers, were a chance to avenge the Islanders Saturday basketball win, and gain a split in the team’s Northern Lights League games, and to make up for losing both of the volleyball matches.

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It was a good plan, but proved to be only half successful.

The basketball game kicked off the afternoon double-header, and at first it seemed to be a game for the ages. Mackinac opened an early lead, but the Islanders fought back to take a 26-19 edge late in the first half. Then the Lakers scored the final six points of the half to close within 26-25 at the break.

Mackinac opened a 36-32 lead midway through the third period, but the Islanders went on a 13-0 tear to close the quarter ahead 45-36 and never looked back. They outscored the Lakers 13-5 during the first five minutes of the fourth quarter and coasted to a commanding 60-46 win.

Junior Eric Albin led the Islanders with 22 points, including four long three-pointers. Senior Jared Wojan finished with 21, while Cory Sowa added nine, Bryan Timsak six, and Brenden Martin two.

The volleyball match was another story, as the pesky Lakers scrapped their way to a 26-24, 25-18, 22-15, 25-17 win over the Islanders despite trailing late in the first two games.

The Islanders held a 23-18 lead in the first game, and things looked well in hand. But the Lakers used two late service runs and took advantage of some late bad hits by the Islanders to claim a stunning win.

The second game was a near repeat...
as the Islanders held an 18-14 lead before seeing the game get away. This time it was a 10-0 service run by the Lakers lone senior, Kristi Kamphuis, that did in the local girls.

In the third game, the gutsy Islanders were able to hold a slim lead throughout the contest, holding off a Lakers rally to keep their hopes of a match win alive.

The fourth game turned on a six-point Lakers rally that pushed their slim 13-12 lead into a more comfortable 19-12 margin. They were then able to maintain that advantage through the final points of the match despite strong net play from Islanders senior Emma Adams who had three kills to account for the team’s final points of the day.

Adams finished with 10 kills while Brittany Crandall paced the team with 11 service points, including six aces. Samantha Kuligowski and Bailey McDonough each had a pair of kills and aces.

The next action had the basketball team at Munising, where they cruised to a pair of wins, 60-44 and 62-41, against the Bobcats of Munising Baptist. The Bobcats did not field a volleyball team this year.

Wojan led the team with 16 points on Friday with Martin adding 14 and Daniel Runberg scoring 12. Albin chipped in 10 while Patrick Cull netted four and Timsak and David...

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Schwartzfisher each hit for two.

The freshman Timsak led the team on Saturday, scoring 14 points. Wojan and Albin each added 12, with Runberg and Cameron LaVasseur adding six apiece. Cull and Schwartzfisher scored four each.

Both teams then traveled to Hannahville for an exciting weekend match-up against the Soaring Eagles on Feb. 16-17.

In a repeat of their earlier home weekend against the Eagles, the Islanders claimed a four-game sweep. The basketball team won 64-31 and 62-54 while the volleyball squad claimed a 25-19, 25-11, 25-7 win on Friday and a much tighter 24-26, 25-20, 15-25, 25-13, 15-8, five-game match Saturday morning.

Four Islanders scored in double figures in Friday’s opening basketball game as the Islanders jumped out to a 33-18 lead by halftime. Albin’s 20 points paced the team. Cull added a career-high 10, matched by both Wojan and Martin. Timsak added eight, Derek McDonough four, and Schwartzfisher two.

Saturday’s game was a bit closer as Hannahville had a couple players in action who weren’t able to play the previous game. The Islanders found themselves down 26-24 at the break and by as many as 12 during the third quarter.

But the Eagles flew into foul
trouble as the game wore down and the Islanders picked up their intensity, out-scoring Hannahville 26-16 over the fourth quarter to gain the win.

For the second straight game Albin netted 20 points to lead the Islanders. Wojan finished with 13 while Martin and Timsak each netted 10 in another balanced scoring attack. McDonough and Cull finished with six and three, respectively.

In Friday’s volleyball match, the Islanders needed a win to stay in contention for the league title. And as coach Connie Boyle enthusiastically reported, “We did!”

The coach said strong serving and aggressive net play were the primary keys to the win.

On Saturday, Hannahville “played much tougher and we had a battle on our hands,” the coach said. The eventual five-game match win was a confidence booster for the Islanders. “They really supported each other and did everything I asked,” Boyle said of their coordinated effort.

Again Brittany Crandall gave the team a lift from the service line with 38 good serves, including six aces. Caitlin Boyle wasn’t far behind with 34 good serves and 11 aces. Emma Adams and Bailey McDonough paced the offense with 23 and 18 kills, while Samantha Kuligoski added 12. Those efforts were the result of Caitlin Boyle and Andrea Moore dishing out 21 and 19 assists over the weekend.

The Islanders returned home with a
share of the league’s volleyball title, along with the Soaring Eagles, with one final weekend of league play to go.

In a preview of the upcoming District Tournament, the Islanders volleyball team traveled to Harbor Springs on Feb. 19 to scrimmage Harbor Light Christian, the second-ranked Class D team in the state, and an imposing potential district opponent.

“It was some amazing volleyball,” coach Boyle said. The Islanders JV team held its own against the Lady Swordsmen, losing a three-game match 11-25, 25-19, 11-15. A good omen for the future.

The varsity didn’t fare quite as well, but did manage to score 11 points in the second game after dropping the first 25-6. “Our girls played hard and no one gave up,” said Boyle, adding that many of their fans complemented the Islanders on “our skills, determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship.”

While the games didn’t count in the standings, they gave the Islanders a good idea of what lies ahead at districts. “We know what we have to do now,” said Boyle.

That final weekend was a home affair against the Grand Marais Polar Bears, Feb. 23-24.

The Islanders girls swept the Polar Bears in six games over the two matches, winning on Friday 25-17, 25-20, 25-17, then outdoing that performance on Saturday with a 25-4, 25-12, 25-11 drubbing of the Bears.

Those wins, coupled with a loss by
Hannahville at Paradise, propelled the Islanders into the top of the league standings and their third consecutive Northern Lights League title.

Strong serves were the name of the game against the Polar Bears, as the Islanders sent serve after serve and ace after ace over the net. And when the Bears did return the serve, there was an Islander at the net for a block or tip, or the offense set up another mighty kill.

Adams did the most damage at the net with 15 kills and three blocks. Caitlin Boyle led the way at the line with 22 aces. Crandall also did well again with her serves, hitting 19 good offerings and four aces.

Big service runs served the Islanders well all weekend. Samantha Kuligowski had a game-winning 11-point run to end the third game Friday, with Adams providing the power at the net with four kills, a tip and a block during the run. Kuligowski and Caitlin Boyle had combined for eight aces out of the Islanders’ first 11 points in game one.

In game one Saturday, Boyle had a 10-point run, including five aces. Adams had a seven-point run with three aces in game two, while Deven Cook had a block and a kill. Heather McDonough served up eight straight in the third game, with Adams smashing four kills.

It was a good warm-up for the Islanders’ District Tournament appearance March 3.

Better WATCH Out

As we move farther into an era of necessary ecological vigilance, it’s good to know that another agency is operating in Charlevoix County, known by the acronym WATCH: “Water and Air Team for Charlevoix county.” This group was founded in 1983 by Howard Nielson, and has made its presence felt in a number of productive ways by keeping an eye out for potential environmental problems, meeting to determine a corrective course of action, and then actually doing what it decides.

The group’s first action was a suit against Medusa in 1984, which was resolved the following year through agreement. It has networked with many agencies, lent its voice to efforts to control pollution from storm water runoff and pesticide/fertilizer pollution, monitored applications for potentially risky variances, created scholarship programs, helped purchase conservancy areas, and expressed its skepticism about the Coast Guard ‘live-fire zone’ attempt to get motorists waiting at the launch a program to raise awareness.

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Monday Night is Pizzeria Night!!!

Donegal Danny’s Pub

ST. PAT’S MARCH 16 & 17

GREAT DRINKS, GREAT PRICES  
RELAXED, FRIENDLY DINING

Lunch: Mon-Sat 11am-2pm  
Dinner: Tues-Thurs 5pm-8pm  
Fri-Sat 5pm-9pm

Mon Nite:  
Full Pizza Menu  
5pm-9pm

The basketball games weren’t nearly as close, yet still were hard fought as the Polar Bears came to play. The Islanders prevailed Friday 72-38 and on Saturday 69-46.

Friday’s game started out slow for the Islanders, with the Bears scoring the first eight points of the night. But following a time out—“They needed a kick start,” said coach Mike Myers—the Islanders got in gear and outscored Grand Marais 16-3 to take a 16-11 lead by the end of the opening quarter.

Another big run to open the second quarter lifted the Islanders to a 32-13 advantage and they coasted to the win after that. Wojan led the way with 28 points as he was nearly unstoppable under the basket. Cory Sowa played a
steamy game with 14 points with Timsak adding nine, Albin eight, Martin and Schwartzfischer six, and Cull one. The Islanders used their height to claim a huge 45-23 margin off the glass.

Saturday’s game turned on a 12-0 run to open the second quarter, turning a 13-6 Islanders lead to a 25-6 difference. Promising eighth-grader Jacob Drost hit his first career basket late in the first half, then used that confidence builder to loft a late triple that found nothing but net and gave the Islanders a 32-14 lead at intermission.

The Islander kept the Bears at bay the rest of the way, scoring nearly at will once they got the ball in the paint. All but four of their 22 fourth-quarter points came inside five feet of the hoop.

Wojan hit one free throw to complete a three-point play and Albin put a season-and game-ending exclamation point on things with a buzzer-beating trey to close out the regular season.

Wojan had 24 points with Albin scoring an even dozen. Sowa added seven, Cull six, and Drost five, while Martin, Schwartzfischer, and Timsak collected four apiece. McDonough finished with three.

Besides closing out the regular season, the weekend games also marked the final ones for coach Mike Myers who has led the team for the past four years. Following the annual introduction and recognition of the player’s parents between games on Friday, a short ceremony honoring Myers was held with brief statements by senior Bailey McDonough, fellow coach Connie Boyle, and Superintendent Principal Kitty McNamara, each commenting on Myers’ years of service, including elementary and intramural basketball as well as coaching soccer.

Myers capped the event by speaking of watching his current players grow from elementary players to today’s varsity. “It’s been great to see these kids improve since they were knee high to a grasshopper and now I have to look up to them.”

Myers will lead the Islanders to one last challenge, the first NLL post-season tournament which is to be held at Manistique over the weekend of March 9-10.

about the Coast Guard ‘live-fire zone’ plan. It has helped launch the Adopt a Highway program in our county, threatening to sue toxic dumpers, and prevented the expansion of local landfills.

One of its recent efforts was to help delay global warming by instituting Project Idle-free Charlevoix, an attempt to get motorists waiting at the drawbridge to turn off their motors. It has regular dialogue with the cement plant, and has placed five of its members on the Lake Charlevoix Watershed Advisory Committee. It has challenged industry, shone a light on offenders of good environmental practice, and

launched a program to raise awareness of our fragile ecology in the schools.

WATCH has not yet played a role on Beaver, but it is ready. Its resources are taxed, yet its principles are clear. If a need arises, the group’s president, Bill Henne, will help; he can be reached at 547-5530, or at watch@core.com

Ed Wojan Realty
Your Key to BEAVER ISLAND
Edward B. Wojan – Broker
26300 Back Highway
P.O. Box 86
Beaver Island, Michigan 49782

Barney’s Lake Acreage

Two 10 acre parcels on the southwest side of Barney’s Lake with lake frontage. Elevated hardwoods parcels with a very pretty mixture of hemlocks and pines looking down on Barney’s Lake. The frontage is not really good but small boats could be kept on the grass area between the tree line and the edge of the water. The view from the building site on one parcel was partially opened in the Fall of 2006. The access road to these parcels is off the extension of Sloptown Road known as Bonners Lane (turn in to Rybaski’s Road at the boat & motor). There are existing roads that are drivable by two-wheel drive vehicles through both of these 10’s for easy access to the building sites. These properties were lightly cut years ago but it is almost like a virgin timber area with all the mature trees on the parcels. You have to drive through it to appreciate it. These are very secluded and absolutely beautiful acreage pieces and with about 75 feet of frontage each. Just surveyed and ready to build on (also could be used as great hunting & fishing camp parcels).

$95,000. each

View on our web site:  www.edwojanrealty.com

Real Estate Office (231) 448-2711  Toll Free Number 1-800-268-2711
Real Estate, For Rent

WEEKLY RENTAL - Lakefront. “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).

SECLUDED 1930’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.

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 grill. $750/weekly. Call Beth Anne @ (989) 561-5079 or (989)-330-9528.

LAKEFRONT
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1 double and 6 single beds, washer/dryer, wrap-around porch, views of sunsets. $1050/week May through Labor Day. $950/week off-season. Phone Mary Rose @ (231) 448-2902 or email mrdoig@hotmail.com

SECLUDED BEAUTIFUL CHALET

7 PINES - Weekly Rental Close to town (short walk to Dalwhinnie) Sleeps 6, 1 ½ bath, washer/dryer, linens furnished, freshly remodeled, PET FRIENDLY, $750.00/week, Contact Ryan & Gretchen Fogg at (616) 836-1597.

LOCH WOOD 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 tammymd107@yahoo.com.

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

Evenings (708) 389-0621

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 1½ baths.
All the amenities. Spectacular views! $1100.00 per week. (630) 834-4181
E-mail to harborlightsbin@aol.com

WATERFRONT HOME RENTAL/wk
3+bedroom, 3 bath, 2,000 sq ft living space, at entrance of Beaver Harbor. Newly carpeted & painted, extensive decks, handcrafted “shipwreck furniture” wet bar in sunroom/lounge w/ spectacular views of Lake Michigan & lighthouse. $1,500/ wk biproperty@gtlakes.com or (231) 448-3031

DONEGAL BAY 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.beaverisland.net
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.


LOG CABIN ON SAND BAY - pets allowed. 2 BR, 1 bath: $500.
Call (734) 449-0804 or email delzey@earthlink.net

DONEGAL 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

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

THE FISHERMAN’S HOUSE - Great ‘In-Town’ location across the street from St. James Harbor on the harbor road. 4 BR/2 Bath; W/D; Four bedrooms, three rooms with double beds and one room with twin beds, two bathrooms, bed linens and bath towels provided, fully equipped modern kitchen, washer/dryer, TV, enclosed porch, and open deck with grill. For availability, call Bill or Tammy (231) 448-2499 or (231) 448-2733.

The Convent in the Village
Beautiful Harbor View

Full Housekeeping Home
Sleeps 15 -7 Bedrooms w/ sinks
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Great for Multi-Family Groups, Family Reunions, Business Retreats
Open Year Round
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MOONDANCE:
Fabulous home on Donegal Bay’s “best beach.” Large private deck with views of sunset. Two bedrooms, each with queen bed; two baths. Screened porch for evenings. Washer/dryer. Ceiling fans in bedrooms and living area. DVD, VCR, and satellite. Four person max. No pets; no smoking. $1100/wk. (231) 448-2757
E-mail: 28305@biip.net

BEAUTIFUL COTTAGE on a wooded lot. This chalet-style cottage is new, bright and airy with a large front room and cathedral ceiling, lots of windows, and double sliding glass doors. Convenient access to the best beach on the island. Only $675/week. Off-season $425. Call (265) 657-3291
nprawat@yahoo.com

Real Estate, For Sale

LOTS FOR SALE - Lots 727,728,729 in Port St. James #8 on Tamarock Trl. $12500 ea. Wish to sell all 3 at one time. $7500 down will finance $30000 bal at $350 per mo. for a few years. Will sell for cash for $34,500. Call Ben at (386) 439-3351


10 ACRES OF HARDWOODS LAND - adjacent to 80 acres of State land at the Black Hills Clearing off Fox Lake Road. Cotters Trail runs across the parcel at its North line. $37,000. Call (269) 273-1819.

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

LAKE GENESEE - 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

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

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.

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.

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.


10 ACRES ON WEST SIDE DR. - Land contract available. Low down payment. Contact Mike Collins, Island Property Real Estate. (231) 448-2923.

Ed Wojan Realty
Real Estate Office: (231) 448-2711
Toll Free Number: 1-800-268-2711
see other pictures at: www.edwojanrealty.com

Real Estate, For Rent, continued from page 33.

BEAVER SANDS BEACH HOME - Located on Sand Bay, beautiful Lake Michigan waterfront home: 3 bedrooms, sleeps 8; 2 full baths; w/dry; full kitchen, including dishwasher and micro; wonderful sunrise views with sandy beach & safe swimming, screened porch & large deck, everything included. Prime weeks open. Call Nancy: (810) 227-2366 or nrosso@hotmail.com.

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/BeaverIslandProperty. Call the Hookers at (231) 947-3823 if interested in booking your time.

ADVERTISE YOUR PROPERTY OR BUSINESS NOW – with a Beacon ad, circulation 1,200 winter, 1,450 summer plus web. Call (231) 448-2476 or contact us on www.beaverbeacon.com

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 on w/o restrictions. Call (616) 772-9783 (616) 283-7227; or email -cshrotenboer@ghycf.org


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


TO PLACE AN AD: (231) 448-2476

Cars, Boats, & Planes

FOR SALE - 1985 30' SEARAY - Very clean, good electronics and Mercury dinghy and much more. Price Reduced to $24,000. (231) 448-2923.

FOR SALE - 1974 24’ BUCANEER SAILBOAT, WITH TRAILER and 9.9 electric start outboard. Good sails, payment plan available. (231) 448-2923.

Services

BURRIS MASONRY - Brick, Block, Stone. (231) 448-2213.

Calendar of Events

Happy St. Patrick’s Day - March 17th
Breakfast Benefit - March 18th - page 22.
Lighthouse Spaghetti Dinner March 29th
Annual Meeting, Twp Hall, March 31st
Spring Dinner - April 14th at Nina’s.
Citizen of the Year - April 28th
Kathy Speck’s Chinese Dinner - May 11th - Sports Boosters. 448-2396
Golden Beaver Bash - June 1st
Museums Open - June 16th
Museum Week - July 16th - 21st
Beaver Island Music Festival - July 20th - 21st www.bimf.net
Baroque on Beaver - July 25th - 29th
Celtic Games - Sept 15th
Bite of Beaver Island and the Island Boodle 5k/Run/Walk - October 6th
AA Meetings - M & F Noon, Wed 6 p.m. Medical Center Conference Room

Please contact Mike Collins, Island Property Real Estate (231) 448-2923 MKC2923@MWCONNECTIONS.COM