Happy Birthday to Us!!!!!

Born, January 24th, 1985
25 Years Later Still Going Strong
It was the fall of 1984. The Montgomery family, who had lived in Long Beach for 30 years, decided to publish a community newspaper, which they would name The Beacher. Anyone might wonder why they decided to do a thing like that. Gerald Montgomery, a retired U.S. Navy officer, had spent most of his life in sales. Sally had had a successful dance studio and later was in charge of productions at DunesSummer Theatre. Their son Don was a flight instructor in Lafayette, which he thoroughly enjoyed. Younger son Tom, not too long out of Columbia College, was looking forward to a career in TV production. None of them had any experience in publishing.

“We had no idea how to do it,” admits Sally, who taught herself how to edit The Beacher, and has done so for the past 25 years.

What started it all was a printing press. Well, a Multi Graphic 1250 LW to be precise, and it belonged to a friend of a friend’s husband who had had a small print shop in Chicago. When he moved to Kalamazoo, he took the press but stored it in the family/game room, ostensibly to gather dust. And it did—for years. But the Montgomery family discovered that these folks were quite willing to part with this press, and so they swapped their pool table and several other games for the Multi Graphic.

Don, Tom and Don’s father-in-law rented a truck, loaded the pool table and games aboard and headed off to Kalamazoo to claim the Multi Graphic along with a plate maker. As Sally recalls, “The equipment was delivered to the basement of our house in Long Beach, along with buckets and buckets and buckets of small parts. There was also a monster guillotine paper cutter and heaven knows what all the other little stuff was.”

They gathered in their little office in the 500 block Franklin Square and Sally said: “Okay, we have this pile of nuts and bolts, what are we really going to do with them.”

To which Jerry replied: “Why don’t we revive the Long Beacher? Harriett (Patterson) closed it down six years ago, and I think it would be welcome.”

That was a great moment in newspaper history, because The Beacher had a history, and the Montgomerys intended to live up to its glorious past. Back in the 1920s, when the town of Long Beach was incorporated, the comings and goings of its early residents were recorded in The Long Beach Billows. It told about new home-owners, and who their weekend guests were, and how they dressed for masquerade parties at the country club. Then came The Long Beacher, with its descriptions of architectural styles and home interiors. Finally our immediate predecessor, The Beacher, was published by Harriett Patterson; and then publication ceased.

THE BEACHER RETURNS! trumpeted the Montgomerys’ first issue, in large type, on January 24, 1985. A photo of Harriett Patterson, riding in a July 4th parade and Jerry Montgomery’s uplifting mission statement: “We cherish the hope that our efforts will assist the residents to know each other better, to know their town and neighborhoods better…” with the end result being “friendlier and more cohesive communities.” By March of that year The Beacher had a new masthead, a drawing of lake and dunes done by local artist Karl Warren;

But January, they discovered, was “not the best month to venture forth… “winter really zapped us. On January 24 we delivered that first issue in the worst blizzard we’ve had in years. Don and Tom did the house delivery in Long Beach, Duneland Beach and Grand Beach. Jerry and I did the Hidden Shores area and left a large stack at Al’s. The next
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The advertising pages, which determine the size of each week's publication, are Sally's department. "I take care of the advertisers," she says. I see to it that their ads are readable, that the message is clear. And I always call them." She learned that lesson back in 1984: if you want the ads, you call the advertisers. Long Beach Realty, Root Funeral Home and The Framing Station have advertised consistently, since the beginning.

The Beacher came into being in the infancy of computer technology with the Radio Shack computer leading the way. Tom Montgomery still has that relic of Beacher history in what he fondly refers to as the "boneyard" down in the basement. He doubts that it will ever be displayed in a museum, but he noted with satisfaction that the "daisy wheel" on the printer never broke during those crucial moments of production.

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The Beacher's first "real" typsetter was installed in 1986, and after that the paper began to look more professional. With the gradual growth of the publication, there was a need to get the equipment and the office under one roof. "It was time for a major change," Sally said. So they sold the big house in Long Beach and bought a beautiful 100-year-old house in town and bought the Arnold Mayer building at 10th and Franklin. "We moved The Beacher first," Sally says. "It was like we had gone to heaven. All that wonderful space and everything under one roof. The rest, as they say, is history."

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The Beacher was to be a weekly community news publication supported by the advertisers and presented free of charge... The content ratio would be 50% ads and 50% text consisting of stories, news releases, photos and general information. There would be no advertising on the front cover page. This formula still holds true today.
“When we moved here in 1988 the printing business began to grow and develop, and in the years after 1988 that business became known as the Beacher Business Printers.”

So said Sally Montgomery of the printing business that flowed naturally out of The Beacher newspaper.

But, as the Beacher Business Printers venture attracted loyal customers in search of quality brochures, letterhead and promotional material, so appeared the pressing need for a well—for a proper printing press.

Pressman Randy Kayser was running printing jobs off the Beacher’s two Hamada 12 X 18 presses, but, as he explained the other day, they were essentially duplicating presses. Meaning that in order to grow, the Beacher Business Printers needed a serious printing press.

And so they turned to Joe Secedi at American Pro-Tech for advice, and he recommended the powerful, reliable, and clean-running RYOBI 582H. A printer’s printing press if ever there was one, the RYOBI can, as Randy says, “do a big mass run of letterhead or bank flyers in four colors. It can do four 8 1/2 X 11 two-color runs at one time. It is a two-color press that allows you to do four-color work by making two runs.”

Each and every RYOBI is patiently and meticulously assembled by an individual craftsman at the plant in Japan. RYOBI is to printing presses what Steinway is to pianos. And so they acted on Joe’s recommendation and purchased the RYOBI.

The Beacher’s new press was displayed at Print Expo ’97 at McCormick Place in Chicago, and the gang got to go hang out on the show floor with their clean new machine.

But then came the fun part: moving that delicate 2.5 ton piece of equipment into its new home.

Preparations had to be made to accommodate such a weighty press, and Sally Montgomery’s late brother, Glenn Biehl, rolled up his sleeves, and with nephew Tom Montgomery’s help, shored up the floor in just the right places so the RYOBI could happily hum along for decades to come.

As proof that printing is not for wimps, The Beacher crew then hauled a 3/8” thick steel plate into the press room and positioned it as a pad upon which to settle the RYOBI.

Then, with camera at the ready, The Beacher awaited the arrival of two stout men with their new RYOBI firmly secured to a flatbed truck.

The actual moving of that 2.5 ton press into the press room can best be described with this quote from Sally Montgomery: “It was an exciting time watching that press come into the building on a wooden dolly. It was a tight squeeze with less than an inch of clearance, but we did it.”

And it was sure worth it, because as one very happy pressman named Randy Kayser said the other day: “What we had before were considered duplicating presses. But this—this is a printing press. When Joe from Pro-Tech came back years later to
see how it was operating, he couldn’t believe what good shape it was in.”

Tom Montgomery says the RYOBI is good for the long haul “because as long as you can keep the electronic parts working the mechanical parts will last forever.”

Pressman Randy Kayser and the RYOBI 582H printing press are certainly poetry in motion. Watching them work together on a recent four-color run for a printing customer, one sees that The Beacher Business Printers has a bright future.

As Randy says: “I keep it clean, and Pro-Tech adjusts it four times a year. This is a serious press.”

And, we should add, one that is operated by a serious pressman.
Writing for *The Beacher* is something we all love to do. Sally is appreciative of our efforts, and so are the readers. It’s a win-win situation.

Twenty-five years ago, when this community newspaper started out, it relied on press releases from local organizations and contributions from volunteer writers. The first columnist was Nancy Schindler, who wrote a food column entitled “Culinary Corner.” It appeared in the pages of *The Beacher* for one year.

*The Beacher’s* cover story has always been of special importance, and by 1988 Sally needed “a real writer” to handle this responsibility. So she placed an ad in *The Beacher’s* classified section. Jeanie Mebane answered the call. Her husband was stationed here with the National Park Service, and Jeanie filled the pages for two years. Then her husband was transferred.

After Jeanie left, Maggie Beyer held the position for more than 15 years, canvassing La Porte County and its neighbors for story ideas, and establishing the standard format for cover stories. Maggie had previously worked in the advertising department at Marshall Field & Company, and besides writing she knew how to do lay-outs. She also pioneered *The Beacher’s* travel story, writing about her trips to Machu Picchu, Europe, and the American Southwest.

When Maggie retired, Sally placed another ad in *The Beacher*, and in 2000 it was answered by Paula McHugh. Paula scoured just about everything in northern Indiana and a large portion of Arizona, traveling there twice yearly to visit her son.

Presently Sally Carpenter keeps *The Beacher’s* pages filled. She shares in the decisions, and helps make it all happen. There is no single cover story writer. We alternate, from one writer to another, and it is all worked out by Sally M. & Sally C.

Over the years, *The Beacher* has attracted a number of well-known writers: Bill Keefe, a former *Chicago Tribune* writer with a great interest in maritime history; Mary Fox, who specialized in youth events and is now an editor at Liturgy Training Publications, an agency of the Archdiocese of Chicago; Hal Higdon, an author and editor of *Runner’s World Magazine*. My own field of interest was art and architecture, and this expanded into local history and my first book: *Michigan City Beach Communities*.

Many special-interest columns have developed: Charles McKelvy’s *Travels With Charley*; Carolyn McConnell’s foodstuff; Rhoda Steere’s *Diggin’ In The Dirt*; Bob Fitzgerald’s *Veterans On Parade*; Courtney Robinson’s *Look What I Found At The Library*; *Janet Baines’ photo stories*; Susan Vissing’s account of activities from the Long Beach Community Center; and always Sally Carpenter’s book reviews, *Off The Book Shelf*. Rick Richards, most recent contributor, is a career journalist with wide-ranging interests. He has done stories about windmills and tourism and the puppet theatre in the mall. On the day following the publication of his puppet story, the performance played to a full house.

From its humble beginnings, *The Beacher* has grown into a publication with a noteworthy reputation. It has a complete listing of local cultural events, including museums, libraries, concerts, art exhibits, classes, tours, theatrical performances, children’s activities, and a day-by-listing of Activities To Explore. For special occasions, like Thanksgiving or Christmas, we have a hilarious account of third-graders’ stories on how to prepare a turkey, or what they want from Santa Claus.

It obviously takes more than the writers to produce *The Beacher*. When acknowledging her staff, Sally doesn’t know where to begin or end. Becky Wirebaugh is the typesetter. Janet Baines, who most often takes care of customers at the front desk, also does photo-journalism. Several people have overlapping responsibilities. Tom Montgomery, besides handling computer problems, also designs special-occasion covers. Don Montgomery is the business manager and accountant, in charge of all financial matters.

“Even though we are two individual companies, *The Beacher* newspaper and The Beacher Business Printers,” Sally explains, “the personnel and equipment are shared by both.” Steve Galinowski is the salesperson. Randy Kayser is the pressman; and his wife, Dora, runs the bindery. There are also numerous part-time employees – and all their efforts are valued.

Email *The Beacher* with your news
sallym@thebeacher.com
Located at US 12 & Karwick Road
Michigan City adjacent to Long Beach, Indiana

- Carpet and Hardwood Floors
- Private Garages Available
- Washer and Dryer in Select Apartments
- Fitness Center
- Heated Pool
- Fully Equipped Clubhouse
- Near Outlet Mall, Casinos and Lake Michigan
American Red Cross Blood Drives

- Monday, Feb. 1, from noon-6 p.m. at Marquette High School in the Scholl Center, located at 306 W. Tenth St. in Michigan City.

All presenting donors will receive a t-shirt. This blood drive is sponsored by the National Honor Society and is also a Pint Size Heroes blood drive. Phone 873-1325 to schedule your appointment.

- Tues., Feb. 2, from noon-6 p.m. at St. John’s United Church of Christ, located at 101 St. John Road in Michigan City.

- Fri., Feb. 5, from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at Ivy Tech Community College, located at 3714 Franklin St. in Michigan City.

- Sun., Feb. 7, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the American Legion Post 295, located at 4205 W. CR 800 S. in Union Mills.

- Tues., Feb. 9, from noon-6 p.m. at First Church of God, located at 2020 E. Lincolnway in LaPorte.

To schedule an appointment to donate, phone 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org for more information. Individuals who are 17 years of age, meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height) and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. Bring your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID when you come to donate.

333 Maplewood, Shoreland Hills
Nice Shoreland Hills Beach area home tucked away in wooded lot, approx. 4-5 blocks to Beach. Open concept Living/Dining with Vaulted Ceiling. Loft overlooking living room used as sitting/bedroom, also 2 other nice size bedrooms, and 1 and 3/4 baths. Main floor Bedroom & laundry offers convenience. Home has newer boiler heat and a new central air.

New Price! $315,000

Horse-Drawn Bobsled Rides

Horse-Drawn Bobsled Rides are offered at the Buckley Homestead on Saturday and Sundays in January and February – phone before going to the park - Winter weather is a tricky thing. What you experience at your home may not be what is happening on the farm in Lowell, so call ahead to make certain rides will be offered.

Dolly and Molly, the beautiful Belgian horses that call Buckley home, will pull you along the snowy paths of the historic farm. The open bed wagon on runners is a chilly ride so make sure you dress accordingly and bring a blanket for your lap. The rides are on Saturday and Sundays during the months of January and February between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

The availability of rides depends on snow and temperature conditions. We need snow, not ice, for the horses – and it can’t be too cold for them either. Phone Buckley at 219-696-0769 and push the option for park information prior to visiting the park to check weather conditions. Rides last 20 to 25 minutes. The cost is only $2 per person. The bob-sled holds eight to ten people.

Buckley Homestead is located 4.5 miles west of I-65 just south of Rt. 2 on Hendricks Road in Lowell. Exit I-65 west at Rt. 2 toward Lowell to Hendricks, then south for 1/4 mile to the visitor center parking lot. The farmstead is a short walk along the trail.
See all Michigan and Indiana properties on Rubloff.com.
Footlight Presents Musical Revue

Footlight Players will open the popular musical revue “Closer Than Ever” on Fri., Feb. 5, at 8 p.m. The production is directed by Janice Rice with musical direction by Lee Meyer.

In this brilliant companion to the Broadway hit “Starting Here, Starting Now,” Richard Maltby, Jr. and David Shire follow up their earlier “songs of innocence” with twenty-four funny, wise and witty “songs of experience.” As with their earlier revue, each song in “Closer Than Ever” is a story: an intimate, insightful tale about love, security, happiness – and holding onto them in a world that pulls you in a hundred directions at once.

The ensemble of talented performers includes Ernie Ritchie, Lori Lubs Pakuszewski, and Howard Brenneman (all of Michigan City), Dan Moser (LaPorte), and Amy O’Brien (New Buffalo). Additional performances will be February 6 & 7, 12-14, and 19-21. There will be a “Patron Appreciation Reception” following the Sun., Feb. 7th performance at the neighboring Blink Art Gallery.

Friday and Saturday curtains are at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Doors open 15 minutes prior to curtain. All tickets are $12. Reduced rates available for groups of 20 or more. Credit cards are not accepted. Reservations are recommended: phone 219-874-4035 or online at www.footlightplayers.org/reservations.html. Reservations will be held until 15 minutes prior to curtain unless secured by the presentation of a Footlight Season Gift Card or by prior payment in full. Footlight Theatre is located at 1705 Franklin St., Michigan City.

Saturday at The Acorn Theater

January 30, 2-4 p.m. MI time
Artist Reception for Liz Thomas

The Wine Shop at the Acorn is pleased to present the work of local artist Liz Thomas. The show will be celebrated with a reception at The Wine Shop. There is no charge for this event, and light food and wine will be served.

Liz Thomas left a 20 year career in Graphic Design in 1990 to open Sweethaven Resort with her husband, Chuck Garasic. After years of learning the ins and outs of innkeeping and mastering the art of folding sheets, she yearned for more artistic pursuits. In 2001 she met James McComb, an advertising ex-pat and accomplished watercolor artist who gave lessons in his studio on Community Hall Rd. Inspired by “The Professor’s” great talent, she flourished under his guidance and laid-back teaching style. She has studied with him ever since.

You can find her work at Local Color Gallery in Union Pier and in several editions of the Harbor Country Guide.

The new works in this show feature Liz Thomas’ favorite subject, light, in her favorite medium, watercolor.

From a sunrise on Lake Shore Drive to a Harbor Country sand bar at dusk, she endeavors to capture the magic that light leaves in its wake. “Every minute of every day the light is changing, the shadows it creates transforms ordinary objects and inspires me.” The effect of light on water and clouds is especially fascinating to Liz and is a reoccurring theme in her paintings.

For more information, phone 269.756.3879 and ask for Jill, or email acornwineshop@gmail.com

The Acorn Theater’s FIRST EVER Brew and View: Screening the 1985 classic film “The Breakfast Club”

Are you a brain...an athlete...a basket case...a princess...or a criminal? Can you remember exactly what Andy brought for lunch to detention? Do you remember the gift that Claire gives Bender at the end of the film?

Join the Acorn Theater’s first Brew and View to screen the 1985 classic “Breakfast Club” and remember all your favorites all over again!

Come dressed as your favorite character and yell along with your favorite scene...”No Dad, what about you!” Or just come dressed in your 1980’s finest!

There will be movie themed cocktails and snacks at the bar. Captain Crunch and Pixie Sticks anyone? The best part? There is no admission fee.

Reservations are not required, but are recommended. Space is limited, and this is THE event of the winter that you will not want to miss!

For more information: phone 269.756.3879 or email acornwineshop@gmail.com

Howard Brenneman
Ernie Ritchie
Lori Lubs Pakuszewski
Amy O’Brien
Dan Moser
Primary Stroke Center earns re-certification

La Porte Regional Health System earned the Gold Seal of Approval™ from The Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers for the second time. Certification means that our stroke care program follows national standards and guidelines that can significantly improve outcomes for patients who suffered a stroke.

**Know the warning signs of a stroke and teach them to others.**

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

*Every second counts. Call 911 immediately if you or someone you know experience symptoms.*

For more information call (219) 326-2626, toll free (800) 235-6204, ext. 2626 or visit [www.laportehealth.org](http://www.laportehealth.org).

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**GET YOUR GAME PLAN IN PLACE**

...for everything you’ll need to enhance your big game day festivities. Let our deli help you plan now with subs, trays, shrimp, Labriola rolls, fried chicken, and lots, lots more!

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THE Books & Coffee Series at VU

The annual Valparaiso University Books and Coffee series featuring notable new fiction and non-fiction books is now in full swing.

The Books and Coffee series, sponsored by Valparaiso's Department of English, is offered for eight consecutive Thursdays at 4 p.m. Discussions are held in the Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources.

The sessions, which include a review of the book by a Valpo faculty or staff member followed by audience discussion, are free and open to the public.

Jan. 28 – The Will of the People by Barry Friedman, reviewed by Dr. Larry Baas, professor of economics;
Feb. 4 – Too Big to Fail by Andrew Ross Sorkin, reviewed by Dr. Virginia Shingleton, professor of political science.

Tickets are $8 for adults, $6 for students and seniors over 60. Children under 12 are free accompanied by a parent. More information at 269-983-3688 or online at www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

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For more information about Books and Coffee, phone (219) 464-5268 or visit the Valpo Department of English Web site http://www.valpo.edu/english/

12 String Guitar Player Neil Jacobs

Guitar player Neil Jacobs has been called “mesmerizing” and “the rockin’est since early Leo Kottke”. Audiences will see for themselves as Neil Jacobs plays his 12 string acoustic guitar at the Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI, Sat., Jan. 30 at 8:00 p.m. MI time.

Neil covers the world vibe with music diverse as Gypsy, World, Balkan Folk, Jazz, Classical and Modern Fingerstyle, while transforming his 12-string acoustic guitar into his own personal orchestra. He draws inspiration from his world travels and experiences, and shares his stories with his audience.

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Opening Doors to Your New Home

2933 Lake Shore Drive • Long Beach
$1,350,000
3 bedrooms, 2 full & 2 half baths. Two fireplaces, large gourmet kitchen, three season sunroom, sitting area for pull out bed as well. Wrap around deck, rear access with 3 car garage. Incredible views of Lake.

49013 Skyhi Road • Grand Beach, MI
$899,999
3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Fieldstone fireplace graces living room. Open kitchen, living room & dining area. Additional 78' of lake views added to 80' frontage where house is located. Room for expansion or pool if desired.

2514 Glendale Way • Long Beach
$689,000
4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Granite countertops, stainless steel appliances & refinished hardwood floors. Nestled among the dunes & tree tops with a lake view & ownership interest in 40 feet of private beach.

1703 Lake Shore Drive • Long Beach
$629,000
3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Hardwood floors in living & dining rooms. Three fireplaces, sitting room, wonderful master suite. Kitchen open to family room. Extra deep lot; Fenced back yard; Great lake views.

7455 W. Cider Mill Rd. • Michigan City
$359,000
4 bedrooms plus bonus room, 2.5 baths. Dining room & family room with fireplace. Beautiful kitchen. Large master suite with walk-in closet & private bath with Jacuzzi tub. Full basement & in-ground sprinklers.

14390 Ash Drive • New Buffalo
$395,000

904-906 Franklin St. • Michigan City
$375,000

2199 Fairway Drive • The Shores
$194,000

*Licensed in Indiana and Michigan
If the Michigan City Art League has its druthers, LaPorte resident Scott Schwaller will realize his dream and become a professional artist.

A member of the Art League for about three years, Scott attends the MCAL evening instructional sessions and takes part in public exhibits sponsored by the League. At home in LaPorte he works a more-than-40-hour week. “I’m at it every day,” he says.

There’s just one problem. Scott is legally blind. But he can still practice his art nonstop. The camaraderie and friendly guidance that he enjoys as a member of the Art League have convinced him that he is making noticeable progress. With Rose Petersen, Art League president, ensuring that he has transportation to meetings and events, his improvement feels continuous.

“My girlfriend Amy Dolbeare has got me working in the basement,” comments Scott cheerfully. He adds that “She’s trying to keep my splashes and splotches out of the living room.”

In terms of time and age, Scott at 39 is a late arrival among the ranks of working artists. “I’ve always wanted to draw pictures,” he says, “But it never got serious, really serious, until I took an Art History class at Purdue North Central. I started studying the works of famous artists, started looking at their subject choices, and finally began to paint.

“It was an adventure. My teacher complimented something I did and that was the encouragement I needed. I had been taking classes for several years, but I decided to finish, majoring in English. I got a degree, a Bachelor of Arts, in 2008.

He’s helped me a lot,” Scott says. “I’ll ask him whether some technique or shortcut that I’ve read about is worth developing, and he’ll tell me to try it my own way. He means I should forget what I’ve read and just work until I have my own method.”

Beginning the serious practice of art some five years ago, Scott has the deeply private feeling that his vision problem was a driving force in his almost-overnight resort to daily practice and perseverance.

“It may have been the feeling that I had to develop some proficiency as quickly as possible,” he confesses. “And that feeling hasn’t gone away. I still feel that way.”

Grew up in Crown Point

Scott’s hometown, the city in which he was born and reared, was Crown Point. A sister and a brother are his only siblings. Both provide support and help to the extent possible, and his brother, an accomplished artist himself, has advised Scott on ways to approach the fulltime practice of art.

He mentions that he has had poor eyesight since birth. “They call it retinitis pigmentosa,” he says.

Has he experimented with media and “schools” of art? “To some extent I have,” he answers. “I tried oil painting, but it seemed to take too long to dry. Also, oil was what it sounds like--something slippery.”

As for settling on one medium, he is pretty convinced today that he will stay with acrylic. Essentially, it behaves the way he wants it to behave. So experimentation with other media will probably not become part of his routine.

And subject matter?

“I’m attracted to the Impressionists,” he says, “because they seem to like outdoor scenes--very often landscapes. That appeals to me not only because it’s the out-of-doors; it just gives me the feeling that landscapes match my tastes and even my skill level.

“I have to say that I like realistic works too. But I suppose like everyone else I would want to put my own touch on everything. I believe I can do that comfortably when I’m working on farm or open landscape scenes. I add things, of course. Maybe barns, maybe farm animals. Maybe pigs.”
A touch of whimsy involving a cow and a tree adds interest to a painting that Scott displayed at the "all-animal" exhibit at the Michigan City Humane Society this past summer. (Keefe image)

The Hudson River School intrigues Scott to an unusual degree. What he has seen of the work of that school has impressed him because of the members' facility with country scenes--often in a region of flat land. If and when he tries such subjects, "I think I'd add more structures--barns, sheds, farmhouses.

"Whether I plan it or not--and I think I plan it--I try to capture a sense of the timeless or the traditional--a quality that might strike a positive response in a viewer. You might call it a sort of down-home appeal.

"Sometimes looking at a finished picture I try to detect what's it's lacking. I may just start over. Other times I can just add a barnyard animal or some other element."

Growing up, Scott experimented with various types of writing. "I was into poetry, short stories, other things. Now, it seems, I'm trying to accomplish with paint what I tried to do with words. Sometimes it works."

One thing appears to be a given, a fixture, in Scott's life these days. "I've lived in Indiana all my life," he says, "And that's the way it'll stay. I don't feel that I need a change--I don't want a change of scene, except maybe to do some traveling. With that, I figure I would appreciate Indiana more."

**The Competitive Side of Art**

By slow degrees, Scott has been working into the competitive side of art. In June of this year 2009, for example, he took about 30 paintings to Belvedere, Illinois and put them on exhibit. His batch of entries won the “Best of Show” award.

Belvedere has treated him well in other ways. A watering-place called the Brick Café has been exhibiting samples of his paintings. "I've sold seven or eight of them," he says. "I don't charge much for my work, but it's a great feeling to sell something now and then."

"I don't know whether it's normal, but I want to be able to visualize a picture of mine in someone's house. I want the child in the family to say goodbye to that painting when he or she leaves for school in the morning--and then to say Hello when school is out and the young person sees my painting again."

Scott knows also what kinds of buyers he wants to attract to his corner of an art fair--and then to make a sale.

"I want the buyer to be another artist who knows art, knows what he's buying. Or it can be someone who sees a work of mine and who just irresistibly decides he has to have the picture that caught his attention.

"I really think that rural or bucolic scenes can be done so well that a viewer, depending on his background, can see a canvas like that and if he or she is a Midwesterner, can imagine that it's a scene that's familiar from years back. Then I may have a buyer."

Scott has been trying as a matter of habit to imbue a down-home type of picture with the special appeal that can attract a buyer, he admits. "I think I'm getting better at it."

Scott and Amy don't need to go far to find a pet to include in a painting. They have a home menagerie of four cats and two dogs.

Scott believes he's also getting better at keeping the household animals in the colors that Nature gave them. "They don't wear acrylic well," he says.
Upcoming Fernwood Events

Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 3988 Range Line Rd., Niles, MI www.fernwoodbotanical.org or 269/695-6491

Wine pARTy! with Whitney Ferré
Fri., Jan. 29, 5:30-7 p.m. MI time
Join artist and wine connoisseur Whitney Ferré for a different kind of wine tasting. Originally from Chicago, Whitney is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of General Studies, a perfect degree considering Whitney also co-owns a wine bar—Rumours Wine Bar—in Nashville, Tennessee, leads corporate creativity workshops, teaches art and creativity classes. Join her to share four wines to compare to the creative process and discuss her book, The Artist Within: A Guide to Becoming Creatively Fit (copies will be available for purchase). Register in advance. Fee $12 (Members $10).

The Artist Within Workshop: Painting Made Easy-
Sat., Jan. 30, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. MI time
If you desire to re-create an element in your life; if you have ideas that you would like to see come to fruition; if there is change you would like to see in your world—then you need to tap in to your “artist within.” Whitney Ferré, author of the book, The Artist Within: A Guide to Becoming Creatively Fit, will lead this workshop to take you through a selection of her “creativity workouts” designed to empower you to create change. Through paint, collage, “scribbling,” and collaborative exercises, Whitney will introduce you to your right brain voice—your artist within. Whitney’s technique is easy and takes you step-by-step through the painting process, layering colors to create a fun and interesting piece. Whitney’s classes are so popular because her motivation for teaching is to introduce you to the relaxing and stress-eliminating benefits of painting. Bring your sketchbook—all other materials will be supplied. Whitney’s book is not required for the workshop, but you can preorder a copy for $15.95. Book and kits also are available in the gift shop and at the Wine pARTy! on Friday, January 29. Register in advance. Workshop fee $100 (Members $85).

Valentine’s Dinner - Fri., Feb. 12, 6-8 p.m.
You and your special someone are invited to a Valentine’s dinner prepared by Fernwood’s Chef Tim Carrigan. Dinner includes your choice of entrees, tableside dessert, and a dessert station. The romantic setting will include a rose for each couple. Phone Fernwood for more information and to reserve your table. $85 per couple.

About Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve - Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. The Fernwood Café is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., and Sunday from noon-3 p.m. Fernwood is closed on Mondays. All times listed are Michigan time.
Unbelievable but true will be the only words needed when you view your first sunset from the private balcony of this truly spectacular condominium unit. Located on the shores of Lake Michigan, this well appointed 2 bedroom 2 bath contemporary offers a very special living arrangement with magnificent year round views. Private beach, indoor pool, underground parking and security protected. Offered For Sale at $349,000. Showings by appointment only,

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Jaci Velasquez Live at St Andrews U.

This January at the Howard Performing Arts Center, one of Christian music’s most successful solo artists, Latin Christian phenomenon Jaci Velasquez, will perform in concert. The 28-year-old singer is performing as part of the Howard Series Presents... on Jan. 30, at 7 p.m. MI time.

Velasquez was signed to Myrrh Records at the age of 14, and her first album, “Heavenly Place,” went platinum. As a result of the success of her first album, she is recognized as the “fastest selling solo debut artist in the history of Christian music.” Today, Velasquez is highly decorated with three platinum recordings, three gold recordings, three Grammy nominations, two Latin Grammy nominations, five Latin Billboard award nominations, Latin Billboard Female Pop Album of the Year award, six Dove Awards, El Premio Los Nuestro Award Soul to Soul Honors, an American Music nomination and, on top of that, she has sold 3.5 million albums. Her success has also lead to several film soundtracks and modeling jobs for the covers of more than 50 print publications and participation in the advertising campaigns of Pepsi, Doritos, Target, Frizz-Ease and Helzberg Diamonds.

Tickets for Jaci Velasquez can be purchased for $20 from the Howard Performing Arts Center Box Office or by phoning 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560. For more information, visit www.howard.andrews.edu

The Howard Performing Arts Center is a premier 850-seat concert hall on the campus of Andrews University, located one-half mile east of the U.S. 31 Bypass in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

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3 BEDROOM HOME, 3 blocks to Lake Michigan, area shopping, Blue Chip Casino and Washington Park. 2 Full baths, over 1800 sq. feet, city water and sewer. Lots of parking.

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Cyberscribbles
by Paula McHugh

Last week I mentioned Twitter’s helpfulness (or not) in making connections for locating missing people and for providing other information during the quake aftermath. I typed in www.twitter.com/haiti and was instantly provided a number of links. More than a half-hour later I found myself deep into the links, finding bits of information at each of them. That experience wanted me to reevaluate my own membership in Twitter. Most of you know that my opinions have been negative up to now. How old-fogey and cantankerous of me.

Twitter has provided an excellent community connection for the day-to-day, and often hour-by-hour or minute-by-minute information stream. One of the links I followed led to the ICRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross. Dozens of Red Cross agencies worldwide follow the Twitter/ICRC tweets. And wireless devices within the ravaged country are doing the job of getting the word out wherever and whenever it’s needed.

Somehow I made my way back to Romanesco at Poynter.org, where professional journalists hang out. The list of classes and seminars, as well as information about Twitter applications, for example are very important to today’s crop of emerging journalists. Therefore, on the eve of this, the 25th anniversary edition of the Beacher, I will no longer bad-mouth the social media explosion on the ‘net. It would serve only to display my ignorance, and my pride would be stung severely. There are excellent uses, as well as stupid uses for new media. Those plugged-in journalists know the difference.

That said, let’s get on with other discoveries for the week.

The Shorty Awards (http://shortyawards.com). While we are still on the subject of Twitter, might as well mention the latest addition to recognizing “good stuff” floating around the Web. Shorty Awards are meant to go to the best Twitter-ers (tweeters?) in at least a dozen categories. A look at the list enticed me to sample some of the nominations, which now provides me with a bonanza of websites to review. I don’t want to insult you by explaining why these are called the “Shorty Awards.” I am assuming the whole world, or at least CyberScribbles readers, have accessed Twitter at least once.

Significant Objects (http://significantobjects.com). Creative writers need to look at this website. I immediately thought of Charley McKelvey when I accessed these pages of stories. Each writer in this project chooses an object—a curious one—around which to pen a story. The object, along with the story, are then placed for sale on eBay. Proceeds go to a creative writing and literacy project in Boston, where this gem of an idea originated. The idea has spawned some offshoots, including writing contests. And it’s good reading, too. Betcha there will be a book coming out eventually.

The Best of Wikipedia (http://bestofwikipedia.tumblr.com). Are you familiar with the television commercial in which a young lady entertains her friends with a constant flow of trivia garnered from her surfing expeditions? Well, I can imagine this not-so-fictional character spending lots and lots of time at The Best of Wikipedia. While I was there, I learned about dwile flonking, Acoustic Kitty, borborygmus, and a Gamma Knife, among other things. You’ll have to access this website to understand what these are, because it would take me another column to explain them.

Earthquake Relief for Haiti

The Salvation Army

Major Brian Burkett, Michigan City, announces The Salvation Army is mobilizing resources and personnel to assist with the international relief effort in Haiti following the severe earthquake that damaged much of the country’s infrastructure, housing and commercial buildings.

The Salvation Army is accepting monetary donations to assist in the effort via, www.salvationarmyusa.org, 1-800-SAL-Army and postal mail at: The Salvation Army World Service Office, International Disaster Relief Fund, P.O. Box 630728, Baltimore, MD 21263-0728. Donations are also possible by cell phone by texting the word Haiti to 52000 via text message. A $10 dollar donation will appear on the cell phone bill. Additional carrier charges may apply.

Donations may also be made to the local office at 1201 Franklin St., or mailed to The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 14, Michigan City, IN 46361. Major Burkett states all local donations designated for Haiti go directly to relief efforts with no administration fees. Checks should be clearly marked “Haiti Relief Fund”. For more information, you may call Major Brian Burkett or DeNita Ton at 219-874-6885.

Information From the Unity Foundation

While the Unity Foundation has had no connection to Haiti, they do now: Two families in LaPorte started an endowment fund to educate children in Haiti just last month. These people and their friends have been volunteering in Haiti for 20+ years.

Dr. Benjamin and Darlene Mannix and Drs. David and Lovera Miller (and their children) are involved with a local non-profit called Haitian Support Ministries (HSM), started in 1993. It is affiliated with Lamb’s Chapel in Rolling Prairie. The HSM website is www.haitiansupportministries.org

Email: info@haitiansupportministries.org; mail: HSM, P.O. Box 97, Rolling Prairie, IN 46371; phone the Lamb’s Chapel at 219-778-9402, or phone the Millers home at 219-326-9426.
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February 2010

**Community Services**

HealthQuarters
Free health & medical resource center
La Porte Hospital, main floor
(219) 325-5487
healthquarters@lph.org

Technology Fair
See the new technology at
Starke Memorial Hospital
102 E. Culver Rd, Knox
Tours & free screening on
Sat. 2/20, 10 am-2 pm

American Red Cross
Blood Drive
Mon. 2/22, 1-5 pm
La Porte Hospital
To register:
(219) 326-1234, ext. 1518

No registration needed.

**Screenings**

Heart Cart Screenings
Discounted heart & vascular screenings
Wed. 2/23, 8 am-noon
Brentwood
2002 Andrew Ave, La Porte
Sat. 2/20, 10 am-noon
Starke Memorial Hospital
102 E. Culver Rd, Knox
To register: (219) 326-2626

Free Bone Density Screening
Sat. 2/20, 8 am-noon
Johnson Road Internal Medicine
7002 W Johnson Rd., La Porte
No registration necessary

Free Blood Pressure Screening
Tue. 2/19, 9-11 am
Kroger, La Porte
Every Thur, 9-11 am; La Porte Hospital, HealthQuarters
Mon.-Fri, 5:30 am-8 pm & Sat., 7 am-noon; The Crossing

**Fitness & Wellness**

Wellness Center monthly membership is $30/month and includes fitness center with unlimited classes ($20 one-time orientation fee applies).

ONE week of classes and use of fitness center for $5. Class days/times subject to change. Info/registration: (219) 326-2480

Circuit Training
Tue. & Thur, 5:05 pm

Strength Training
Tue. & Thur, 8:45 am
Sat., 9 am

Yoga
Mon., 4:45 pm; Thur, 5:30 pm

Chair Yoga
Wed., noon

Zumba®
Mon. & Wed., 6 pm
Tue. & Thur., 5:30 am & 4 pm
Sat., 8 am

Zumba® Gold
Tue. & Thur, 8 am

Fitness Center
Mon.-Fri., 5:30 am-8 pm
Sat., 7 am-noon

Couples Back Rub & Reflexology
Learn basic techniques for relaxing together
2/11, 2/24 or 3/10
The Crossing, $70/couple
To register & prepay:
(219) 326-2480

**Support Groups**

All support groups are free. Registration not required.
For more information:
(219) 326-2476 or (800) 235-6204, ext. 2476

Alanon
Every Fri., 10 am; The Crossing

Alzheimer's Support Group
Wed. 2/10, 1 pm
La Porte Hospital, Auditorium

Aphasia Support Group
Thur. 2/18, 3:30 pm
La Porte Hospital, Auditorium

Chronic Pain Support Group
Tue. 2/2, 1 pm
La Porte Hospital, Family Chapel

Diabetes Support Group
Tue. 2/16, 1 pm
The Crossing

Friendly Hearts Support Group
Tue. 2/23, 1 pm
La Porte Hospital, Executive Conference Room

Grief Support Group
Thu. 2/24 & 2/18, 5 pm
To register: (219) 326-2333

Parkinson’s Support Group
Tue. 2/16, 2:30 pm
La Porte Hospital, Family Chapel

Stroke Support Group
Thu. 2/18, 3:30 pm
La Porte Hospital, Auditorium

WeCAN
(Cancer Support Group)
Wed. 2/10, 4:30 pm
The Swanson Center, La Porte

**Education**

Free OB Orientation - Stork Options
Thur. 2/25, 6-8 pm
MedSpa Women’s Healthcare
601 Kieffer Rd., Michigan City
To register: (219) 879-6262

Childbirth Preparation Class
Sat. 2/20, 9 am-3 pm
La Porte Hospital, $30/couple
To register: (219) 326-2502

Preventing Diabetes Session with diabetes nurse
The Crossing, $5/class, free to Wellness Center members
To register: (219) 326-2478

Diabetes Self-Management Class
ADA recognized, 4-week series
begins: Mon. 2/1
3:30-5 pm
The Crossing, fees & insurance coverage vary
To register: (219) 326-2478

Free Community Health Fair
Information and screenings provided by Valparaiso University nursing students.
Wed. 2/17, 2-5 pm
La Porte Hospital, B113

**Free Knee & Hip Pain Seminar**
Wed. 2/24, 8 am
La Porte Hospital
To register: (219) 326-2392

Nutrition Classes
Label Reading & Portion Control
Tue. 2/22, 10 am or Wed. 2/23, 5 pm

Dining Out
Tue. 2/9, 10 am or Wed. 2/10, 5 pm
Heart Healthy Grains
Tue. 2/16, 10 am
Fats: The Good, The Bad, The Ugly
Tue. 2/23, 10 am or Wed. 2/24, 5 pm

$5/class, free to Wellness Center members
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Tue. 2/23, 10 am or Wed. 2/24, 5 pm

$5/class, free to Wellness Center members
To register: (219) 326-2478

Health Coaching
One-on-one approach to assist in reaching health and wellness goals.
$75 for 6, 20 min. sessions.
To register: (219) 326-2480

Preventing Diabetes Session with diabetes nurse
The Crossing, $5/class, free to Wellness Center members
To register: (219) 326-2478

Diabetes Self-Management Class
ADA recognized, 4-week series
begins: Mon. 2/1
3:30-5 pm
The Crossing, fees & insurance coverage vary
To register: (219) 326-2478

Free Community Health Fair
Information and screenings provided by Valparaiso University nursing students.
Wed. 2/17, 2-5 pm
La Porte Hospital, B113

**Monthly Movie**
Fri. 2/26, 1 pm
To join: (219) 326-2388

**Career Fair**
Jan. 28, 2010
La Porte Regional Health System • 1007 Lincolnway, La Porte, IN
The Crossing • 1203 Washington St., La Porte, IN
www.laportehospital.org

**Free Health Month Events**

Preventing Heart Disease:
How healthy grains & exercise keep you healthy
Presented by: Norma Wehrman, RD & Lynn Zeler
Wed. 2/17, 5 pm; The Crossing

From the Heart:
How preventive screenings can change the course of life.
Presented by: Pam Upp & Dr. Mark Dixon
Tue. 2/23, 5 pm
La Porte Hospital Auditorium
No registration needed.
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La Porte Regional Physician Network Welcomes
Anthony McPherron, DO, of Specialty Orthopedics

Accepting new patients. Call toll free, (866) 422-7376.

Dr. McPherron, a native of Plymouth, is an orthopaedic surgeon. He specializes in both primary (first time) and revision (repeat) joint replacement surgery of the hip, knee and shoulder. Dr. McPherron is an international lecturer and has designed numerous joint replacement instruments and implants used worldwide. Further, he has worked with NHL and NCAA athletes and is the team physician for Plymouth High School.

Dr. McPherron is Board Certified in orthopedic surgery by the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopedic Surgery. He received his medical degree from Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. McPherron completed a fellowship in adult reconstruction/total joint replacement at Florida Orthopedic Institute/Tampa General Hospital and an orthopaedic surgery residency at St. Vincent Medical Center, Ohio.

La Porte Office: Horizon Center, 311 Boyd Blvd
Plymouth Office: LifePlex, 2855 Miller Dr. Ste. 109
Winamac Office: 616 E. 13th St.

Heritage Place 901 Lincolnway, Ste. 212, La Porte

Abul Basher, MD, FACC

LaPorte Regional Physician Network Welcomes
Carl Wynter, MD, FACC

Accepting new patients. Call toll free, (219) 324-5784.

Dr. Wynter joins Dr. Basher in providing consultation services, prevention, treatment and management of acute and chronic cardiovascular disease. He has specialized subspecialty training in cardiac imaging. His interests include echocardiography, cardiac stress test and nuclear cardiology.

Dr. Wynter is Board Certified in cardiovascular disease and internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine. Further, he is certified in echocardiography and nuclear cardiology. He received his medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine, Pennsylvania and completed his internal medicine internship and residency at St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital Center. Dr. Wynter completed his fellowships in cardiology at Henry Ford Hospital, Michigan and cardiac imaging at Massachusetts General Hospital Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts.

Heritage Place 901 Lincolnway, Ste. 212, La Porte

Abul Basher, MD, FACC
**BOURBON MEATBALLS**

2 c. barbecue sauce  
1-1/2 c. bourbon  
1 c. honey  
1 c. prepared mustard (Dijon’s)  
1/8 tsp. Worcestershire sauce  
1 (32 oz.) frozen package cooked meatballs

Combine the first 5 ingredients to make the bourbon sauce. Place in a Dutch oven at medium heat for 5 minutes. Add the meatballs and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 25 minutes.

---

**WATERCRESS* AND RADISH STUFFED EGGS**

6 hard-cooked large eggs  
3 T. sour cream  
1 tsp. Dijon mustard  
1/2 tsp. white-wine vinegar  
1/2 c. packed watercress sprigs, chopped fine  
3 T. minced radish (about 3 large)  
3 T. minced celery (about 1 rib)

Cut a paper-thin slice off both ends of eggs and halve eggs crosswise. Force yolks through a sieve into a bowl (or mash with a fork) and stir in remaining ingredients and salt and pepper to taste. Transfer filling to a pastry bag fitted with a large decorative tip and pipe into whites, mounding it. The stuffed eggs may be made 6 hours ahead and chilled, covered.

---

**MEXICAN SALSA BREAD**

1 c. shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided  
1/4 c. picante sauce  
1/2 c. chopped fresh cilantro  
1 (1-pound) Italian cheese flavored pizza crust (like Boboli)

Preheat oven to 350. Combine 1/2 c. cheese, picante sauce and cilantro in a small bowl. Stir well. Spread over pizza crust and sprinkle with remaining cheese. Place on a baking sheet and bake at 350 for 15 minutes or until cheese melts. Cut into wedges. 8 servings.

---

**KATHY BOGGS’ POPPERS**

12 jalapeno peppers  
8 oz. cream cheese, softened  
8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese  
3 strips bacon, crisp and crumbled bread crumbs

Wearing gloves, cut peppers in half and seed. Mix cheeses and bacon together and stuff peppers with mixture. Dip tops into bread crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes.

---

**A Year of Delicious Dining Including Our Family’s Holiday Hors D’oeuvre Party**

Great watercress & radish stuffed eggs – fantastic.
CHEESE-FLAVORED BREAD ROUNDS
1 c. mayo
1/2 c. grated cheddar cheese
1 tsp. horseradish
1 T. sherry
1/2 c. well-cooked bacon

Toasted bread rounds (about 1-3/4 or 2 inch)

Break cooked bacon into small pieces. Drain horseradish well. Mix all ingredients. Spread on toasted bread rounds. Place in low broiler until bubbly (a short time – maybe 5 minutes).

CHIPOTLE-AVOCADO DIP
3 ripe avocados, peeled, pitted and coarsely chopped
Juice of 1 lime
1/3 c. chipotle chiles in adobe sauce (I found that at Al’s)
2 garlic cloves, minced

Place all in food processor or blender. Process til smooth, then transfer to a bowl. Cover and chill until ready to serve. This dip is best served within a few hours after it’s made.

DESSERT: Finish the meal with scoops of vanilla ice cream topped with sliced mangoes that have been tossed with fresh lime juice, sugar and grated lime peel. An additional dessert: the family’s old-fashioned fudge.

*Watercress – This leafy green, a member of the cabbage family, has a light peppery flavor. Why it’s healthy: One cup of watercress has just 4 calories, but it’s loaded with vitamins A, C and K. What’s more, it contains lutein and zeaxanthin, antioxidants that are beneficial for eye health. How to eat it: swap watercress for the lettuce on your next sandwich, or toss a bowl of the leaves with goat cheese, toasted pistachios and your favorite vinaigrette. This is from Pat Latchford’s book “Eat This, Not That.” Along with the watercress info, they include fine food – healthy and hearty, such as: Mame Celeste original cheese pizza, Marie Callendar’s oven-baked chicken, Stouffer’s meatloaf, Boston Market classic chicken salad sandwich, Uno Chicago grill baby back ribs, Wendys’ 1/4 lb. single burger, Taco Bell grilled steak soft taco and 2 slices Domino’s thin-crust cheese pizza. Healthy food indeed.
Last Friday @ Barker Hall

Fri., Jan. 29th, 7:30 p.m.

This is a chance for individuals to perform in an all-acoustic setting, or for others to listen and enjoy. The theme is “Robert Burns Songbook.”

All over the world, around January 25th, poetry lovers and Scotsmen gather as they have since 1759 for the annual Burns Night Supper to honor the great 18th century poet. Verses will be recited, stories told and songs sung. In his short life he wrote about 300 songs creating lyrics to ballad and dance tunes known the world over. Don’t perform any Robert Burns? That’s o.k.--perform what you know and love. There is no cover charge. Doors open at 7 p.m. Performers sign up at 7:15 p.m. Barker Hall Community Center @ Trinity Church, 620 Franklin St., Michigan City. 874-4355.

ICS Annual Sweethearts Contest

The Independent Cat Society is having its annual Sweethearts Contest. They have 8 wonderful cats that are candidates for their Sweetheart of the Year. People can visit the website www.catsociety.org and see their photos and vote for them by donating through a link to PayPal. Or they can come into the shelter and meet the candidates and vote by making their donation or casting their vote there.

They can also vote by sending their donation in and making sure it is noted on the donation that they wish to vote for whichever of the sweetheart candidates they may choose. The cat that collects the most money/votes wins and the winning cat gets a big bag of catnip and a new toy as well as the distinction of being the 2010 ICS Sweetheart. Of last year’s candidates, more than half were adopted.

If you have any questions regarding this contest or the candidates, contact the Independent Cat Society at (219) 785-4936. The shelter is located at the corner of Hwy 6 & County Line Road, Westville.

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Free Microsoft Word Class for Adults

Westchester Public Library will offer a beginning Microsoft Word class for adults on Mon., Feb. 1. The class will be held from 6-8 p.m. in the Bertha Wood meeting room located on the second floor of Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Registration is necessary due to the limited number of computers available. The class is free of charge.

Learn the basics of this word processing software, and how to use it to the best advantage to give documents that professional look. Attendees must have some computer knowledge and must know how to use a mouse. Typing skills are preferred but not necessary.

For more information and to reserve your spot in the class, phone the Automation and Serials Department at 219/926-7696, ext. 25.
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Lego Club at Westchester Library

Westchester Public Library's continuing Lego Club will meet Fri., Jan. 29, at 6 p.m. Clubbers meet in the Children's Department at Thomas Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton. Attendance is free of charge.

In recent studies, it has been found that promoting play contributes to early literacy development by increasing attention span, memory, creativity, and language and vocabulary skills. It also lays the foundation for logical mathematical thinking, scientific reasoning and problem solving. Hands-on manipulatives like Legos provide tactile and kinesthetic learning which increases student understanding. There's no denying that building things with Legos is just plain fun, also!

The library continues to accept donations of Legos for the Lego Club. Simply bring them to the Children's Department. For more information, contact the Children's Department, 219/926-7696.

Poetry Mix-It Up

January 29, 7 p.m. MI time
Fireplace Room, Buffalo Books, 120 W. Buffalo

Not a slam! But an evening of words, wit, and wisecracks in front of a warm fire and cheerful writers. Poets, writers, would-be poets, friends and neighbors share their compositions. Participants are encouraged to read their own poems, bring their favorites, write one on the spot, or just enjoy listening to others. The evening ends with a collective anonymous writing. Potluck refreshments are encouraged. RSVP to zappagirl.13@yahoo.com. For more information 269-231-5300 or lee@buffalo-books.net

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AAUW February Meeting

The Michigan City Branch of the American Association of University Women will meet at 10 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 6, at Station 801, 8th & Franklin streets in Michigan City, for a brunch meeting. Virginia Bushong will present a program on “Lincoln--The Final Years.”

The Michigan City Branch sponsors the Reading Is Fundamental program for the Michigan City Area Schools. Members also participate in numerous interest groups including antiques, readers and crafts. AAUW is a leader in advocacy for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination in higher education. The AAUW Educational Foundation funds research on girls and education, community action projects, and fellowships and grants for outstanding women around the globe.

Anyone with an associate's or bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university is eligible to join AAUW. This organization has been active in the cause of equal rights for women and girls for more than 100 years. To learn more about AAUW, phone Melinda Nagle at 872-1217.

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Long Beach Fitness Center and Certified Personal Trainer & Pilates Instructor Shari Bohac are offering a mat-based class designed to lengthen muscles as it stretches, on Mon. & Wed. at 9 a.m. & 5 p.m. with a second class Friday at 10 a.m. Class is $5/members, $8/non-members. 219-879-1395.

Morning Out Boot Camp Exercise Class instructor Amy Shinn is now offering a Saturday class at 8 a.m. along with the Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8:30 a.m. line up for $5 per class. Phone Amy at 219-210-9385. Baby sitting is available for weekday classes only.

Yoga Instructor Lauralee Sikorski is offering Beginner flow Yoga on Wed. & Fri., 10-11:15 a.m., and Gentle Intermediate Flow on Tues., 6:15-7:30 p.m. Phone 219-861-7394 to register. Drop in rate for a truly restorative class is $12 with discount 10 and 25 class pass available. Also there is Yoga Deep, a personal one on one restorative yoga experience.

Chakra Bliss Massage Therapy is located in room #3 in the Center. Owner and massage therapist Julie Sosa completed a year’s study in Chicago at Cortiya Institute, Chicago School of Massage Therapy. She has training in Swedish, deep tissue, myofascials, sports massage, trigger point, and neuromuscular modalities, and licensed in IN & IL. Receive a 60 min. full body relaxation massage for $60; a 90 min. massage for $90. 219-561-3522 for an appointment or a gift certificate for Valentine’s Day!

Professional Dance Instructor Larry Payne is teaching Tap Dance Classes on Thurs. at 7 p.m. Instruction is on going, includes all levels of tappers, perfect for students with some experience. Phone 219-707-7391 or visit www.larrypaynedance.com

Melissa Kraus is available throughout the week to teach piano lessons for all ages starting at age 3, and also offers elementary age tutoring at a rate of $10/ half hour. She has an undergraduate degree in music therapy and a masters in education. Phone Melissa at 219-221-6560.

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

The Long Beach Community Center has space for rent by the hour, day, month and year for your party, event, class, or business. For a tour of the facility or for more information phone Anne Heywood at the Long Beach Town Hall at 219-874-6616

---submitted by Susan Vissing & Anne Heywood
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www.laportehealth.org
LaPorte Co. Historical Society Museum

A new kind of event at the La Porte County Historical Society Museum will take place on Fri., Feb. 5. “Night at the Museum” is open to kids in grades 4–8, from 5-9 p.m. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

This “after hours” event will feature a behind-the-scenes tour, several learning sessions, and a pizza party. Activities include an introduction to model railroading and demos of the new Fischerville Railroad layout by museum volunteer Ted Williams, and a session on the history of Valentine’s Day cards by Assistant Curator Susie Richter.

Also featured will be a slideshow about local architecture by Curator Jim Rodgers, and old-fashioned school lessons in the One Room Schoolhouse exhibit led by Bruce Johnson, a local teacher.

Pre-registration required by 4:30 p.m., Thurs., Feb. 4. Forms are available at the museum or they can be printed from the website: www.laportecountyhistory.org. Admission charge is $5.00 The La Porte County Historical Society Museum is located at 2405 Indiana Avenue in La Porte. 219-324-6767.

Soup’s On at the Cracked Egg

Join the Cracked Egg Cooking School in a class where students will make a Mushroom Bisque and Pureed Butternut Squash soup. One soup will be served in a bread bowl and another in a baked veggie bowl. No dishes to wash!

This class will be held Thurs., Jan. 28th, 6-7:30 p.m. and is an interactive/demo class with ample samples. Cost is $35. Sign up at www.crackedeggcooking.com or 219-210-3920. The Cracked Egg is located on E. U.S. Hwy. 12 near Karwick Road.

MCCMF Youth Competition Entry

A reminder to all teachers/coaches/students interested in the 1st Annual Michigan City Chamber Music Festival Youth Competition on March 13, 2010... Entry forms and registration fees are due by Feb. 13.

See the website, www.mccmf.org, for entry forms, rules, prize info, and more information. Direct any specific questions to Nic Orbovich, at nicsunny sophia@yahoo.com, or 219-878-1965.

Trivia Contest Fundraiser

Ye Olde Benny’s at 3101 E. US Hwy 12 in Michigan City will be sponsoring a Trivia Contest fundraiser for the American Red Cross LaPorte County Chapter on Sun., Jan. 31. Registration opens at 5 p.m. with the contest beginning at 6 p.m. Teams can be one to six people. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team. Cost per individual is a $10 donation to the Red Cross. Information: phone 219/874-4247 or visit www.laportecounty.redcross.org
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Activities to Explore

In the Local Area:

Ongoing -- Puppet Parlor Theatre presents “The Snow Queen” at Marquette Mall, MC. Performances Wed/11 am & 4:30 pm; Fri/4:30 pm; Sat/11 am, 2 pm & 4:30 pm; Sun/2 pm. Adm. $5. Info: Ralph Kipniss, director, 219/210-3428.

January 28, February 4, 11, 18, 25 -- Chess Club at the MC Public Library. 3:30 pm with instructor Roy Quiriconi. For all ages and all skill levels. Free. 873-3045.

January 28 -- Books & Coffee Series at Valparaiso University. 4 pm in the Christopher Center for Library and Information Resources on campus. The Will of the People by Barry Friedman will be reviewed by Dr. Larry Baas, professor of economics. Free and open to the public.


January 30 -- Basket Weaving Class at MC Public Library. 9:15 am. Margie Warner teaches this class and each person will make a basket to take home. $10 non-refundable deposit req’d. See the basket and sign up at the circulation desk. 873-3049.

January 30 -- Dennis Stroughmatt and et l’Esprit Creole in an early Mardi Gras celebration concert. 8 pm at Mainstreet Theatre, 807 Franklin St., MC. Tix $14/adult, $13/seniors (62+) & $7/students high school age and below. Reserve at 874-4269. Dinner pkg. (dinner & ticket) for $28 if reserved by Jan. 27.

January 30 -- Reception for local artist Liz Thom- as at The Wine Shop at The Acorn, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI. 2-4 pm MI time. Refreshments will be served; free adm. Info: Jill at 269/756-3879.

February 2 -- GROUNDHOG DAY

February 5 -- “Night at the Museum” event at

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January 30 -- Brew and View at The Acorn Theater featuring the 1985 film “The Breakfast Club.” Doors open 7 pm; film at 8 pm MI time. No adm. chg. but reservations recommended at 269/756-3879. Dress as your favorite character from the film; movie themed cocktails and snacks will be avail. at the bar. 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks, MI.

February is --

NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH

LIBRARY LOVERS MONTH

February 2 -- GROUNDHOG DAY

February 5 -- Opening reception for “Seeing the Light” at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. 2nd. St., MC. 5-8 pm. Over 30 works by members of Area Artists Association. Adm. free. In conjunction with the First Friday celebration. 874-4900.

February 5 -- “Night at the Museum” event at
LaP. Co. Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., LaPorte. 5-9 pm. For kids in grades 4-8 (under 12 yrs. must be accompanied by an adult). Behind-the-scenes tour, model railroad demo, slideshow & more. Preregister by Feb. 4; download form at www.laportecountyhistory.org or email info@laportecountyhistory.org. Adm. chg. $5. More: 219/324-6767.

February 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 -- “Closer Than Ever.” Footlight Players musical revue at Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St., MC. Fri/Sat 8 pm; Sun 2 pm. Tix $12; reserve at 874-4035.

February 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 -- “Andrews Brothers” - the Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy musical at Memorial Opera House, 104 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso, IN. Fri/Sat 8 pm; Sun 2 pm. Tix $20/adults, $17/seniors & students; reserve at 219/548-9137 or www.mohlive.com

February 6 -- MC Branch of American Association of University Women meeting. 10 am at Station 801, 8th & Franklin streets, MC. Virginia Bushong will present “Lincoln—The Final Years.” Anyone with associate’s or bachelor’s degree eligible to join: phone Melinda Nagle, 872-1217 for more info.


Farther Afield:

January 27-29 -- Actors From the London Stage present “Romeo & Juliet” at Notre Dame University’s Washington Hall, South Bend, IN. 7:30 pm Eastern time. Tix $20/gen. public, $18/senior citizens, $12/students; 574-631-2800 or www.performingarts.nd.edu

January 27-30 -- Special Astronomy Event at Conway Observatory, Lowell, IN to coincide with the opposition of Mars. Calumet Astronomical Society will host. 7-9 pm ea. nite. 773-639-5491. Take I-65 south to Rt. 2 exit west toward Lowell; south on Hendricks to the “T” at Belshaw; east on Belshaw to the first right and south for 1 mile. Story elsewhere this issue.

January 30 -- 12 String Guitar Player Neil Jacobs in concert at Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI. 8 pm MI time. Tix $8/adults, $6/students & seniors over 60. 269/983-3688 or www.boxfactoryforthearts.org

January 30 -- Jaci Velasquez (Latin Christian music) in concert at St. Andrews University Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs, MI. 7 pm MI time. Tix $20; reserve at 888-467-6442 or 269-471-3560 or www.howard.andrews.edu

February 5 -- Friday Film Series: Greek Film (“Ellines Kai Amerikanoi”) at the Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI. 7:30 pm MI time. Documentary on Greek immigration to America. $5 donation requested. Greek themed foods will be on hand to sample. More at 269/983-3688.
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Thereby Hangs a Tail by Spencer Quinn

Chet and Bernie--the Little Detective Agency--the best six legs in the business...no, not a typo. Bernie is Bernie Little, hence the name of the company, and Chet is his partner and dog extraordinaire.

If you read Chet and Bernie's first adventure, Dog on It, you'd know what a treat this new and completely different series can be, because Chet does the narration! Yes, he's a dog, with all the little eccentricities his kind has, along with a delicious sense of his surroundings and especially humans...like when other humans treat him like a dog...

“A security guard with a toothpick sticking out of his mouth said, ‘No dogs.’ I had to wait in the car. That happened sometimes and I was cool with it. While Bernie was gone I thought about how good it would be to jump up and snatch the toothpick right out of that security guard’s mouth and then just stand there, letting him think he could catch me.”

Author Stephen King praised Chet as “a canine Sam Spade full of joie de vivre.” No truer words were spoken. Chet has a way of explaining things that includes frequent side bars into other dogs, scents, food, and well, bodily functions (an important part of a dog's life remember!).

Bernie is divorced, his ex-wife taking custody of their son, and now Bernie seems to have trouble keeping bills and bill collectors at bay. He takes jobs as they come with the ever faithful Chet keeping tabs of the pieces of paper (checks) handed to Bernie which meant some new treat was forthcoming.

Both Chet and Bernie have had their setbacks in life: Bernie had some bad luck in the armed forces overseas which left him with a bad leg that sometimes gave him trouble, and Chet had almost made it through K-9 school when he somehow botched the final test (I think it had something to do with a cat--Chet doesn’t like to talk about it). But, together they made a formidable team.

This day they are approached with a security assignment that is rather unusual...

A very rich lady, Adelina Borghese, is flying into town with her tiny but very expensive show dog, Princess. She wants Bernie to guard the dog during an upcoming and very prestigious dog show.

Bernie’s first impression was to pass on the job, although very lucrative.

“Job? What job? Making sure that a fluffball on a satin pillow stayed out of trouble? That was free money, not a job. Come on, Bernie.” Leave it to Chet to be the practical one!

Adelina tells Bernie that Princess has been threatened. Someone tore a page out of a dog magazine that had a picture of Princess on it and painted a bulls eye over her head. Bernie agreed to the job and to meet the plane bringing the show dog in the next day.

Well, that's when it all went downhill...

Suffice it to say that the plane landed, Princess and her handler, Nance, came down the staircase, pleasantries were exchanged and Adelina made the mistake of telling Nance to give Princess a bacon treat...

“Nance reached into her pocket, took out a bacon bit of a kind I’d never seen before, nice and thick... As for what got into me, how to explain? The facts are that suddenly I was airborne, in full flight, ears flat back; airborne and snagging that bacon bit right out of Nance’s hand at the exact moment of transfer, possibly knocking Princess over, but totally by accident... As for the bacon bit: delish. I tore across the runway, downed the bacon bit, skidded to a stop beside the plane’s big wheels and lifted my leg. No idea why and I didn’t absolutely need to go: but it felt good. And doesn’t everybody like feeling good? Or am I missing something?”

To say the least, that was the bacon bit that broke the deal. Adelina fired Bernie on the spot. Later that day, Suzie Sanchez, newspaper reporter and sort of girlfriend to Bernie, showed up at Bernie's house and told him that Adelina had been abducted shortly after he and Chet had left the runway. It seems that Adelina’s fear for Princess was not unfounded, as Bernie finds out later that the show dog was also missing.

A frantic phone call comes late that night to Bernie from Suzie, who says she is at a ghost town out in the desert and wants Bernie to meet her right away. Pulling up in front of the saloon Bernie sees Suzie’s car, but no sign of her. There’s a confrontation with two armed men, Chet defends his master but is knocked unconscious. When the dog comes to, he is alone...

What I’ve told you today about Thereby Hangs a Tail is but a small part of the story. Believe me, there’s lots more action and dog philosophy to come. And the thing I like best about it, is that it’s really good material, not silly, but humorous, and all wrapped up with a good mystery story. You gotta love Chet and Bernie--they’re a winning team!

Thankfully, Spencer is hard at work on the next Chet and Bernie adventure. Learn more at www.ChetTheDog.com

Till next time, happy reading!
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