



Volume 34, Number 2 Thursday, January 18, 2018

WICKED WINTERS

by William Halliar

Editor's note — This is the first in a two-part series.



Snow removal continues by the Lido Theatre on Feb. 18, 1958.

Northwest Indiana winters can be harsh. They also surprise us with mild temperatures.

We hearty Hoosiers are used to those extremes. We roll with the punches, carrying on no matter the meteorological conditions doled out by a fickle Mother Nature.

It seems everyone from Northwest Indiana, especially LaPorte County, has a snowstorm story. Looking back, we see that 1958, 1967, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1982 and 1985 saw near-record bouts of heavy

snowfalls. Of particular interest is 2018, milestone remembrances for some of the biggest storms in our history. They have provided the grist for many a tale told in front of a cozy fire over a nice cup of hot cocoa.

This week, we explore some of the history — including the 1958 storm — before the 1978 event. Next week, we will feature local residents who shared with *The Beacher* memories and photos of the storm that descended upon us 40 years ago.

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WICKED WINTERS

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Official observers of ever-changing weather conditions have been recording regional statistics since the National Weather Service was founded Feb. 9, 1870. The NWS sponsors a Co-operative Observer Program with local observers and recorders of daily weather conditions all over the nation.

Herbert Link was one such individual, recording daily readings in LaPorte County for more than 40 years. He was interviewed in September 1967 — a year known for record snowfalls — by *The Herald-Argus* about his years of observations. According to Link, *"When industrial growth took place in Gary and along the southern edge of Lake Michigan, snowfall appeared to show new increases in the LaPorte area."*

There is a difference in elevation of 112 feet between Michigan City and LaPorte, with Michigan City situated at nearly the same level as Lake Michigan and LaPorte close to the top of the Valparaiso

Moraine. Link continued by reporting that *"weather watchers have frequently taken note of the often mentioned summit situation north and west of LaPorte."*

Because of their locations with respect to the terminal moraine, LaPorte often experiences heavier snowfall conditions than Michigan City. Snowfall conditions in New Carlisle and South Bend also are affected by the summit of the moraine and experience conditions similar to LaPorte.

Comparing average temperature on intellicast (tinyurl.com/y9hrd3t5), folks who bill themselves as "The Authority in Expert Weather," we find that the record low temperature for January in Northwest Indiana occurred in 1994 with a mercury reading of -29 degrees Fahrenheit. The record high for the month occurred in 1943 at a balmy 75 degrees.

February's record low was recorded in 1951 at -26 degrees and a high of 78 in 1938. The blustery month of March came into the record books with a low temperature of -17 in 1960 and an astonishing high of 88 degrees in 1929.

SNOWBOUND MICHIGAN CITY AREA FACTS

- Ice extended 8-11 miles on Lake Michigan.
- Total snow fall in Feb. — 52 ins.
- Wind velocity Feb. 18 — 31 M.P.H.
- Wind swept drifts 5-15 ft. high and sub-zero weather hampered snow removal.
- \$2½ million loss to Michigan City in retail business, salaries, property damage, snow removal costs and loss in manufactured goods.
- 34 major accidents Feb. 15-18.
- Long Beach had no milk, no bread, no bacon, no eggs — Feb. 17.
- Mr. Wm. Comford, farmer, dumped out 200 gals. of milk daily.
- Bride and groom (Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Wozniak) marooned with 200 guests on wedding night.
- News-Dispatch comes out on Monday despite severe conditions.
- Ind. Bell Telephone had heaviest load since 1951 — 6,000 long-distance calls on Feb. 16.
- Icicle at Spaulding Hotel was 4 ft. in diameter and 18 ft. long.
- Storm blamed for death of four men.
- Medicine and supplies were delivered by skis, 'copters, horseback, tractors and jeeps.
- WIMS carried on night and day, bringing the latest storm news.
- South Shore trains carried the bulk of transportation on schedule most of the time.
- Many walked to work through chest-high snow.
- Several worked around the clock for 4 days with only "cat naps".
- 15 couples stranded at Masonic Temple after Rainbow Formal.
- Monday, February 17 — first day since the big snow of 1917-18 that mail was not delivered.



Snow covers vehicles in front of the Spaulding Hotel.

The first major winter storm the NWS recorded in the LaPorte area was on Jan. 14, 1871. Charles Cochran, historian and observer of area history, recorded an account of the “famous sleet storm” in the Jan. 13, 1947, edition of *The Herald-Argus*.

According to Cochran, up until that time (1947), the storm was “without parallel in the history of LaPorte.”

He continued.

“No winter’s day before that, nor in the 76 winters since has produced just that balance of atmospheric conditions that converted the city into a place of dazzling beauty and at the same time one of ruin.”

That night, as the storm continued to rage outside, LaPorte residents were assailed by the continual crashing sounds of trees splintering and falling to the ground from the weight of ice and snow.

“The like has not been within the memory of the oldest inhabitant,” Cochran reported.

The storm was not local. It extended across Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan. Chicago on the same day received 24” of snow. Great damage was done to local forests that, at the time, provided much employment for area residents.

The record books recall the great snowstorm of Jan. 12, 1918, stories recorded by faithful scribes of the time and preserved for our edification in the archives of our library and county history museum.

That year was the second year of U.S. involve-

Continued on Page 4

Special Thanks

The photos that appear with this story, and in next week’s piece on the 1978 storm, arrive courtesy of local archivist Mike Fleming, who has offered tremendous support to *The Beacher* over the years. Thanks to Mike for all his help!

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WICKED WINTERS

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The view on Franklin Street south from Ninth Street.

ment in World War I. It was the winter of the great flu pandemic that claimed an estimated 20 to 50 million people worldwide. That January record cold blasted LaPorte County with temperatures averaging just 11 degrees above zero for most of the month.

New Year's Day 1918 brought a snowstorm with an 8-inch accumulation. On Jan. 6, another 24 inches fell on the county, and the storms continued with strong winds adding to the misery. On Jan. 12, another 15 to 20 inches fell to the ground. High winds piled drifts more than 10 feet in height as the thermometer dropped to -10 degrees in LaPorte. It remained bitterly cold for more than a week as residents attempted to dig their way out.

The next memorable storm arrived 60 years ago, in 1958, burying the county in a blanket of white for



The view on Washington Street looking south.

more than a week.

February that year began with a foot of snow falling during the first three days of the month. Schools were closed, cause for celebration among youngsters. Then, on Feb. 4, a freezing rain fell that formed a crusty coating and made travel on county roads nearly impossible. With such a frozen blanket covering every surface, a period of sub-zero days confounded any efforts to clear the roads.

On Feb. 15, it began to snow again. It seemed the skies were falling, that the storm would never end. The snow continued for three days. A total of 60 inches fell on LaPorte County in 1958, setting a record for one-month accumulation. This record stood until the winter of 1978.

Michigan City Mayor Francis Fedder and LaPorte Mayor Everett Koomler joined Gov. Harold Handley to declare LaPorte County a disaster area. LaPorte County was buried, and it was a serious matter. How long could the population, many with limited food supplies, hold out?

The sheriff's department reported it was swamped with calls. Many families contacting them were "desperately" in need of help. Medical emergencies needed to be addressed. Roland Knox, Indiana Department of Civil Defense director, arrived on the scene to take charge of cleanup operations.

A helicopter was dispatched from the U.S. 5th Army Headquarters in Chicago. Mayor Richard Daley sent snowplows to aid in clearing roads, many of which were covered with drifts more than 8 feet deep. Michigan, Wisconsin and Ohio sent men and equipment to



Families walk with groceries along Franklin Street on Feb. 17, 1958.

aid with the cleanup.

Westville officials instituted "Operation Dig Out," rallying citizens to aid motorists trapped on highways. Local freeways had become parking lots filled with abandoned vehicles stuck in drifting snow.

Local churches provided shelter and meals — a warm place to sleep for hundreds of stranded motorists. Many residents in the town opened their homes to stranded travelers. One of the biggest emergencies was the shortage of baby bottles and diapers for the many infants stranded with their families.

A troop of Boy Scouts had an exciting experience when it was rescued by helicopter from Camp Wright near U.S. 421 in Westville. Other Scouts,

led by their leader, Jack Wodd, diligently worked to clear local fire hydrants of snow that would impede their use.

Electric service was out in some areas, causing great concern for local dairy farmers who had to keep their milk supplies in holding tanks until trucks could get through to pick them up.

Those who were children then remember only the fun they had making tunnels and igloos in the snow, and the fact that they were free from the drudgery of school and homework for a couple of glorious adventure-filled days in that long ago February.

(Next week — the storm of 1978.)

Continued on Page 6



Snow blankets Williams Boat Mart on Trail Creek.



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WICKED WINTERS

Continued from Page 5

Did You Know?

Eons back in time, a misshapen rock about the size of a 1964 Ford Galaxy hurtled through the immense emptiness and blackness of space toward its destiny with history.

The rock, a chunk of space debris flung from the tail of an ancient comet, was almost 5 billion years old, but what is time and age to a rock?

The jagged cold orb was roughly ovoid in shape, composed mainly of iron, but also with nickel and silicates — salt-like compounds composed of silica and oxygen. The meteor, a wandering messenger from the furthest reaches of space, had been rushing through time as it slowly tumbled on a wobbling axis for light years, never nearing a star nor planet, but continually being propelled by opposing gravitational forces.

Blasting through a relatively small disc-shaped spiral galaxy known as the Milky Way, it hurtled toward the third planet orbiting a yellow dwarf star located on the outer edge of a swirling mass of stars. This third planet had atmosphere and supported that rarest of all celestial anomalies: life. The year as reckoned by the inhabitants of this planet called Earth was 1918.

The meteor, rather than striking a glancing blow off of the gaseous outer surface of the planet, entered the atmosphere at more than 24,000 miles per hour. It is estimated by those who study such matters that approximately 37,000 to 78,000 tons of similar space rocks enter the earth's atmosphere each year (tinyurl.com/yd8666ma).

Some of these ancient travelers from the uni-

verse's past are seen in the night skies above earth as spectacular shooting stars, but most disintegrate and are vaporized through friction as they pass through Earth's gaseous atmosphere. They strike the Earth's surface as mere dust particles that go unnoticed by the inhabitants of the planet.

As the mass of the ancient rock, formed in the tail of a now long-forgotten comet, dissolved into tiny particles, with no individual piece being more than a dust-sized spec, the winds of the planet's surface carried the microscopic remains high into the atmosphere, above a great body of water known to the residents of the Hoosier State as Lake Michigan.

Ever higher, the dust of the stricken meteor was swept until it became a part of a massive anvil-topped Cumulonimbus formation reaching 10 miles into the heavens. Drops of water began to accumulate on the microscopic grains of dust. Turbulence inside the cloud carried the droplets of water ever upward (tinyurl.com/y8cq2ad).

As the temperature inside the cloud grew colder, each single droplet of water, clinging to the dust of the destroyed meteor, began to freeze in individual six-sided crystalline shapes, each crystal different from its neighbor. The ice crystals begin to fall to the ground (tinyurl.com/y7uar8nu).

It was early morning, Jan. 12, 1918, when star-dust turned to snowflakes, and the air was filled with countless tiny sculptures of ice. Crystals falling from the sky created sculptures of white velvet in windblown drifts as they began to accumulate on the ground.



An emergency airlift commences at the Hannon farm in Westville.



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Jane Cooley is a consistent Multi-Million Dollar Producer and has been awarded in multiple consecutive years at Merrion & Associates as Top Listing Producer and Top Sold Producer (Transactions). A full-time Realtor since 1989, The Hat Lady is renowned for her smart marketing and negotiating for both buyers and sellers.



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Great War Exhibit, Discussions Planned

The public is invited to explore Indiana's Great War history through free events hosted by Barker Mansion in January and February.

The mansion has partnered with the Indiana Historical Society to display a traveling exhibit titled "The Great War: From Ration Lines to the Front Lines." Visitors will learn how Hoosiers experienced World War I in distinct ways. While those of German heritage faced discrimination, African Americans and women pointed to their wartime contributions years later while advocating for social and political rights.

The exhibit also explores the impact war-time demand for steel, machinery and equipment had on Indiana's towns and cities such as Indianapolis, South Bend and Gary. In addition, the traveling exhibit explores the roots of World War I, America's entrance to the war, the evolution of warfare, the construction of the American Legion Building and the Indiana War Memorial.

The exhibit will be open in the mansion's remodeled basement space from 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 19 and 26 and Feb. 2.

Additionally, mansion staff will offer free supplementary programs at 5:30 p.m. Fridays.

T.J. Kalin will lead a discussion Friday, Jan. 19, titled "The Red Cross Meets the Mansion." He will share Catherine Barker's contribution on the home-



Barker Mansion, as photographed by Dan Sheehan

front in Michigan City, including details of how the Red Cross moved into the mansion for a period during World War I.

On Friday, Jan. 26, Bailey Roberts will present "God on the Home Front," which delves into the YMCA's ties to the Great War. During this time, the YMCA was a spiritual force for soldiers on the frontlines, providing food, comfort and salvation. Roberts will touch on the Barker family's ties to the YMCA in Michigan City, weaving the two stories together.

The Friday evening events will end Feb. 2, with Jackie Perkins presenting "Beyond the War Years." The program touches on the post-war history of the mansion, which was used as a vacation home by Catherine Barker and her first husband in the 1920s, and later by Purdue University as a satellite campus.

Many of the Purdue-Barker students were soldiers enrolled through the GI Bill. Perkins will detail the experience of these students at the mansion.

All events are free, although free-will donations will be taken. Reservations are not necessary.

Barker Mansion is located at 631 Washington St. Visit www.barkermansion.com for details.



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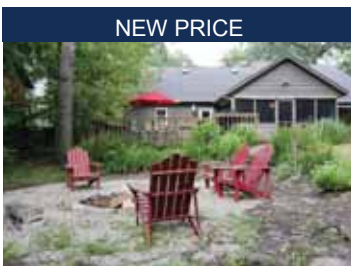
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Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

The following programs are available:

• **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.

• **Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Brad Bumgardner, birding expert and Indiana Audubon Society executive director, leads the program that carools to a birding spot. No experience is required. Take binoculars, and dress for the weather.

• **Stewardship Program — Sugar Maple Research from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at Chellberg Farm.**

Help park staff survey maple trees part of a sugar maple research study. If weather permits, staff will start “tapping” the trees. Dress for the weather, and be prepared to walk in the winter woods. The Chellberg parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.

• **A ranger will lead two-hour tours of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in one of the park’s 16-passenger buses at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21.**

The tours meet at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. After a brief introduction, participants board for the tour, which is free, but reservations are required by calling (219) 395-1882.

• **Winter Mount Baldy Hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21.**

The ranger-led tour allows visitors to experience the beauty and views from the top of the dune. No reservation is required. The hike is held regardless of weather conditions. Meet at the Mount Baldy parking lot off U.S. 12 west of Michigan City.

The program is part of the Indiana Dunes Outdoor Adventures Series, with events held throughout the year and culminating in the Indiana Dunes Outdoor Adventure Festival on Oct. 5-7.

• **Climate Change Workshop for Educators from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Portage Lakefront and Riverwalk Pavilion.**

The workshop also is open to Scout leaders and others who work with youth. It includes information about the impact global climate change is having on the region’s resources, and activity ideas, including a Climate Backpack with educational props that can be used to help students understand climate change.

Teachers and others completing the workshop receive copies of the books “Climate Change: A Hot Topic” (for ages 10-14), and “Climate Change: What Everyone Needs to Know.” Those attending the workshop can borrow the Climate Backpack to use with youth.



Brad Bumgardner will lead the Indiana Audubon Society program at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center. Check the entry under Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore for details.

The workshop is co-sponsored by Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, Dunes Learning Center, Animalia Project, Chicago Wilderness Climate Education & Engagement Committee and the Great Lakes Research and Education Center.

The \$40 workshop fee includes lunch and materials. Pre-registration is required, and registration is limited. Visit duneslearningcenter.org/adults or call (219) 395-9555 to register.

The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.

Indiana Dunes State Park

The following program is offered:

• **Geocache Adventure from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at the nature center.**

Using GPS technology, participants will travel the park and nearby Duneland area while completing outdoor challenges. They must have a GPS unit or geocaching phone application.

This year’s program explores the history of the dunes and its relationship to the South Shore Line. It ends with prizes and awards during the annual chili dump dinner at 4:30 p.m. Participants can take their own chili to dump into a kettle that will be cooking over a fire at the nature center.

Partners from Barker Mansion, Northwest Indiana Geocachers Association and Westchester Township History Museum helped plan the event.

Participants can register at geocaching.com. Search the zip code 46304 to find it. The event is free after paying the standard park admission of \$7 per in-state vehicle or \$12 per out-of-state vehicle.

Indiana Dunes State Park is at 1600 N. County Road 25 East (the north end of Indiana 49), Chesterton. Call (219) 926-1390 for more information.

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Spotlight Organization



The Lakefront Career Network, Michigan City Area Chamber of Commerce's young professionals group, has selected the Boys & Girls Club of Michigan City as its 2018 "Spotlight Organization." The LCN executive committee considered applications from 16 area non-profits before choosing the Boys & Girls Club. LCN will host fundraisers, coordinate a "Day of Giving" and heighten community awareness about the organization. The first partnership event is at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 25 at Burn 'Em Brewing. Visit LakefrontCareerNetwork.org for more details.

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Taltree, PNW Announce Partnership

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens Foundation will donate the arboretum and its more than 300 acres near Valparaiso to the university.

PNW will continue to operate the property, to be renamed Gabis Arboretum at Purdue Northwest, as an arboretum for public, educational, conservation and recreational use.

The announcement was made by Taltree Arboretum & Gardens Foundation's board of directors, Taltree founders Damien and Rita Gabis and PNW.

The gift is valued at approximately \$12 million. It is the largest donation to date in the history of the PNW campuses. PNW assumes operations of the arboretum once transfer of ownership is complete, anticipated early this year. The property's new name is pending final approval of the Purdue University Board of Trustees in February.

Taltree, home to one of the nation's most diverse oak collections, welcomes nearly 50,000 guests annually. Damien and Rita Gabis made an initial land purchase on the site in 1990. With additional purchases through the Taltree foundation, which the Gabises began in 2002, the property grew to its present size. The arboretum today features multiple gardens, pavilions, a Monarch waystation, an outdoor classroom and a Railway Garden.


It is located at 450 W. County Road 100 North near Valparaiso.



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Shirley Heinze Donates 17 Acres

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has donated 17.34 acres of protected natural land to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

The transfer consists of four parcels adjacent to park boundaries. The additional acres will help buffer the park's current holdings and reconnect fragmented high-quality natural areas.



Mnoke Prairie. Photo by Alex Zaideman

The largest property involved is 13.73 acres of prairie, originally acquired by Shirley Heinze in 1999 through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency's North American Wetlands Conservation Act. The land is adjacent to IDNL's 300-acre Hobart Prairie Grove unit in Lake County, which contains a variety of habitats, including wetlands, prairie remnants, white oak flatlands and a rare bur oak savanna. It protects 343 types of native plants and an abundance of wildlife.

Another 1.88-acre parcel of land adjacent to the southern edge of Mnoke Prairie now will become part of the Bailly/Chellberg and Little Calumet River Trail section of the park in Porter County. The property has been managed jointly since 2007 as a tallgrass prairie-restoration project.

An assortment of 16 lots totaling 1.55 acres of wooded dunes becomes part of the Miller Woods portion in Lake County. Another small group of lots totaling .18 of an acre has been added to the Tollerton Dunes unit in Porter County.

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So call my office now at 219-380-0809 in La Porte or 219-386-4488 in Valparaiso and secure your spot for my FREE Deep Tissue Laser Therapy Open House...

- La Porte office **Tuesday January 30** located at 1405 E. Lincolnway Suite B (across Route 2 from Walmart).
- Valparaiso office **Friday January 26** located at 3125 Calumet Ave. Suite 8 (next to the YMCA).

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Sincerely,



Dr. Arlan Alburo, PT, DPT, MTC

Orthopedic and Balance Therapy Specialists

P.S. Deep Tissue Laser Therapy Open House in La Porte Tuesday January 30th and in Valparaiso Friday January 26th.

P.P.S. So call my office now at 219-380-0809 in La Porte or 219-386-4488 in Valparaiso and secure your spot for my Deep Tissue Laser Therapy Open House.



Gen. Frank Hoyt (Michael Shannon, left) interrogates cleaning crew members Elisa (Sally Hawkins) and Zelda (Octavia Spencer).

“The Shape of Water”

No one makes the peculiar as agreeable as Guillermo del Toro.

In his world, a dark underbelly emerges from below, yet we are not repulsed. In some cases, we are invigorated (the pulpy anti-hero of “Hellboy”). Other times, like in “Pan’s Labyrinth,” we are reminded the monsters from our nightmares pale in comparison to the evil that exists in the real world.

In “The Shape of Water,” del Toro strikes a delicate balance. He spins something fantastical that is equal parts fairy tale/love story, but set in the instantly recognizable past. Somehow, it all clicks.

Del Toro was inspired to create “The Shape of Water” by “The Creature of the Black Lagoon,” calling it the greatest love story never told. Indeed, the design of the amphibian oddity in “The Shape of Water,” lovingly inhabited by fantasy stalwart Doug Jones, echoes that 1950s favorite.

The animal, captured in South America, ends up in a secret Baltimore lab during the Cold War in the early 1960s. Its cleaning crew involves two longtime friends, Elisa (Sally Hawkins), and Zelda (Octavia Spencer). You couldn’t ask for a more delicious duo. Elisa communicates by sign language, a neck injury as an infant rendering her mute. She is far from a simpleton, though. Let’s just say, this is a woman who knows how to make efficient use of an egg timer. And, at the lab, Zelda doubles as her interpreter, their conversations solidifying the Oscar-winning Spencer as a scene-stealing pro.

In Elisa’s apartment building, Giles, the next-door neighbor, is



Elisa (Sally Hawkins) strikes up an unusual friendship with a creature trapped in a secret lab in “The Shape of Water.”

prototype for a Michael Shannon role. Gen. Frank Hoyt is a snarling ape of a man whose only concern is dissecting the creature he refers to as an abomination in God’s eyes. But with Elisa drawn to it, as one outcast to another, she hatches an escape plan.

“The Shape of Water” sounds cute and cuddly, — “Beauty and the Beast” writ realistic — and Alexandre Desplat’s lovely score gives the film a fanciful quality. But this ain’t Disney material. Del Toro does not shy away from a coupling between beauty and beast, and just when it seems downright icky, the movie takes on a lyrical tone that resolves itself with a smile by Hawkins that is pure magic.

Indeed, this is brave, deeply expressive work by Hawkins, whose first legitimate lead role in Mike Leigh’s “Happy-Go-Lucky” was a highpoint of 2008. Here, the pleasure in watching Hawkins, who has next-to-no dialogue, is that she creates a woman whose eyes blaze with intelligence, longing, mischief and defiance. In fact, it is a confrontation between Elisa and Hoyt, unraveling through sign language, that provides the film’s most crowd-pleasing moment.

Del Toro’s films have become mammoth productions (“Pacific Rim”), but he scaled back for this one, allowing his heart and soul to guide his vision. Just when it seems the story is headed into the obvious, he spins it in an entirely different direction. You’re curious to see how “The Shape of Water” resolves itself. Does del Toro pull it off? He does. And then some. The final image verges on poetry.

Indeed, the work of a true artist.

The Road to Oscar

by Andrew Tallackson

Editor’s note — This is the first in a series of reviews exploring films competing for Academy Award nominations.

a closeted artist, a gentle, empathetic fellow tenderly rendered by the great Richard Jenkins.

Like any fairy tale, there is a villain. In this case, it is Michael Shannon (“Nocturnal Animals,” “Pottersville”) in what can best be described as the

“Phantom Thread”

It’d be a shame if “Phantom Thread” is Daniel Day-Lewis’ swan song as an actor. He deserves better than this, the cinematic equivalent of watching paint dry...and I’m not talking one coat. More like every wall in a London estate, labored on by sloths who prolong the outcome with sadistic relish.

The blame for this snoozefest, which goes nationwide Friday, rests with pretentious, length-bedamned writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson. True, “Boogie Nights,” “Punch-Drunk Love” and the Oscar-winning “There Will Be Blood” merit the fuss. More often than not, however, his films start with a kernel of inspiration, but are sabotaged by the deadly pace (the endless “Inherent Vice”), silly symbolism (the raining frogs of “Magnolia”) and emotional detachment (the Scientology-inspired “The Master”).

On paper, “Phantom Thread” sounds compelling. Set in London during the late 1950s, designer Reynolds Woodcock (Day-Lewis) dresses society’s finest, from royalty, to movie stars, to heiresses. Lovers come and go — temporary distractions easily discarded, like extra fabric. He is the quintessential creative genius: artistically brilliant, but socially inept. An attractive, yet infantile tyrant.

Reynolds’ sister, Cyril (Mike Leigh regular Lesley Manville), runs the operations with clockwork efficiency. There is no emotion nor sentiment. The relationship between brother and sister is intriguing. They behave less as siblings and more like inseparable business associates.

What’s the story behind these two? That is a mystery, because the ultimate diversion arrives through Alma, a waitress and Reynolds’ unlikely muse. Played by German actress Vicky Krieps, she’s a corker, the only electrifying presence in “Phantom Thread.” Not only does Alma stand up to Reynolds, but she finds his emotional cruelties intriguing, an excitable challenge. To her, Reynolds is a beast that must be tamed.



German actress Vicky Krieps is the sole electrifying presence in “Phantom Thread.”



Reynolds Woodcock (Daniel Day-Lewis) embarks on a volatile relationship with Alma (Vicky Krieps), a waitress, in “Phantom Thread.”

The stage is set for seductive, psychological warfare, but “Phantom Thread,” for more than an hour, unravels like stale, stuffy PBS...but with F bombs. Anderson paces the film like the storybook tortoise at odds with the hare. We get shots of people walking down hallways, closing doors, going through the mail, eating. Mundane details that may emphasize the rigid routine of Reynolds’ life, but inch the story along at a crawl.

As actors, Day-Lewis and Krieps fall into repetitive patterns. Reynolds is obnoxious, Alma preps for a fight. He finds her enticing, then she’s too common. When the movie’s twist arrives, specifically in revealing Alma’s devious side, it amounts to too little, too late.

In Anderson’s “There Will Be Blood,” the ruthlessness of Day-Lewis’ performance blazed across the screen. In “Lincoln,” it was as if you’d slipped back in time to observe the man himself. “Phantom Thread,” however, whittles away at his ferocious talent so all that remains are mopey eccentricities.

Day-Lewis has made it known that “Phantom Thread” is his final movie, that he’s retiring from the business. Why, we do not know. The actor has etched out a career that spans “My Left Foot,” to “The Last of the Mohicans,” to “Gangs of New York.” If “Phantom Thread” is, indeed, his final movie, then it will go down as a curious footnote to an otherwise remarkable career.

(In next week’s edition, a review of “I, Tonya.”)

Monday Musicale

Monday Musicale members continue their journey through "The ABCs of Music" with an open meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

Chairwoman Sue Cassler planned the program "Brought to You by the Letters L, M & N." There is no admission charge, but donations are welcome to the scholarship fund.

The program will feature vocalists Ange Benz, Frank Casorio, Cassler, Joe Stewart and Felicia Thomas in solo and ensemble performances, as well as instrumentalists Beverly Griffith (piano), Elaine Hornyak (flute), Nancy Nichols (oboe) and Connie Hendricks and Stan Shepard on strings. Lee Meyer will provide piano accompaniment.

A variety of musical styles are planned in selections by composers such as Franz Lehár, John Lennon and Paul McCartney, Ennio Morricone, Jules Mouquet, Modest Mussorgsky and Randy Newman. Titles include the jazz standard "Mood Indigo," "Lascia Ch'io Pianga" from Handel's opera "Rinaldo," Ukraine's national dance, "Hopak," and "You've Got a Friend in Me" from Disney's "Toy Story."

The evening concludes with social hour. Call Ange Benz at (219) 874-3754 or Sue Cassler at (219) 362-1421 for details.

Michigan City Public Library

The following programs are available at Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.:

• **A.A. Milne's Birthday Celebration at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, in the meeting room.**

Library staff will show a compilation of shorts that are Rated G.

• **Bookmarks: Gordon S. Wood's "Friends Divided: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson" at 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19, in the meeting room.**

Serena Sutliff is the reviewer.



Hazelgrove

• **Author William Hazelgrove: "Al Capone and the 1933 World's Fair" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21, in the meeting room.**

Hazelgrove returns to discuss his new book, a historical look at Chicago during the darkest days of the Great Depression.

• **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 23 and 30, and 10 a.m. Wednesdays,**

Jan. 24 and 31.

Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Arrive a few minutes early to receive a name tag.

• **Volunteers Needed for VITA Tax Program.**

Volunteers are needed at least one day a week during the tax season (February-April) for the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. The IRS provides some training, and volunteers must pass the VITA test through the intermediate level. Testing and training are online.

Contact Robin Kohn at (219) 873-3049 for more information on library programming.

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Westchester Public Library

The following programs are available:

• **Knit Wits and Purls of Wisdom at 9 a.m. Thursdays, Jan. 18 and 25, at Hageman Library, 100 Francis St., Porter.**

The weekly meeting is open to the skilled and novices, with no registration required.

• **Bookmarks at the Museum at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Serena Ard will review Gordon S. Wood's "Friends Divided." Books are available at Thomas and Hageman branches. Refreshments will be served.

• **Books That Make You Think Discussion Group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The selection is Saul Bellow's "The Adventures of Augie March." Register at the reference desk, at the upstairs computer classroom or by calling (219) 926-7696. Copies of the book are available for checkout.

• **Kids Science Explorer Club at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19, at the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Duneland School Corp. teacher Kim Stahura leads the science-based program for children 6 and older. The focus this month is the science behind catapults. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Duplo Club from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at Thomas Library's Children's Department.**

Geared towards preschoolers ages 2-5, registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Saturday Crafternoons from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at Hageman Library.**

Children 2-4 can make paper mittens and decorate them with colorful pom-poms.

• **Intro to the Ukulele from 2 to 3 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 21 and 28, and Feb. 4 and 11, at the Thomas Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Learn basic chords, rhythm and ukulele history. Ukuleles will be provided, although participants can take their own and should indicate so during registration. No experience is necessary, and space

is limited. Register at the Thomas Branch Reference Department or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Children's Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays through April 24 in the Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children in grades 3 and older learn beginning crochet from instructor Sadie Steciuch. They should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Call (219) 926-7696 to register.

• **"Peaceful People" from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Feb. 27 at the Thomas Library children's department.**

Aimed at children 6 and older, and their caregivers, each session opens with a short exercise to become aware of breathing, followed by a book or two that stress empathy or kindness. Activities are designed to increase feelings of peace and well-being, including mandala construction, gratitude journaling and painting kindness rocks.

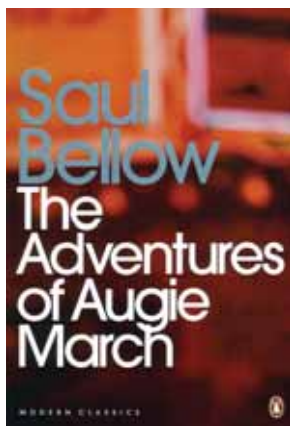
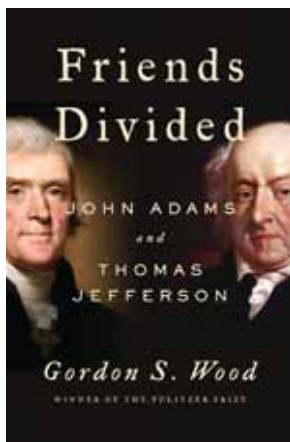
Registration is required because space is limited. Call the Children's Department at (219) 926-7696 or visit the library.




• **Graphic Novel Book Club from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

The focus is Brian K. Vaughn's "Paper Girls." Register in person with the IT department or by phone at (219) 926-7696.

• **"Rajasthan India: 30 Years to the Present" from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at the Thomas Branch Bertha Wood Room.**

The educational presentation by botanist/environmental scientist Joy Marburger includes a slideshow with photos and artifacts from India, and a group discussion. Free jasmine tea and cookies will be served.



Independent Cat Society

ICS "Abridged" Used Book Sale

Saturday, January 20th from 10 AM—4 PM
Sunday, January 21st from 11 AM—4 PM
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Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

"What the Heck is Potamogeton? Why We Should Care about Aquatics!" is the topic when Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St.



An example of pondweeds.

Nathanael Pilla, botanist and Save the Dunes project coordinator, will stress the importance of plants in ponds, rivers and lakes. Topics include: what pondweeds have to do with ducks; how some plants reproduce underwater; and using natives in aquatic gardening.

Pilla also is the field-trip coordinator for the Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society North Chapter.

Meetings are sponsored by Save the Dunes and supported by 219 GreenConnect. The suggested donation is \$5, or \$2 for students. Call (219) 210-7513 for more details.

Lubeznik Center Spring Schedule

Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St., will present a spring slate that includes classes, workshops and full-length sessions.

Classes include: Abstract Painting I and II; Adobe Lightroom Basics; Drawing Bootcamp; Watercolor Plus; and Sandcastle Writers.

Workshops include: Fantasy Felted Flowers; Fused Glass; and Life Drawing for Teens.

Programs for young artists include: Drawing for Young Artists; The Creative World of Zine; and Tinker Lab.

Visit tinyurl.com/yahc7j6x for more details.

Museum Lunch Program

La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave., will host its first Brown Bag Lunch from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24.

Guests can take lunches for a program by artist Robert Smith, who will present his drawings of La Porte County railroad stations. The program is free; however, those wishing to stay and tour the museum will be asked to pay admission.

Call (219) 324-6767 or visit www.laportecounty-history.org for more details.



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Chesterton Art Center

The following program is available through Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.:

• **Stephanie Swanson will offer a five-week Beginning Enameling Class starting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23.**

Students will experiment with different techniques of high-firing enamels (finely ground glass powder), mostly working in copper and some sterling silver, which will be provided.

Swanson will encourage participants to try everything, and ask as many questions as possible. The goal is to have at least three completed pieces for each student. Jewelry is the most popular item, but other items such as picture frames, belt buckles and key rings are welcome. Techniques include stenciling, sgraffito, basse-taille, grisaille, champleve, cloisonne and plique-a-jour.

The class cost is \$225, with members receiving a \$25 discount. All supplies are included. There is a maximum number of six students to allow the best possible instruction.

Call (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.com to register or for more details.

Brown Bag Lunch Gardening Series

La Porte County Master Gardeners will present four sessions — two each in Michigan City and La Porte — that focus on gardening.

This year's Brown Bag Gardening Series is:

- Wednesday, Jan. 17, noon-1 p.m. — "Greater Success in Spring," Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.
- Wednesday, Feb. 21, 6:30-7:30 p.m. — "Trees, What You May Not Know," La Porte County Public Library meeting room, 904 Indiana Ave.
- Wednesday, March 14, noon-1 p.m., "A Vegetable Garden: One Man's Journey," Michigan City Public Library.
- Wednesday, April 18, 6:30-7:30 p.m. — "Importance of Bees for Gardens," La Porte County Extension Office, 2857 W. Indiana 2, LaPorte.

Guests can take lunch. The cost is \$5 per session and includes informational handouts, or \$15 for all four sessions. No preregistration is required.

Call Purdue Extension-LaPorte County at (219) 324-9407 or visit www.lpmastergardener.com for details.



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Shirley Heinze Volunteer Workday

Shirley Heinze Land Trust will hold a volunteer workday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 20, at Meadowbrook Nature Preserve and Conservation Center, 109 W. County Road 700 North, Valparaiso.

Volunteers can help staff remove undesirable tree and shrub species using loppers. All personal protective equipment will be provided, along with training on the safe use of tools. Weather permitting, staff may build a bonfire that volunteers may help to feed with previously-cut woody invasive brush.



Volunteers create a burning brush pile at Meadowbrook Nature Preserve.

The workday is appropriate for adults and teens. Participants should dress for the weather. Advance registration is requested by contacting Volunteer Coordinator Katy Botbyl at volunteer@heinzetrust.org or (219) 242-8558.

New Troy Indoor Flea Market

New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road, will host its indoor flea market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST Saturday, Jan. 20.

Admission is free. Antiques, tools, crafts, books, memorabilia, housewares, furniture and locally made treats are planned. A hot lunch will be available.

Vendors interested in reserving a space should contact Donald at (773) 803-9773. Proceeds from space rentals benefit the community center, an all-volunteer facility run by the non-profit Friends of New Troy.

The market season continues the second and third Saturdays of each month through April. A map is available at www.facebook.com/NewTroyFleaMarket

La Porte County Public Library

La Porte County Public Library will present a program to assist people with new devices from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 23, at the Coolspring branch, 6925 W. County Road 400 North.

Customers can take new devices and "unwrap" all of their technology, learning what free services the library has, such as eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines.



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Jan. 9, 2018

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1. Diagonal Divas
2. Blue Shoes
2. Wrecking Balls
2. Pin Ball Wizards
2. Lucky Lefties

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4	0
4	0
3	0
3	0
3	0
3	0

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES

1. Mary Lou McFadden
2. Cindy Beck
3. Barb Macudzinski
4. Dottie Brinckman
5. Diana Holt
6. June Salmon
7. Peggy King
7. Susan OConor
8. Sarah Blank (series)

SCORE

- 209
- 187
- 175
- 160
- 154
- 153
- 151
- 151
- 412

SPLITS

1. Sue Luegers
2. Jean St. Peter
3. Sarah Blank
4. Mary Lou McFadden

- 5-6
- 9-10
- 6-7
- 4-5, 5-6

FIVE STRIKES

Mary Lou McFadden

More bowlers are invited when teams meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesdays at City Lanes.

ICS Used Book Sale

Independent Cat Society will present its annual used book sale Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 20-21, at Loyal Order of Moose, 108 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 20 and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 21. The event includes books, ICS merchandise and baked goods. Book donations can be dropped off at the shelter, 4061 S. County Line Road, Westville, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. during the week.

Email shelter@catsociety.org, call (219) 785-4936 or visit www.facebook.com/INCatSociety for more information.



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Sherwood Snyder: A Retrospective

"Sherwood Snyder: A Retrospective" runs Jan. 19-March 3, with an opening reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. EST Friday, Jan. 19, at Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

Though he spent four years in the U.S. Navy and some 32 years teaching theater on the university level, Snyder, now 89, was never far from his studio, where he carved out a second career creating maquettes for larger sculptures, designing carpet and needlepoint canvases for some major firms, working on assemblages composed of made and found objects, and designing settings and costumes for more than 90 theater productions.

All three galleries will be filled with Snyder's work. An artist talk is at 6 p.m. EST during the reception. Call (269) 983-3688 or visit boxfactoryforthearts.org for more details.



Sherwood Snyder displays one of his assemblages with made and found objects.



The American Red Cross La Porte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:

- Seventh-day Adventist La Porte, 1480 Boyd Blvd., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18.
- St. John Kanty, 7012 N. County Road 600 East, Rolling Prairie, 1 to 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22.

Donors must be in good general health and feeling well, at least 17 (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 110 pounds. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org for more details.

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Activities to Explore

In the Area:

Jan. 18 — Bookmarks at the Museum, 2 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

Jan. 18 — A.A. Milne's Birthday Celebration, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth S. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 18 — Books That Make You Think Discussion Group, Saul Bellow's "The Adventures of Augie March," 6-7:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

Jan. 18 — Northwest Indiana Green Drinks in Michigan City, 6:30 p.m., Shoreline Brewery, 208 Wabash St. Suggested donation: \$5, \$2/students. Info: (219) 210-7513.

Jan. 19 — Bookmarks: Gordon S. Wood's "Friends Divided: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth S. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 19 — T.J. Kalin discussion, "The Red Cross Meets the Mansion," 5:30 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Free-will offering. Info: www.barkermansion.com

Jan. 19 & 26, Feb. 2 — Indiana Historical Society traveling exhibit, "The Great War: From Ration Lines to the Front Lines," 5-7 p.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Free-will offering. Info: www.barkermansion.com

Jan. 20 — Birding with the Indiana Audubon Society, 8-10 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 20 — Geocache Adventure, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., nature center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 20 — Stewardship Program — Sugar Maple Research, 1-3 p.m., Chellberg Farm, Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

Jan. 20 — The Tony Stanzas (improv), 8 p.m., 4th Street Theater, 125 N. Fourth St., Chesterton. Tickets: \$10. Info: 4thstreetncca.com, (219) 926-7875.

Jan. 20 — The Chicago Experience with opener Dina Bach, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$30. Info: www.acorntheater.com, (269) 756-3879.

Jan. 21 — Winter Mount Baldy Hike, 1-3 p.m., Mount Baldy parking lot off U.S. 12 west of Michigan City. Info: (219) 926-1390.

Jan. 21 — Author William Hazelgrove: "Al Capone and the 1933 World's Fair," 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth S. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Jan. 22 — Monday Musicales open meeting, 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Scholarship fund donations welcome. Info: (219) 874-3754, (219) 362-1421.

Jan. 24 — Brown Bag Lunch, noon-1 p.m., La Porte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. Free. Info: www.laportecountyhistory.org, (219) 324-6767.

Jan. 24 — “Rajasthan India: 30 Years to the Present,” 6:30-7:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

In the Region

Jan. 19-21 — “Little Women,” Elkhart Civic Theatre at Bristol (Ind.) Opera House, 210 E. Vistula St. Times (eastern): 7 p.m. Jan. 19-20/3 p.m. Jan. 21. Cost: \$14/adults, \$12/students. Reservations: (574) 848-4116, or elkhartcivictheatre.org

Jan. 19-March 3 — “Sherwood Snyder: A Retrospective,” Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Reception: 5:30-7:30 p.m. EST Jan. 19. Info: www.boxfactoryforthearts.org, (269) 983-3688.

Jan. 20 — Indoor flea market, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free. Info: www.facebook.com/NewTroyFleaMarket

Through Jan. 21 — Cracker Jack exhibit, “Toys Across Time,” Fernwood Botanical Garden & Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Info: www.fernwoodbotanical.org, (269) 695-6491.

Through Feb. 25 — “Here and There: Intimate and Large Scale Views in Photography,” Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St., Elkhart. Info: (574) 293-6660, www.MidwestMuseum.US

Support Groups

Mondays — Codependents Anonymous (CoDA), 6 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (219) 879-3817.

Mondays, Fridays — Overeaters Anonymous, 7 p.m. Mon./Franciscan St. Anthony Health, 301 W. Homer St., 9 a.m. Fri./First United Methodist Church, 121 E. Seventh St. Info: <https://oa.org>, (219) 879-0300.

Wednesdays — Alzheimer’s/Dementia Support Group for Caregivers, 2 p.m., third Wednesday of each month, Rittenhouse Senior Living, 4300 Cleveland Ave. Info: (888) 303-0180.

Wednesdays — Al-Anon meetings, 6-7 p.m., Franciscan Alliance-St. Anthony Health. Info: (708) 927-5287.

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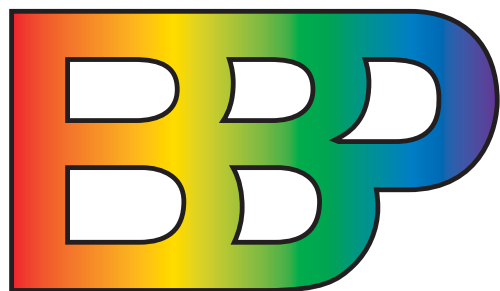
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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY



On January 18, 1788, the first English settlers arrived in Australia's Botany Bay to establish a penal colony.

On January 18, 1911, pilot Eugene Ely landed his plane on the deck of the USS Pennsylvania, anchored in San Francisco Bay, for the first successful landing of an aircraft on the deck of a ship.

On January 18, 1912, an expedition led by English explorer Robert Scott reached the South Pole, only to discover that Roald Amundsen had arrived there first. Scott and his party died during the return trip.

On January 18, 1975, the situation comedy "The Jeffersons," a spin-off from "All in the Family," premiered on CBS.

On January 18, 2005, the world's largest commercial jet, an Airbus A380 that can carry 800 passengers, was unveiled in Toulouse, France.

On January 19, 1903, the first regular transatlantic radio broadcast was sent between Cape Cod, Mass, and Cornwall, England.

On January 19, 1918, Dr. Herbert Kalmus was granted a patent for filming motion pictures in color. It was first used in a film titled "The Gulf Between."

On January 19, 1937, Howard Hughes set a transcontinental air record when he flew across the United States in slightly more than 7 hours and 28 minutes.

On January 19, 2005, the American Cancer Society reported that cancer had passed heart disease as the top killer of Americans age 85 and younger.

On January 20, 1929, the first sound movie to be filmed outdoors, "In Old Arizona," was released.

On January 20, 1941, Franklin Roosevelt became the first American to be inaugurated for a third term as president.

On January 20, 1945, President Franklin Roosevelt was sworn into office for a fourth term.

On January 20, 1982, George Hallas named Mike Ditka to be the new head coach of the Chicago Bears.

On January 20, 1986, Martin Luther King Day was observed as a federal holiday for the first time.

On January 20, 2004, The Salvation Army announced a donation likely to exceed \$1.5 billion from the estate of Joan Kroc, widow of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc.

On January 21, 1908, New York passed an ordinance prohibiting women from smoking in public. The penalty was a fine of \$5 to \$25, or imprisonment for up to 10 days.

On January 21, 1915, the Kiwanis Club was founded in Detroit.

On January 21, 1919, 35,000 New York garment workers went on strike for a 44 hour week. The success of this strike was pivotal in the improvement of industrial working conditions.

On January 21, 1954, the Nautilus, the world's first atomic-powered submarine, was launched at New London, CT.

On January 21, 1979, in the highest scoring game in the Super Bowl's brief history, the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Dallas Cowboys 35 to 31.

On January 22, 1789, the first American novel, "The Power of Sympathy," was published. It was a story of lust, seduction, incest and suicide, and set the pattern for American novels of the day.

On January 22, 1907, the premiere of the Richard Strauss opera, *Salome*, with its "Dance of the Seven Veils," inspired vaudeville performers everywhere to do their version of the "naughty" dance. Directors of the Metropolitan Opera were so shocked by the opera that they prohibited further performances by the Met.

On January 22, 1938, Thornton Wilder's play "Our Town," made its debut, in Princeton, N.J.

On January 22, 1968, "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In" premiered on NBC.

On January 23, 1789, Georgetown University was established at the future site of the nation's capital.

On January 23, 1845, Congress mandated that national elections should take place on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

On January 23, 1849, Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman to receive a degree in medicine. A native of Bristol, England, her degree was awarded by the Medical Institution of Geneva, N.Y.

On January 23, 1977, the popular television miniseries "Roots," based on Alex Haley's novel, began airing on ABC.

On January 24, 1848, gold was discovered on the California property of John A. Sutter, leading to the famous "California Gold Rush," as well as to the infamous "forty-niners."

On January 24, 1908, the first public meeting of the Boy Scouts, founded by England's Robert Baden-Powell, took place in London.

On January 24, 1916, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the federal income tax was constitutional.

On January 24, 1986, photos from Voyager 2 revealed 10 previously unknown moons were in orbit around Uranus.

On January 24, 2004, NASA's Opportunity rover landed on Mars, arriving at the Red Planet three weeks after its identical twin's landing.

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La Porte County Parks

All registrations/questions go through the Red Mill County Park Administrative Office, 0185 S. Holmesville Road, La Porte. Call (219) 325-8315 or visit www.laportecountyparks.org for more details.

Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers. Enjoy music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking.

The free program is from 10 to 11 a.m. Jan. 22 and 29, Feb. 12 and 26, March 12 and 19, and April 2, 16 and 30 at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Call (219) 325-8315 at least one week in advance to register.

Breakfast with the Birds

Enjoy breakfast treats while watching birds at the bird-feeding station from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

The free program is open to all ages. Registration is not required. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tea Party

Take a favorite cup and enjoy tea or lemonade with the animals from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at Luhr County Park Nature Center.

The program, which includes a storyteller, continental breakfast, arts and crafts, is aimed at children 4 and older accompanied by an adult. The cost is \$15 per couple and \$5 for each additional child.

Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first.

Parent & Child Discovery Days

The program includes arts and crafts, games and snacks. All activities are related to the topic. Programs are appropriate for children 3 to 8, with an adult required to participate. Times are from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at Luhr County Park. The cost is \$5 per child/per program. Pre-registration and payment are required at least one week in advance or until full, whichever comes first.

The schedule is:

- Jan. 24 — Home Sweet Home.
- Feb. 7 — Turtle Talk.
- Feb. 21 — Hello Down There.
- March 7 — Hard Working Animals.
- March 21 — Did You Call Me?
- April 11 — When It Rains It Pours.
- April 25 — Fantastic Fish.

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**Prayer to the Blessed Virgin**

(Never known to fail.)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the 'Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in

this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in Eternal Glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.



Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

The Midnight Line by Lee Child
(hardcover, \$28.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

The Washington Post calls Jack Reacher “one of the century’s most original, tantalizing pop-fiction heroes.” And now, 20-some books later, Lee Child is still keeping him at the top of the genre and *The New York Times* bestselling lists. No small feat.

This is my first Jack Reacher novel, and I was impressed by the intricate storyline that speaks to current events in a thoughtful, insightful way.

Jack Reacher: Ex-military. Graduate of West Point. Former major in the military police. Current occupation — wanderer.

The story opens in Milwaukee. Reacher spends three days there with Michelle Chang, but she understands him more than he understands himself as he awakens to an empty bed and a note: “*You’re like New York City. I love to visit, but I could never live there.*” Time to get on the next bus...to where?

North, to the top of Wisconsin and a small town where he stops to stretch his legs. He browses at a pawn shop window and is surprised to find a West Point class ring on display — class of 2005 with the initials S.R.S. It is clearly a woman’s ring and begs many questions.

“Not a tribute, not a souvenir. It was the real deal. A cadet’s own ring, earned over four hard years. Worn with pride. Obviously. If you weren’t proud of the place, you didn’t buy a ring. It wasn’t compulsory.”

When questioned where he got the ring, the pawn shop owner says only from a biker in town with the moniker of Jimmy Rat. At the only bar in town with a row of Harleys in front, Reacher manages to persuade Jimmy and a few of his friends to give him the name of the man in Rapid City, S.D., who gave him the ring. Information is not forthcoming until Reacher has a little “conversation” in the parking lot with Jimmy and company. I never said the story lacked any physical play!

What happens next takes Reacher to Rapid City to an innocent-looking laundromat run by a shady character named Arthur Scorpio. A few well-placed questions to Scorpio (it might involve throwing the man in the dryer if he doesn’t answer) to the wide open spaces of Wyoming. It’s become obvious to Reacher he is following a line of “couriers” running...what? The second obvious observation is that it must be drugs.

How many more people must Reacher go through



to find this woman?! Apparently, he’s now in for the long haul. Time doesn’t matter, only the obsessive need to get to the bottom of this woman’s story.

When he finally catches up with the elusive Serena Rose Sanderson, he begins to understand...He understands her war wounds more than most doctors. He understands her need for privacy, and her need for drugs.

There are several people working at cross purposes to Reacher: A Rapid City police detective looking to find a drug trail, and a private investigator named Bramall, hired by Serena’s sister to find her. Will these two prove helpful? Or will they send the couriers into coverup mode and Serena deeper

into hiding?

There are several themes here that Child explores with a storyline that could be printed in the next copy of *Time* magazine. Through Serena’s story, he explains, with realism and no saccharine, the plight of soldiers returning from the Middle East with trauma to body and mind, and finding no one to understand what was taken from them. Then, he explores the opioid explosion in this country, the rise of drug trafficking criss-crossing cities and state lines, feeding a never-satisfied appetite the drugs gladly provide.

But what about the Serenas? What if an illegal drug can be the only thing that makes her put one more foot in front of the other? When will we begin to realize the Serenas coming out of the military need more than just a pat on the back and a nice parade? They need real help that will make their sacrifice worth it.

The best recommendation I can give for this book is that I will probably read it again. I enjoyed it that much...and it made me think, really think, about the opioid explosion.

The Chicago Tribune calls *The Midnight Line* “a gem.”

Publishers Weekly (starred review): “Child makes his narrative entirely credible — and compulsively readable.”

Child is the author of 21 other Jack Reacher novels, all *New York Times* bestsellers, with 12 reaching the No. 1 position. All his novels have been optioned for major motion pictures, and foreign rights in the Reacher series have sold in 100 territories. Child is a native of England and a former TV director. He now lives in New York City. Website: leechild.com; FB: [LeeChildOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/leechildofficial); Twitter: [@LeeChildReacher](https://twitter.com/leechildreacher)

Till next time, happy reading!

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Zach has spent time as a board member with the Michigan City Mainstreet Association (responsible for branding the Uptown Arts District and organizing events such as Taste of Michigan City and Shelf Ice Brewfest), where he worked closely with a wonderful group of visionaries on shaping the future of the heart of the city he loves. You will enjoy his fun-loving personality, while taking advantage of his lifelong experience, negotiation skills, knowledge and pride of the Michigan City area.

Zach is a hard-working member of the community, dedicated to improving the quality of life for all residents and visitors. Choose a Realtor who lives in the community where he works, one who will place your real-estate needs at the forefront of importance.



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