



Volume 33, Number 3 Thursday, January 26, 2017

## The Battle of Trail Creek

by William Halliar

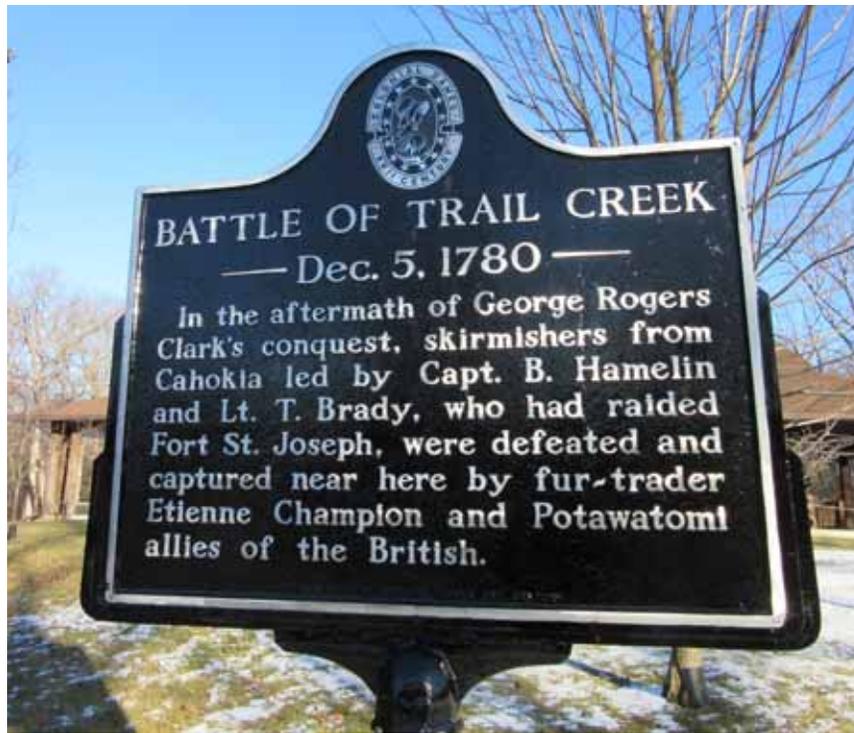
Sometimes, if we think about it at all, history is a hazy “something” that unfolded many years ago in a “someplace” far away, and to people of strange cultures and traditions, not at all related to the here and now.

We do not consider that these same skies that bestow rain, snow and sunshine once knew the tread of moccasin-clad feet. The land beneath our sturdy shoes, now covered by paved roads, shopping centers and manicured lawns, once rever-

berated with the thunder of black powder guns that echoed through virgin forests as forces struggled to possess the land and resources of the great Midwest. Through battle and struggles small and great, the blood of patriots was spilled and soaked into the sands of the dunes we now call home.

The Battle of Trail Creek, or the Battle of the Dunes, is a subject that has long fascinated me. A desperate fight that took place in the winter of 1780, right here on our lakefront and in the forests and dunes near our homes.

As with any tale told and retold, there are various versions and interesting tidbits that come to light with research. Some true, some likely legend, but all should be considered. Some accounts stick to the facts. Some are embellished, adding a bit of the flare



A marker at Michigan City's Krueger Memorial Park honors the events of Dec. 5, 1780. Photo by William Halliar.

of the storyteller.

This is the fun of studying history.

The bones of the account I relate in this tale are drawn from the following sources: The writings of Mrs. Robert C. Munger, author of Michigan City's First Hundred Years and one-time state chairman of Restoration and Marking of Historic Sites in Indiana. I will simply refer to her as Munger.

A 1949 account from a wrinkled and yellow unidentified newspaper found in the archives at Michigan City Pub-

lic Library, much of the text of which, it claims, was borrowed from an *Outdoor Indiana* article of that same year. Many of the articles snipped from papers and preserved in the archives of the library do not identify the paper from which they came or the date in which they were published. I will refer to this source as “the newspaper.”

And, finally, a portion of a chapter from the book Forgotten Tales & Treasures You Can Find, written by a retired deputy sheriff of Clarksville, Ind., Carroll Basil, and his son, Robert Basil. These quotes will be accredited to “Basil.”

Other sources also will be referred to in the following recounting of the tale.

I have attempted to “tease out” the true history

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## *The Battle of Trail Creek* Continued from Page 1

from these and other accounts, but it must be said contemporary accounts of the incident vary as well. It seems opposing factions in 1780 were jostling for credit and blame in the matter. The reader and serious researcher must judge the veracity of the texts for themselves.

The year was 1780, amid the American War for Independence, critical years for what, at that time, was called “the west”: our very own Midwest as we know it today. The United States was not a single entity, as it came to be, each colony operated as a separate government loosely united by a Continental Congress.

George Rogers Clark, a Virginian and frontiersman known as “long knife” among the Native Americans, traveled to Williamsburg, the capital of the colony of Virginia. His idea was to persuade leaders there on a plan to capture the British-held towns north of the Ohio River in the west, then to capture Detroit for the American cause.



George Rogers Clark.

Clark was commissioned as a lieutenant colonel and with 175 recruits from the state was authorized to capture as many of the towns as possible, including Detroit. In 1778, Clark and his men took Vincennes and Kaskaskia without bloodshed. The area became known as “The county of Illinois in the state of Virginia.”

The British still held Detroit, the fort at Mackinac, Fort St. Joseph and the St. Joseph River, among many other important towns in the region.

At the time, British, Spanish, French and Native Americans called the area home. The Americans and British each struggled to gain the allegiance of the other inhabitants.

As an interesting aside: In 1779, French Maj. Godfrey DeLinctot was assisting George Rogers Clark at Cahokia as American commissioner to the Indians. It was his responsibility to keep the Indians in the Great Lakes area from forming an alliance with the British.

Aiding DeLinctot was Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sauble, who was living in a cabin along Trail Creek (near where Michigan City would be built), or *Riviere du Chemen*, as the French called it, at the time.



Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sauble. Du Sauble, born of a French father and an African slave mother, was captured by the British and questioned about his dealings with the French, who were American allies in the war. He eventually left the region, travelled west and established a fur trading post on what would be known as the Chicago River in 1784. He is generally celebrated today as being the founder of that city.

In 1789 and again in 1780, the British made several failed attempts to recapture Vincennes and Kaskaskia, which were under American control with the French residents as allies. On one such foray, a portion of the town of Cahokia was burned to the ground by British regulars.

The inhabitants of the town and surrounding area were incensed and organized an armed party to retaliate, a reaction reminiscent of Billy Mitchell's raid on mainland Japan during World War II.

Here is where accounts begin to vary.

Munger's account says “a group of some sixteen, or so, Americans, and Frenchmen form Cahokia, led by Captain Baptiste Hamlin and Lieutenant Tom Brady, made a bold attempt to raid Fort St. Joseph, located where Niles Michigan is today.”

It must be remembered that the distance between Cahokia and Niles is more than 600 miles traversed on foot or in part on horseback. The adventure took place in the dead of winter at a time when typical clothing consisted of no more than buckskin, Indian blankets and some animal furs and skins.

The account by the aforementioned “newspaper” reads, “*Wild Irishman Brady induced 20 French-Americans, Creoles and a few Indians from around Cahokia and Kaskaskia to join him in an expedition against the fort.*”

In a letter dated Jan. 8, 1781, from Maj. De Peyster of Fort St. Joseph to Gov. Haldimand of Quebec, states, “A detachment from the Cahokias consisting of sixteen men only commanded by a half Indiana

John Baptist Hammelaine, timed it so as to arrive at St. Joseph with pack horses when the Indians were out on their first hunt, an old chief and his family excepted. They took the traders prisoners and carried off all of the goods consisting at least of fifty bales and took the rout of chicagou" (spelling and grammar are Peyster's).

Carroll Basil calls the raiders a group of French Canadian "thieves." The newspaper article continues, "Brady's little army followed the Sauk trail up through La Porte County." Munger says that "the British Commander of the district, Lieutenant Dagreux Du Quindre, was evidently not attending his post."

As the paper continues, Dagreux and his Indian allies were "off on a hunting expedition."

The raiders, or thieves, led by a "wild Irishman," or a reserved Capt. Baptiste Hamlin (depending on which account you prefer), sacked, plundered and burned Fort St. Joseph and loaded themselves with booty. This included, according to our unknown newspaper source, "bottles of whiskey and wine which they drank as they pushed through the woods towards the shore of Lake Michigan."



A French map from about 1600 of the Great Lakes region.

Basil adds to the intrigue and lore of the story by adding that "they sacked and burned the post, seizing several bales of valuable furs and an undetermined amount of gold."

Of the three accounts cited and numerous others perused, Basil's is the only one to mention gold. Though it might be a logical assumption that since Fort St. Joseph was a trading post, rich with furs, there had to be a quantity of gold on hand as well to purchase the furs from local trappers. The raiders would have been aware of this and made sure to find the stash and carry it along as well.

The little raiding party made its escape, some say in stealth and some say with a high hand of celebration. The newspaper account states the raiding party also captured a group of Indian women as slaves, and "as they reached the lake, about the present site of New Buffalo, they made a queer procession. Vic-

Continued on Page 4

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the Governor of Canada, Frederick Haldimand of Quebec. This correspondence, as well as the letters of other officers involved, is preserved in the Michigan Pioneer Collection, Vol. IX and X, and may be found fully quoted in the October, 1917, Journal of the Illinois Historical Society.”

The location of the Dec. 4, 1780, campsite was, as our newspaper article states, “at the present site of Michigan City, where Trail Creek flowed over sandbars into the blue lake waters.”

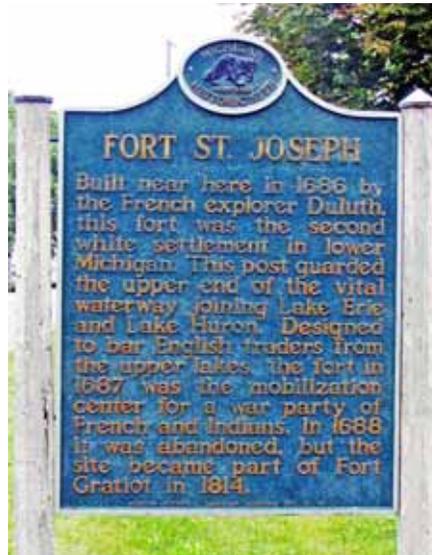
Carroll Basil continues his account: “Baptiste told the men, in case we are being followed we will bury the gold tonight. Tomorrow we will divide it and the fur then each man can go on his own way.” The gold and furs were buried, and the raiders and their Indian captives bedded down for the night on the frozen banks of Trail Creek.

By the morning of Dec. 5, 1780, Etienne Champion and his Potawatomies had overtaken the encamped group of American raiders.

The newspaper states, “Cautiously the Indians had crept through the wooded dunes south of the shore...From the cover of foliage they took careful

aim...careful not to hit their squaws.”

A warning was shouted, and the raiders were told to put down their arms. Seeing that they would not surrender, the Indians opened fire. Baptiste and another man were killed in the first volley (Basil). Basil also claims that after this first volley, the raiders surrendered, but other accounts disagree.



The newspaper account says Brady returned fire. He “formed his men into a group and they pressed west as fast as they could go returning the Indians fire.” Munger says, “It was a running fight which probably started at the spring or a fording place.” Another unidentified news article says the spring was located in an Indian council ground along Trail Creek.

Since fire was coming from behind brush and trees. Bradley guessed, correctly, that he was fighting Indians and not the main British force. The British would have charged with bayonets. He knew he would have to travel fast or his men would be overtaken by the pursuing British. The Indians slowed the Americans by concentrating fire in front of their march (newspaper).

Continued on Page 6

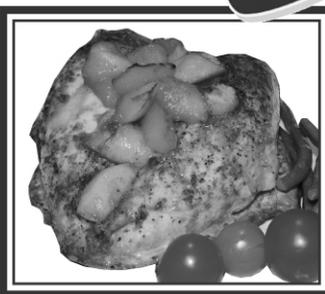


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## The Battle of Trail Creek Continued from Page 5

A final stand was taken atop the highest dune in the area. This dune is in what is now Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. It was later named Mount Tom in honor of Brady and his brave stand.



The stairs ascending Mount Tom.  
Beacher file photo by Kevin Scott.

*dune which today bears his given name. The booty was piled in the middle. Time again the Indians and the British charged up the sides of the sandy slopes. Each time they were met by withering fire from the American raiding party, all of whom were hunters and expert shots"*

The newspaper continues, "A final charge carried over the top of Mount Tom and only seven Americans survived. They were taken prisoner."

Again quoting from Maj. De Peyster's letter of Jan. 8, 1781, to Gov. Haldimand of Quebec, on overtaking the raiders, "They were summoned to surrender, on their refusing to do so, he (Etienne Champion) ordered the Indians to attack them. Without loss of a man on this side (the newspaper account mentions heavy British losses) he killed four wounded two and took seven prisoners, the other three escaped in the thick woods."

De Peyster's account continues: "I look upon those gentry as robbers and not prisoners of war." None-

theless, since Brady had no commission as an officer in the regular army, he was sentenced to be executed.

What was the outcome of the events of December 1780? Munger says, "The skirmish, though small, had a psychological effect upon the Indians as well



The marker at the top of Mount Tom that recognizes Lt. Tom Brady.

The newspaper account states, "Brady arranged his men in a square on top of the big sand

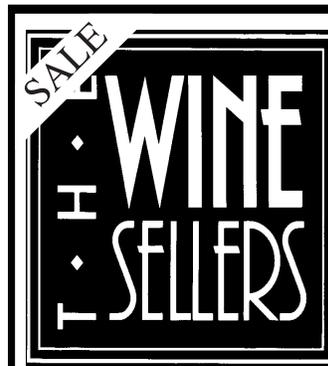
*as the Americans and led to a second and larger raid on Fort St. Joseph in 1781."*

In the end, of course, because of the efforts of George Rogers Clark, and brave men like Tom Brady and his raiders, the British ceded the entire Northwest Territory to the United States in 1783 at the Treaty of Paris.

What happened to Tom Brady, the "Wild Irishman"? Was he executed? Old Tom escaped the British and returned to Cahokia. He was welcomed as a hero and in 1799 was elected sheriff.

And what of the gold looted from Fort St. Joseph? Like the battle whose commemorative plaque is not even mentioned in a listing of Indiana's historical markers, it is all but forgotten. According to Basil, "the lost gold was put into the army records and soon forgotten."

Perhaps it is still buried, somewhere, on the banks of Trail Creek, waiting to be discovered. Perhaps it never existed, but the truth is out there, and possibilities are tantalizing.



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Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln" remains an extraordinary achievement, its most indelible mark left by Daniel Day-Lewis as the nation's 16th president. It's astonishing, actually. So entirely did the actor inhabit every muscle of that man's body, his vocal cadence, his weary heartache, it almost felt like Spielberg's camera had slipped back in time, quietly providing a glimpse of the man himself amid the last four months of his life.

I had the same sensation watching Natalie Portman in Pablo Larraín's "Jackie." Prior to this picture, 15 actresses portrayed Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis on the big and small screens. None rival the astounding intensity the "Black Swan" Oscar winner achieves. In many ways, the former First Lady remains a fascinating mystery, but Portman unleashes the definitive portrayal. At times, it feels like the director's camera contains found footage. We leave "Jackie" not only with a better grasp of her, but admiring the way she defied those eager to dismiss her as presidential arm candy.



Natalie Portman's performance as Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis exists as the definitive portrayal.

The film exists among a new breed of Hollywood biopics that dares not to encapsulate an entire life into a mere two hours. Instead, like "Lincoln" and "Selma" before it, "Jackie" places under a microscope a precise period in time, using key events to dissect the character of its subject. In this case, it is the four days between John F. Kennedy's assassination and burial. By doing so, Larraín, a Chilean filmmaker making his English-language debut, and screenwriter Noah Oppenheim, reveal a brittle First Lady who is alternately controlling, vulnerable, misunderstood and, ultimately, grace under fire.

Larraín intersperses actual footage with recreations of Air Force One, rooms within the White House, that fateful day on Nov. 22, 1963, and the stately funeral of which Jackie insisted for her husband. The effect is so seamless, it evokes the sensation of truth.

The framework for "Jackie" is an interview between the former First Lady and American political journalist and historian Theodore White (Billy Crudup). Larraín trains his camera directly on Port-



Billy Crudup co-stars as American political journalist and historian Theodore White.

man's face. He wants us to peer directly into this woman's soul. A lesser actress might have cracked. That Portman never flinches suggests she could have a lock on her second Best Actress Oscar. Previous interpretations of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, on average, have been merely cosmetic: the hair, the clothes. Portman, by comparison, *becomes* her. Clinging to lit cigarettes as if they're the only apparatus holding her together, Portman's voice wavers between tremulous grief and heartbreaking dignity, her eyes ablaze with exhaustion. In flawless recreations of her famous White House tour, the actress masters Jackie's breathy, starstruck delivery to where, replay the actual footage afterward, attempting to detect the differences is near futile.

As Jackie frequently attempts to take the helm of her interview with White, Portman suggests a woman intensely aware of how the public perceived her, and how, in many cases, that image was manipulated by the press.

But "Jackie" is more than just about mimicry for Portman. The film does not shy away from the "Camelot" references history associates with the Kennedy dynasty, but what Portman argues through her performance is this: why shouldn't a president and his First Lady create an air of majesty about the leader of the free world? A U.S. president is as close to royalty as this country gets. America deserves a White House that speaks of class and, more importantly, respect for tradition...and when that president is unexpectedly, and senselessly, taken from us, his burial merits all the pomp and circumstance it deserves.

Watching Portman, as Jackie, summon every ounce of grace and courage to defy demands for Kennedy's final farewell, you are more than inclined to agree with her.

This was *the* performance of 2016.

## When Art

by Andrew Tallackson

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Previous interpretations of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, on average, have been merely cosmetic: the hair, the



"Jackie" boasts flawless recreations of the rooms inside the White House.

# Imitates Life

In a way, Michael Keaton's career has been a fixed journey toward "The Founder." Right out of the gate with 1982's "Night Shift" — his first film and Ron Howard's directorial debut — the nimble actor illustrated a talent for playing slick, irrepressible motormouths.

When we first meet his vision of McDonalds franchise mastermind

Ray Kroc, he's a snake oil salesman with a conscience, peddling milkshake makers to mom-and-pop drive-in diners, his in-your-face sales pitch the result of one-too-many motivational records. By the film's end, he's Gordon Gekko incarnate, a whirlwind of a man bored by anyone resistant to success.

It's quite a performance. Chilling, in fact, by the end. Director John Lee Hancock ("The Blind Side," "Saving Mr. Banks"), working from a shrewd script by Robert Siegel ("The Wrestler"), taps into all of Keaton's gifts for what starts as engaging time-capsule entertainment, then emerges as a hold-no-punches commentary on the American success story.

The movie is called "The Founder" for a reason. It charts the birth of the fast-food concept as envisioned by two brothers, Mac and Dick McDonald, whose drive-in burger joint in San Bernadino, Calif., captures the interests of Kroc in 1954. The brothers are wonderfully played by character actors John Carroll Lynch and Nick Offerman who, in the film's most delightful sequence, share their backstory with Kroc, revealing how, by chalking the outlines of a potential fast-food restaurant workspace on a tennis court, they mapped out precisely how one might thrive, choreographing staff from station to station until settling on the ideal scenario. The result: burger, fries and a soft drink in 30 seconds...and costing 35 cents, no less.

Kroc enters into a legal agreement with the brothers to expand McDonalds as a franchise, first in Kroc's home state of Illinois. After a few snags, the concept takes off.

What "The Founder" captures is a delicate, but crucial shift in the American business model, when restaurants capitalized on the trend of families crav-



"The Founder" introduces Ray Kroc (Michael Keaton) as the equivalent of a snake-oil salesman with a conscience.

ing meals together, but having less time to do so. As the McDonalds brothers, Lynch and Offerman create two honest, extremely likable guys whose sole flaw, if it was one, the movie suggests, was the failure to dream big. They were content with being a small-town success. Kroc was not. As the brothers fought him tooth and nail on every pending change, Kroc's vision — persistence = success — takes over. By the end, Kroc hasn't embraced the American dream. He's *devoured* it whole, plowing past the McDonalds brothers without looking back.

What's startling about Keaton's performance during the final act is how unyielding it is. Realizing his wife Ethel (Laura Dern) isn't on the same page with his career ambitions, but Joan Smith (Linda Cardellini), the wife of a supportive restaurant owner, is, Kroc divorces Ethel and eventually marries Joan. The McDonalds brothers? Buy them out, claim their concepts — the name, the trademark Golden Arches — as his creation.

Digesting all of this is like downing an acidic cocktail. Who doesn't have childhood memories of wolfing down a McDonalds hamburger? At the end, Keaton doesn't suggest Kroc sold his soul to the devil entirely — he hesitates, briefly, when rehearsing a speech that heralds himself as the chain's founder — but argues he came awfully close...because that's what the American dream required of him.

Whether that is a meal American audiences are willing to consume remains to be seen. Regardless, it, and Keaton, are a sight to behold.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)



Nick Offerman (left) and John Carroll Lynch are wonderful as the McDonald brothers, whose business relationship with Ray Kroc rapidly disintegrates.

## In Next Week's Edition

A breakdown of the 2016 Oscar nominees, and our ballot for the second "Best the Editor" contest.



By the end of "The Founder," Michael Keaton has transformed Ray Kroc into Gordon Gekko incarnate.

## WinterFest Returns With Local Favorites, New Additions

The annual WinterFest, organized by the La Porte Park and Recreation Department, returns this weekend with many popular events and a few new twists.

The events kick off with ice sculpture demonstrations, presented by Downtown La Porte and local businesses and organizations, at 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, at the new Plaza 618.



Family Ceramics kicks off Saturday's schedule of WinterFest activities.  
Beacher file photo by Bob Wellinski

Family Ceramics runs from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 28, on the lower level of La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Participants can paint seasonal gifts such as snowmen, Valentine's Day boxes and figurines, even spring items such as Easter eggs. The \$5 cost includes paints and brushes, but not the bisque item for decorating. All children must have a parent or guardian present.

Families can design and build a person-powered, corrugated cardboard sled capable of withstanding the descent down the Kesling Park Sledding Hill for the WinterFest Cardboard Sled Race from 1 to 2

p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28. The event is free, but registration is required.

The "Snowball Softball" Adult Coed Tournament returns to Lions Field at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28. The double-elimination tournament is limited to the first eight teams to register. National Softball Association coed rules apply. Team awards for first, second and third place, and individual awards for first place, will be awarded. The cost is \$165 per team.

Breakfast with the Birds, sponsored by La Porte County Parks, is from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West. No pre-registration is required for the program open to all ages; however, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Instructor Becca Masters will lead a free Yoga at the Civic class, with all skill levels welcome, from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Civic's lower level. Donations will be accepted to support the park department's Youth Scholarship Program.

The first WinterFest Chili Cookoff is from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at Cummings Lodge in Soldiers Memorial Park. The public can begin sampling entrees at 12:30 p.m. by paying a \$5 fee, while children 10 and younger are free.

Free horse-drawn carriage rides are from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, in Soldiers Memorial Park. After a trot through the park, hot chocolate will be available at Cummings Lodge.

A free Barre Class — workouts designed to create dancer-like physique — with Masters, a certified instructor, are from 3 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, in the Civic's lower level. Donations will be accepted to support the park department's Youth Scholarship Program.

Visit [tinyurl.com/hf43neb](http://tinyurl.com/hf43neb) or call (219) 326-9600 for registration and more details.



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### Horizon Bank Bestows \$20,000 to Gardens



Horizon Bank has donated \$20,000 to Friendship Botanic Gardens, 2055 E. U.S. 12, helping fund a new garden dedicated to cancer patients and their families. Steve Kring (right), Horizon Bank's La Porte County market president, officially presented a check to the FBG board of directors on Nov. 29. The funds also will help improve the electrical infrastructure at the U.S. 12 entrance, where a new digital sign broadcasts the nonprofit organization's events to passing motorists.



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## Michigan City Public Library

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

- **STEAM Ahead Kids: Winter Craft at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26.**

Children 5-12 can create a winter craft, with all materials provided. Children must be present to receive materials.

- **Renaissance City of Art: Lesson from Rome at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29.**

Matt Kubik, Purdue University professor emeritus, will discuss how lessons learned from the streets of Rome could transform Michigan City into a "Renaissance city of art."



Trained as an architect, Kubik retired to Michigan City after 30 years of teaching courses in art, architecture and urban form at Purdue University Fort Wayne. He also serves on the Michigan City Public Art Committee.

- **Story Time at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31.**

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

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

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## CISV Bake Sale



Members of the junior branch of the Michigan City-Lakeshore CISV chapter participated in a cookie bake Sunday, Jan. 8. Members, who range in age from 11 to 21, gather every year to bake cookies for families living in non-traditional housing. The Jan. 8 effort included about 30 youth from Michigan City, La Porte, New Buffalo and Chesterton baking hundreds of cookies that were delivered to Stepping Stone Shelter, Sandcastle Shelter and the First Presbyterian Church soup kitchen.

## Monday Musicale

Open to members and guests, Monday Musicale's January program, "Gospel Music and Indiana," is at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 30, at First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St.

Chaired by Kathy Chase, the program is the fourth in a series that commemorates Indiana's bicentennial. Joining her are vocalists Sue Cassler, Kathi Jones, Joe Stewart, Felicia Thomas (also on trumpet) and Karol Valek in solo and ensemble performances, as well as pianist Lee Meyer and organist Carol Garrett. Beverly Griffith and Meyer are accompanists.

"Beyond the Sunset," composed by Hoosiers Virgil and Blanche Brock, and arranged for organ, trumpet and voice, will be performed.

The program will feature a number of gospel and contemporary Christian songs by Hoosier singers/songwriters Bill and Gloria Gaither, and by others affiliated with their ministries. Titles include "Because He Lives," "He Touched Me," "Something Beautiful" and "God Gave the Song."

Sandi Patty, known as "The Voice" of Contemporary Christian music, lived in Indiana for a time and was educated at Anderson College. On the program are several numbers she recorded, including "How Majestic Is Your Name," "Love In Any Language," "They Could Not" and "I've Just Seen Jesus."

Social hour follows the program, with Garrett's hosting committee serving refreshments in the church's Edith Boyd Lounge. There is no charge to attend; however, donations to the club's scholarship fund are appreciated.

## Festival Poster Unveiling

Representatives for the third annual Indiana Dunes Birding Festival will unveil its 2017 poster at a special Birds and Brews from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27, at The Speakeasy at the Spa, 33 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter.

Local artist and poster designer Kristina Knowski will discuss the design process, and the inspiration behind this year's poster. Limited edition prints will be sold.

Birds and Brews is a chance for bird enthusiasts to socialize, win prizes for bird-related trivia and learn more about the upcoming festival on May 4-7. The annual event is a joint partnership with the region's major environmental groups — Indiana Audubon Society, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park — highlighting the dunes area's biodiversity and bird-watching opportunities.

Registration for the poster unveiling is not required, but can be indicated on the Indiana Dunes Birding Festival facebook event page for "Birds and Brews: January." Call the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center at (219) 926-1390 for details.

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## Shirley Heinze Land Trust Acquires 42 Acres along Sand Creek

Shirley Heinze Land Trust has acquired two properties along Sand Creek — a tributary of the Little Calumet River — in Chesterton.

The properties, approximately 18 and 24 acres, respectively, are located on the east bank of Sand Creek, south of Indian Boundary Road.

Shirley Heinze will manage the land as a natural area, undertake restoration work to enhance its environmental value and make it available as a community resource for educational and recreational activities. Restoration will enhance the quality of local waterways and contribute to good storm water management for the community and Little Calumet River.

Natural features there include beech and maple upland forest, and floodplain wetlands along the creek. Spring ephemeral wildflowers bloom on the forest floor, including a notable display of large-flowered trillium. The location also provides significant habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, including migrating and nesting birds.

Though not currently open to the public, the organization plans to build and maintain public trails for hiking, birding and other passive recreational activities.

The properties are the latest acquisitions within the Little Calumet Conservation Corridor, which



Large-flowered trillium in bloom at the newly preserved Sand Creek property.

was approved in 2014 as an Indiana Bicentennial Nature Trust Conservation Area. Its goal is to help connect protected natural areas along the Little Calumet River through funding assistance. Including these two acquisitions, which took place in December, Shirley Heinze Land Trust added 220 acres to its holdings in the

corridor during 2016.

In total, more than 2,200 acres have been protected along the east branch of the Little Calumet River by several conservation organizations, agencies and municipalities.

“A tremendous amount of work has been achieved over the past few years thanks to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and other local partners, including Save the Dunes, The Nature Conservancy, Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association, Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, ArcelorMittal, Northern Indiana Public Service Co., Porter County Izaak Walton League, the Gaylor and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation and others,” Executive Director Kristopher Krouse said in a press release.

Visit [www.heinzetrust.org](http://www.heinzetrust.org), call (219) 242-8558, or access [www.facebook.com/heinzetrust](http://www.facebook.com/heinzetrust) for additional information.

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## Fernwood Botanical Garden

The following programs are planned at Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich:

• **See Us at Science Alive! on Saturday, Feb. 4.**

Visit Fernwood naturalists and volunteers at Science Alive! at St. Joseph County Public Library in downtown South Bend. The popular event features kid-friendly, hands-on science displays. Visit [www.sjtpl.lib.in.us/science-alive](http://www.sjtpl.lib.in.us/science-alive) for details.

• **Botanical Exploration of Michigan from 1 to 2:30 p.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 5.**

Learn about explorers who contributed to the knowledge of botanical diversity in Michigan and the upper Great Lakes region, and the species they discovered known only around the Great Lakes. The cost is \$12, or \$10 for members. Register by Feb. 3.

• **Photography Club from 2 to 4 p.m. EST Sunday, Feb. 5.**

The club, open to all ages and experience levels, meets for 90 minutes, starting with discussion of recent images shot by club members, followed by a monthly topical program.

The meeting is free to members or with paid Fernwood admission. Contact Bob Denny at [bobdenny.fernwood@gmail.com](mailto:bobdenny.fernwood@gmail.com) for more details.

Call (269) 695-6491 or visit [www.fernwoodbotanical.org](http://www.fernwoodbotanical.org) for more information and to confirm the status of classes.

## Midday Movie

St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Cool-spring Ave., will show "Sing Street" as its "Midday Movie!" at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28.

The story centers on a boy growing up in Dublin during the 1980s who escapes his strained family life by starting a band to impress the mysterious girl he likes.

Lunch includes a variety of soups, hot sandwiches, salad and fruit, as well as coffee, tea and water. The cost is \$10 per person. Call the church office at (219) 879-9415 to buy tickets.

## Business After Hours

Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce will host a Business After Hours at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at You-nique Bou-tique, 800 Michigan Ave., La Porte. Registration is encouraged by calling (219) 362-3178 or visiting [tinyurl.com/z9nq8zh](http://tinyurl.com/z9nq8zh)

## Correction

The Jan. 19 cover story "Stars in the Making" should have spelled the trainer's last name as Melissa Ashcraft. *The Beacher* apologizes for the error.

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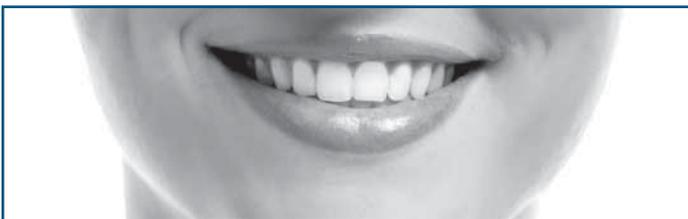
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## Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore

*The following programs are available at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore:*

• **Winter Fun from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education.**

If there's enough snow, visitors can borrow cross-country skis or snowshoes to explore Miller Woods. Guests also can help feed the center's resident turtles and fish, and explore the center's exhibits.

• **Cross-Country Skiing from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 28-29, at Glenwood Dunes Warming Hut.**

Skiing is planned when at least 3 inches of snow exist. A fireplace and hot chocolate are part of the experience. Take equipment, and check with the Visitor Center for conditions. The hut is off North County Road 275 East near U.S. 20 in Furnessville.

• **A snowshoe hike from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

Meet for a quick lesson, then hike through fields and woods surrounding the center. A regular hike will be offered if there is fewer than two inches of snow. A limited amount of equipment is available.

• **Free screening, "Shifting Sands: On the Path to Sustainability," from 1 to 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.**

The documentary centers on the region's struggle to protect globally rare habitat alongside steel mills, and the recent success stories of collaboration.

*The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is on Lake Street in Gary. Call (219) 395-1882 for more information.*

## Indiana Dunes State Park

*The following program is offered at Indiana Dunes State Park:*

• **Snowshoe Shuffle from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28.**

Meet a park interpreter at the Nature Center for an introduction to the winter transportation, then try a pair for a short walk through the woods. A hike is planned if there isn't enough snow.

*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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**“Annie Get Your Gun”**



Metamorphis Traveling Theatre recently presented its “Annie Get Your Gun” cabaret show at Caretel Inns of Lakeland, St. Joseph, Mich. The troupe then returned to St. Joseph on Jan. 21 for a repeat performance at The Whitcomb retirement community. Metamorphis Traveling Theatre, based in Michigan City, performs throughout Southwest Michigan and Northwest Indiana. Call (219) 872-4813 for more details.

**Genealogical Society**

La Porte County Genealogical Society met Jan. 10, with discussion centered on the theme, “How Did Winter Weather Affect Our Ancestors’ Lives?”

Some members present even shared memories from childhood, when rural homes lacked electricity and central heating.

Trip Chairwoman Patricia Harris said the annual Allen County Public Library bus trip is March 19. The effort is in conjunction with Michigan City Public Library. Visit [tinyurl.com/ndooe7s](http://tinyurl.com/ndooe7s) for details and a reservation blank.

The Feb. 14 meeting features Carol Lloyd, who will discuss “Exploring Genealogy through Hellinger Family Systemic Work.”

The society meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month, weather permitting, at La Porte City Parks and Recreation Department, 250 Pine Lake Ave. The public is welcome.

**Chesterton Art Center**

Local painter Mark VanderVinne will host Critique Night at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

Guests are welcome, with no prior registration required. All ability levels and artistic styles are encouraged to attend. While VanderVinne is a painter, he can advise artists in other mediums as well.

Guests may sit and listen; however, participation is encouraged. Artists can take in a piece of work at any stage, from conception to the final version. The critique unfolds in a safe, friendly environment, but it will involve VanderVinne and others providing advice and insight into the effectiveness of the work or artistic concept.

Call (219) 926-4711 or visit [www.chestertonart.com](http://www.chestertonart.com) for more information.

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## JROTC Starts Second Semester at Full Speed

Michigan City High School's Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps began the second semester with three activities Jan. 13 and 14.

Cadets competed in Cyber Patriot, the national computer security game where they defend and counterattack a fictional cyber attack on an organization's information system.

MCHS was in the top one third of all JROTC schools nationally going into the third round, and the top Marine school out of the seven in Indiana.

The Color Guard presented the National and Marine flags during the playing of The National Anthem prior to the MCHS-Valparaiso High School basketball game. Also, the Military Drill Team competed in a drill event at East Aurora (Ill.) High School.

At East Aurora, the Drill Team competed against 19 schools. The Wolves took second place in unarmed basic drill, third in armed basic drill and personnel inspection, and fifth in first-year cadet basic drill.

The recognition was significant, considering MCHS was without some of its key cadets due to illnesses.

"I think this really shows how well our cadets prepare themselves for these drill meets," said Maj. Tom McGrath, the senior Marine instructor. "Even though we were missing cadets...we had other cadets step up and perform well."



Capt. Arturo Moreno reports the Unarmed Platoon for competition.

January continues to be a busy month for the cadets, complete with four more home basketball games in which they will provide color guards. They also will help with the Barker Middle School dance and Michigan City Rotary Club luncheon.

One of the most important efforts was the presentations to Barker and Krueger middle

schools Jan. 25. The Marine Corps requires that MCHS maintains at least 100 cadets to keep the program. It currently has 108 cadets.

Cadets also will staff a display table in the cafeteria during all lunch periods at the high school when guidance counselors give scheduling briefs to freshmen, sophomores and juniors.

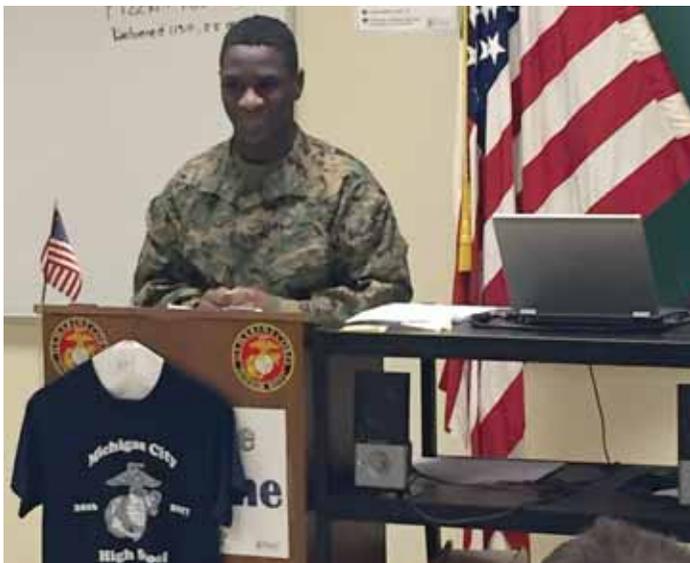
While most schools had a holiday Jan. 16, cadets took advantage of school being in session to study Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

After viewing it, cadets discussed numerous aspects, from the location where the speech was delivered to King's use of metaphors and vivid language.

Private 1st Class Tayvain Maxie said he was aware of the speech, but did not realize how important it was to the nation.

"There was so much in Dr. King's speech that really makes you think and want to learn about what was going on at that time," he said.

The speech was used as a leadership study. The next unit cadets will study is the Battle of Gettysburg. The emphasis will be the decision-making process commanders on both sides used.



Private 1st Class Tayvain Maxie.



Cyber Patriot Faculty Adviser Ralph Gee provides guidance to team members Ana Nowatzke and Stefen Glade.

## Westchester Public Library

*The following programs are available:*

• **Graphic Novel Book Club from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.**

The focus is Brian K. Vaughn's "Saga Vol. 1." Register in person with the IT department or by phone at (219) 926-7696.

• **Rainbow Loom on Friday, Jan. 27, at Thomas Library Children's Department.**

Children in grades 3-6 create rainbow loom bracelets. Looms and rubber bands are supplied, but participants can take their own. Supplies are limited. Advanced loomers are invited from 6 to 6:45 p.m. and beginning loomers from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Registration is required in person or by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **The Unnamed Guild of Gamers from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 29, at Thomas Library's Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Events include a fifth edition "Dungeons & Dragons" campaign, as well as "Munchkin," "Ultimate Werewolf," "Settlers of Catan" and "Pandemic."

• **Food & Nutrition: Fantastic Fiber from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Dietetic Technician Gia DeMartinis will discuss the health benefits of fiber.

• **Pokemon League from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Thomas Library.**

The program is aimed at children in first grade and older. Attendees learn to make decks of 60 cards. They don't need to take anything unless wanting to take a starter pack of cards.

• **"Game of Thrones" Trivia Night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 31, at Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.**

Groups of one to four adults can vie for the prize to Running Vines. Refreshments will be served.

• **Children's Crochet Club from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the Thomas Library Bertha Wood Meeting Room.**

Aimed at children in third grade and older, attendees learn beginning crochet from Sadie Steciuch. Children should take a size G crochet hook and skein of medium weight yarn. Class size is limited, and registration is required by calling (219) 926-7696.

• **Minecraft Meet-up from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at Thomas Library.**

Registration is required and must be done in person. The WPL Gaming Policy and Rules of Conduct must be signed upon registration as well. Parents are welcome to attend, but required for youth 10 and younger.

**Story idea? Email [drew@thebeacher.com](mailto:drew@thebeacher.com)**



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## Region Photography Clinic

Photography enthusiasts are invited to the Eighth Annual Photography Clinic, an all-day event hosted by the Calumet Region Photo Club, on Saturday, Feb. 18, at Munster's Center for Visual and Performing Arts.

The featured speaker is photographer Ed Post, Grand Haven, Mich. A lawyer and retired circuit court judge, landscape and nature photography are his specialties. He teaches photography at Meijer Botanical Gardens, Grand Rapids, Mich., leads field trips and lectures for the Southwest Michigan Council of Camera Clubs. He also has presented at Photographic Society of America national conferences and has 15-years experience as a newspaper photojournalist.

Post's presentation topics will include Digital Photography, Light & Exposure, Composition and Digital Asset Management. Photographers of all skill levels and interests can attend.

The mail-in registration deadline is Saturday, Feb. 11. A \$75 fee includes all presentations, a continental breakfast and luncheon. Visit [www.calregionphoto.org](http://www.calregionphoto.org) for clinic details and a registration form.

The club, a Chicago Area Camera Clubs Association member, is a non-profit education organization. Monthly meetings are held at Fairmeadow Community Church, Munster.

## Members Advantage Scholarships

Members Advantage Credit Union is awarding four college scholarships this winter to qualifying high school seniors, and to those in their first or second year in college.

Scholarships include:

- **Gail Walker** — In 2010, MACU established the \$1,000 Gail Walker Memorial Scholarship in honor of the former board member's years of service. It is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior, college freshman or sophomore with academic achievement.
- **Leona Bruno** — The annual \$1,000 Leona Bruno Scholarship was established in 1994 in memory of MACU's first manager. It is awarded to a graduating high school senior with scholastic achievement.
- **Learn to Earn** — In 2012, MACU established the \$500 Learn to Earn scholarships awarded to two college students working a minimum of 20 hours per week.

The application deadline is Monday, Feb. 13. Call (219) 874-6943 or (877) 874-6943 with any questions. Visit [tinyurl.com/zobn8y2](http://tinyurl.com/zobn8y2) for qualification criteria and to apply.

## Library Program Linked to Parks

Hoosiers again can "check out" state parks with an entrance pass obtained from a public library.

The annual Pass Library Check-out Program is a partnership between Indiana State Parks and Indiana State Library. Beginning Feb. 1, library districts across the state will have one of 240 state park passes placed in circulation at one of the district's branches for checkout. The passes provide access to Indiana's 32 state park properties and forest recreation areas where entrance fees are charged.

The program, which began as a single-year initiative for the Centennial Celebration, has been extended by one year. The program will be evaluated based on the number of times passes are checked out and how they are used. Those who check out the passes will be asked to complete a short survey at the library when they pick one up.

Indiana State Library helped pay for the program. Some local libraries may purchase additional passes to ensure each branch has one pass for checkout. Checkout duration for the passes may vary by site.



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### “Romeo and Juliet”

The Shakespeare touring company Actors From The London Stage will perform “Romeo and Juliet” at 7:30 p.m. EST Wednesday through Friday, Feb. 1-3, at the University of Notre Dame’s Washington Hall.

With minimal sets and costumes, five British actors from London’s most prestigious stages perform every role in Shakespeare’s star-crossed tragedy.

Founded in 1975 by members of the Royal Shakespeare Co., including Sir Patrick Stewart, AFTLS requires each actor take on two or three major roles and several minor ones. All five work together to guide the story. There is no director.

Tickets are \$25, or \$12 for students (18 and younger are free with a regular ticket purchase, with a limit of five). Call (574) 631-2800 or visit [shakespeare.nd.edu/tickets](http://shakespeare.nd.edu/tickets) for reservations.

Also, audition for the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Notre Dame’s professional theater-in-residence, are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. EST Monday, Feb. 6, at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

The festival will include a touring production of “Twelfth Night” and a professional production of “Much Ado About Nothing.” Needed are 14 male and female actors, as well as musicians and technicians, from the Michiana area. The schedule accommodates those available only on evenings and weekends.

As part of the NDSF Apprentice Program, student actors will be cast in both productions, and receive three weeks training in voice, text and movement.

Visit [tinyurl.com/hgejfy5](http://tinyurl.com/hgejfy5) for more specifics.

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## Taltree Winter, Spring Programs

Taltree Arboretum & Gardens is offering winter/spring programs that cover a variety of nature, health and recreation topics geared toward families.

The schedule is:

- Winter Yoga: Saturdays, January-March, 8:15 to 9:15 a.m.
- Winter Tree ID Class: Jan. 26 or Feb. 11, 10 a.m. to noon.
- Cabela's Winter Sports Expo: Feb. 4, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Wine & Paint Night: Feb. 10, 6 to 8 p.m.
- Great Backyard Bird Count: Feb. 17-20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Basics of Photography: Feb. 18, 10 a.m. to noon.
- Dream Catcher Workshop: Feb. 20, 1 to 3 p.m.
- Beginning Birding: Feb. 25, 1 to 3 p.m.
- Indiana Master Naturalist: 10-week course, Thursdays, March 9-May 11, 9 a.m. to noon.
- Fascinating Fossils: March 11, 9 a.m. to noon.
- Volunteer Orientation: March 18, 9 to 11 a.m.
- Green Spring Cleaning: March 18, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Taltree Toddlers: Every other Wednesday through April, 10 to 11 a.m.

Program fees differ and are outlined on the web-site, with members receiving a discount. Additional information and registration forms are available at [taltree.org](http://taltree.org), or contact Programs Manager Ellen Kapitan at [ekapitan@taltree.org](mailto:ekapitan@taltree.org) or (219) 742-8147.

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

## Youth Foundation Scholarships

Simon Youth Foundation, a national nonprofit that provides educational opportunities for at-risk high school students, seeks qualified applicants who live near Lighthouse Place-Premium Outlets and the surrounding community.

Each year, Simon Youth Community Scholarships are awarded in communities with one of its outlet centers. The application period has begun and ends March 1.

Students can apply at [syf.org/scholarships](http://syf.org/scholarships). SYF then will award 25 scholarships to students graduating in the class of 2017. No more than one scholarship will be awarded per property. Recipients will receive up to \$1,500 to enroll in an accredited college, university, vocational or technical school.

In addition, an "Award of Excellence" will go to the top candidate from among the scholarship applicants who represents the nationwide Premium Outlets locations. That student will receive a \$10,000 award (\$2,500 for up to four years).

Recipients will be notified in May.

In 2016, the Simon Youth Foundation awarded \$1.2 million to 300 students nationwide.

## Funds Available for Youth Projects

Leadership La Porte County's Youth to Youth program has mini-grants available for groups or individuals in La Porte County to carry out community service projects.

Y2Y, a spinoff of the Leadership La Porte County Youth Program, is a collaboration between Leadership La Porte County, Youth Service Bureau BBBS of La Porte County and Unity Foundation. It is in its seventh year, and has collectively funded more than \$3,500 in youth-led community projects in the past several years.

Grant packets are available by contacting the Leadership office at (219) 325-8223, by email at [info@leadershiplaportecounty.com](mailto:info@leadershiplaportecounty.com) or at [www.leadershiplaportecounty.com](http://www.leadershiplaportecounty.com). The deadline is March 6.

Grants will be reviewed by the youth committee, which will invite finalists to an interview. Grant amounts can range from \$50 to \$500 per project and must meet a community need. Youth groups meeting the criteria include school classes, athletic teams, clubs, neighborhood groups, Scouting groups, 4-H clubs, church youth groups and other organized groups. An adult supervisor is required, but the application and project must be youth-led. Any La Porte County youth group or individual youth is welcome to apply.

## Kung Fu and Taiji Classes

Classes in Chinese Shaolin Kung Fu and Taiji begin Feb. 6 at New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road.

Taught by Malkam Wyman of Southwest Michigan Chinese Martial Arts Club, the classes stress fundamentals, with emphasis on self-defense and improving overall health. Classes begin with stretching and breathing patterns, transitioning into drills for learning practical self-defense.

All students have their own intensity levels, so they are encouraged to learn at whatever pace work best. Classes are from 6 to 8 p.m. EST Mondays and Wednesdays. Tuition is \$120 per month for two weekly classes. Call or text Malkam at (269) 615-7885, or message him on the Southwest Michigan Chinese Martial Arts Club Facebook page.

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## Activities to Explore

### In the Area:

**Jan. 26** — STEAM Ahead Kids: Winter Craft, 3:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Jan. 26** — Graphic Novel Book Club, Brian K. Vaughn's "Saga Vol. 1," 6-7:30 p.m., Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**Jan. 27** — WinterFest: ice sculpture demonstrations, 4 p.m., Plaza 618, La Porte. Info: (219) 326-9600.

**Jan. 27** — Indiana Dunes Birding Festival 2017 poster unveiling, 6-8 p.m., The Speakeasy at the Spa, 33 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Jan. 27** — "Peter Asher: A Musical Memoir of the '60s and Beyond," 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35. Info: [www.acorntheater.com](http://www.acorntheater.com), (269) 756-3879.

**Jan. 28** — Breakfast with the Birds, 9:30-11 a.m., Luhr County Park Nature Center, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, La Porte. Free. Info: (219) 325-8315.

**Jan. 28** — WinterFest: Family Ceramics, 9 a.m.-noon, La Porte Civic Auditorium, 1001 Ridge St. Cost: \$5. Info: (219) 326-9600.

**Jan. 28** — Snowshoe Shuffle, 10-11 a.m., Nature Center @ Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Jan. 28** — Michigan City Memorabilia Show and Tell, 11 a.m., Barker Mansion, 631 Washington St. Free. Registration: (219) 873-1520.

**Jan. 28** — "Midday Movie!" — "Sing Street," 1 p.m., St. Luke United Lutheran Church, 2000 E. Coolspring Ave. Cost: \$10. Tickets: (219) 879-9415.

**Jan. 28** — WinterFest: Cardboard Sled Race, 1-2 p.m., Kesling Park Sledding Hill, La Porte. Free. Registration: (219) 326-9600.

**Jan. 28** — WinterFest: Chili Cookoff, noon-3 p.m., Cummings Lodge @ Soldiers Memorial Park. Cost: \$5, 10 & younger/free. Info: (219) 326-9600.

**Jan. 28-29** — Cross-Country Skiing, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Glenwood Dunes Warming Hut, North County Road 275 East near U.S. 20. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Jan. 29** — Renaissance City of Art: Lesson from Rome, 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Jan. 29** — Free screening, "Shifting Sands: On the Path to Sustainability," 1-2 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882.

**Jan. 30** — Monday Musicale program, "Gospel Music and Indiana," 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 121 W. Ninth St. Free; donations accepted.

**Jan. 31** — "Game of Thrones" Trivia Night, 7-8:30 p.m., Westchester Township History Museum, 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton.

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

**Through Jan. 29** — “Perspectives From Extraordinary Students,” Southern Shore Art Association, 724 Franklin St. Info: [www.southernshoreartassociation.com](http://www.southernshoreartassociation.com)

**Through Feb. 28** — “The Bill of Rights and You” Pop-up Exhibit, Westchester Public Library, 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**In the Region**

**Jan. 27** — “Dueling Pianos” (Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra), 7 p.m. EST, Vineland Center, 1155 Vineland Road, St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$30, \$240/table of 8. Show & dinner: \$50, \$400/table of 8. Reservations: (269) 982-4030, [www.smsso.org](http://www.smsso.org)

**Jan. 28** — Curious Coyotes: Winter Exploration, 2-4 p.m. EST, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: \$10, \$8/members. Info/registration: (269) 695-6491, [www.fernwoodbotanical.org](http://www.fernwoodbotanical.org)

**Jan. 29** — Cork Birdhouse project, 2-3:30 p.m. EST, Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve, 13988 Range Line Road, Niles, Mich. Cost: \$25, \$20/members. Info/registration: (269) 695-6491, [www.fernwoodbotanical.org](http://www.fernwoodbotanical.org)

**Feb. 1-3** — Actors From The London Stage, “Romeo and Juliet,” 7:30 p.m. EST, University of Notre Dame’s Washington Hall. Tickets: \$25, \$12/students. Reservations: [shakespeare.nd.edu/tickets](http://shakespeare.nd.edu/tickets), (574) 631-2800.

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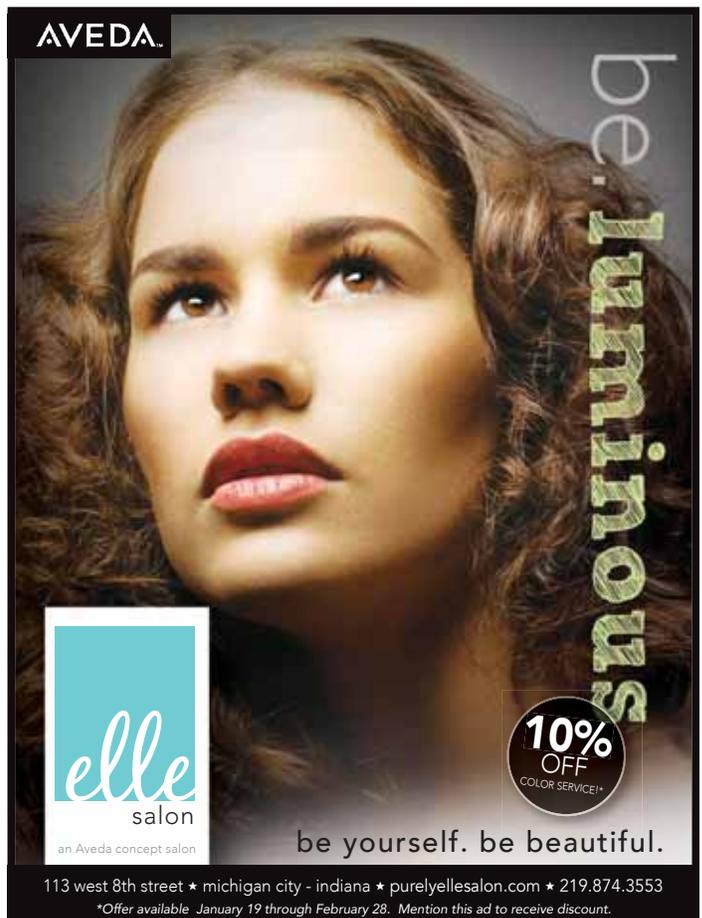
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Jan. 17, 2017

**TEAM STANDING**

TEAM STANDING	WON	LOST
1. Wine-ettes	7	1
1. Bitchin Bowlers	7	1
2. Striking Beauties	6	2
2. Diagonal Divas	6	2

**HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES**

HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES	SCORE
1. Tammy Vouri	201
2. Mary Lou McFadden	194
3. Linda Neulieb	177
4. Tammy Nelmar	169
5. Cindy Beck	166
6. Barb McCorkel	162
7. June Salmon	157
8. Nancy Kubath	153
9. Kathy Osborne (series)	427

**SPLITS**

Celena Byrnes, Susan Kieffer 3-10

**THREE STRIKES IN A ROW**

Tammy Vouri, Mary Lou McFadden

**FOUR STRIKES IN A ROW**

Mary Lou McFadden

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



**American Red Cross**

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

- IU Health La Porte Hospital, 1007 W. Lincolnway, La Porte, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27.

*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](http://redcrossblood.org) for more details.*



## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter

**The Wolf Road by Beth Lewis** (hardcover, \$26 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook)

It isn't often an author starts his story with the ending. But in this case, Beth Lewis made a brilliant decision. I was hooked from Page One. A man is cornered and wounded. Why? Why doesn't his assailant finish him off? Or will he? The reader won't find out for another 250 pages or so.

That's what keeps us reading — the need to know, to find out the whys and wherefores because something in that first chapter grabs us by the throat and won't let go until we know the whole story...

Chapter Two takes us to a lonely cabin in the woods way up north. All the author wants you to know is that there were two world-wide confrontations, and bombs meant for the greater United States were dropped by mistake in the north of Canada. So, it's a post-apocalyptic world, but that's only part of the story. Way up here in BeeCee, as the narrator calls it, and we learn it's British Columbia, Canada, life has regressed to living in log cabins and hunting your food in the forest. Small towns no longer have cars, but horses pulling wagons.

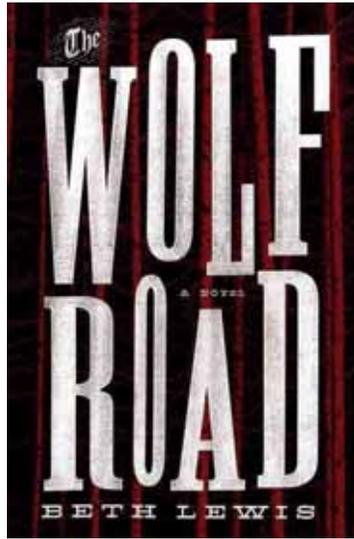
The rest of the world isn't important to the story. The war, the bombs are like the proscenium arch of a theatre — only helping to define place and time. Now, on to the story...

Our narrator is Elka. She lives in the forest in a log cabin with Trapper. He found her wandering in the woods alone when she was only 7. He never told her his real name, so she settled on calling him Trapper. And since she couldn't remember her name, he called her Elka.

Trapper teaches Elka all about living in the woods: trapping and hunting skills, how to use a knife for killing and skinning the animals he catches, and how to cure the meat so they have plenty of food to last the long winters.

Life moves along for three years until Elka turns 10 and wishes for a momma...that's when life takes a turn for the worst. One day, Elka finds a woman wandering in the woods near their cabin. Pretty, kind, just what Elka wished for — a mother. Trapper seems OK with her living there, but she disappears one day without so much as a goodbye...

Move up 10 years, and Trapper now trusts Elka to go into a nearby town for supplies. What she finds out there will change her life forever. A lawman shows her a drawing of Trapper. Says his name



is Kreagar Hallet, and he's wanted for the murder of eight women and one child. All those trips into the forest Trapper took when he was gone for days at a time...what was he really doing?

*"Kreagar couldn't a' been a man, not deep down. He was something else. Some new type a' animal."*

The lawmen finally find Trapper's cabin, and Elka watches from the woods as they burn it to the ground. Now, Elka's story begins in earnest...

Knowing she can no longer live with Trapper, Elka takes off on her own. She can't stay with a murderer, and she has vague memories of parents who left her with her nana to head north to

the gold fields. Now, at 17, she is old enough, with enough forest skills to survive on her own, to look for her long lost parents and the happy reunion she always imagined.

Elka avoids people and towns as she continues north until one day, she must take a boat across a river. Here, she finds out why men are not to be trusted and almost becomes just another girl on her way to a brothel up north. She saves herself and another girl, Penelope, in a jaw-dropping sequence of events.

Against her better judgement, Elka reluctantly lets Penelope travel with her. They are a strange pair, but life on the run soon has both of them finding out what true friendship is all about. After all, Elka's life has been nothing but hardships and rejections until now, and Penelope — well, let's just say she's has her reasons to be fearful of people, men especially.

The beauty and fierceness of Canada are brilliantly described in this story that shows us the meaning of "true grit." As Elka says, *"Nature ain't friendly no more, but least nowadays it's honest 'bout it."*

Elka sees the signs and knows that Trapper, or Kreagar as she now knows him, is following her and won't give up until he exacts his revenge for her betrayal. Where will their trail end? Oh, you'll be surprised — let's just say it's a rocky road.

Author Paul Tremblay said: "A white knuckle trip through a gritty, frightening, and all-too-plausible post-apocalypse. You won't know whether to root for or be afraid of heroine Elka, and you won't be able to put the book down."

Lewis was raised in Cornwall, England, and is a managing editor at a leading London publisher. The Wolf Road is her first novel.

Till next time, happy reading!



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