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# Winfield American

Vol. 16, Issue 809

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December 15, 2017

## American Heart Association collecting for 'Little Hats, Big Hearts' program

The American Heart Association in Northwest Indiana is kicking off the third year of the Little Hats, Big Hearts campaign by collecting knitted or crocheted red baby hats. The campaign is being sponsored locally in Northwest Indiana by Bosak Auto Group.

Little Hats, Big Hearts launched in 2014 collecting hundreds of hats in the first year. The program has now expanded to 40 states with a collection of thousands. The program raises awareness of heart disease, the No. 1 killer of Americans, and congenital heart defects, the most common type of birth defect in the country.

Hats will be collected through January 31 and can be dropped off at your lo-



Volunteers at Franciscan Health Dyer embracing red hat distribution.

cal Bosak Auto Group location. Volunteers are encouraged to visit [www.heart.org/LittleHatsBigHearts](http://www.heart.org/LittleHatsBigHearts) for hat patterns and more information about the initiative. Should you prefer to mail

the hats they can be shipped to the Indiana office for Northwest Indiana distribution.

"We're looking forward to opening our dealership doors (See *Heart* Pg. 3)



## School students learn how holidays are celebrated in five countries

Kindergarten students at St. Mary Catholic Community School are learning about the different traditions, cultures, and ways Christmas is celebrated in five countries. Kindergarten teacher, Candace Wadas and aide Dawn Krajci are using Google Earth to "travel" to Russia, Mexico, France, Germany, and then back to the United States. The students all received their own airline ticket and have visited Russia where they learned about the Nutcracker and the ballet, and poinsettias that are native to Mexico. France and Germany are "scheduled" for next week then finally they return back to the United States. St. Mary School offers grade levels Junior Pre-Kindergarten for three year olds through grade eight. To learn more about St. Mary's School's upcoming Open House on January 28, visit [www.stmarycp.org/school](http://www.stmarycp.org/school). Pictured are Ellee Young displaying her airline ticket, and Margaret Cappas displaying the Nutcracker she made.

## Avoid use of alternative heating; exercise caution when necessary

Cold weather is upon Northwest Indiana after a mild start to the season, and Hoosiers trying to avoid turning on the heat should exercise caution when using alternative methods to heat their homes.

"Alternative heating sources are one of the leading causes of home fires and fire-related deaths each year," said State Fire Marshal Jim Greeson. "Fires caused by alternative heating equipment account for 19 percent of home fire deaths in the

United States."

Marshal Greeson advises Hoosiers to take precautions if alternative sources are in use. Here are a few tips to safely stay warm this season:

- Avoid using space heaters and other alternative heating if possible.
- Keep at least a three-foot perimeter around space heaters at all times.
- Space heaters should be kept away from loose or flammable objects such as clothing, curtains, bedding and furniture.

- Only one space heater should be plugged into each electrical outlet. Never overload electrical outlets.
- Do not leave space heaters on in unoccupied rooms.
- If it is necessary to purchase a space heater, consider purchasing one with a built-in tilt sensor that automatically shuts off if tipped over.
- Refuel kerosene space heaters outside the home in a well-ventilated area. Be sure to let them cool down first if they were recently used.

- Appliances such as ovens should never be used for heating. Doing so can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Fireplaces should be regularly cleaned and inspected by a certified professional. Gas fireplaces should have proper ventilation, with a working carbon monoxide detector nearby.
- Use only dry, seasoned firewood to prevent build-up of creosote, which can prevent the chimney from venting properly.
- Make sure not to close the

- damper too early when hot ashes are still in the fireplace. Doing so can force dangerous levels of carbon monoxide into the home.
- Avoid using flammable liquid to start fires in fireplaces or wood stoves. Always have a fire extinguisher on hand in case the fire gets out of control.
- Remember, fires should always be extinguished and any alternative heating sources turned off before going to bed or leaving the home.

Marshal Greeson strongly advises Hoosiers to consider other options before using alternative heating.

- Wear long underwear. It might sound old fashioned, but this will reduce bodily heat loss and enhance warmth and comfort. One layer of thermal long underwear can allow for a savings on heating costs. After all, each person's body is a human furnace that generates heat.
- Caulk can stop drafts and

(See *Avoid* Pg. 4)

## Crown Point's St. Clare Health Clinic clients benefit from Rotary Club generosity

Late last month the Merrillville Rotary Club, for the seventh consecutive year, made Thanksgiving happier for numerous area needy families recently by donating 50 turkeys, that were in addition to a wealth of other food items collected by Franciscan Health Crown Point employees and physician offices, to St. Clare Health Clinic in Crown Point, which distributed them to 35 client-families.

Club members raised funds and purchased the



items from the Strack and Van Til store in Crown Point, which provided them at cost. Shown receiving a turkey from club president Jim Larsen is Tammy Larkin, of

Medaryville. Norma Alvarez holds another turkey, which was presented to her and parents Salvador Coronel and Carmen Coronel, all of

(See *Rotary* Pg. 3)

## Snowblower safety: Keep best practices in mind this winter

Winter is on its way or already here, and clearing driveways, sidewalks and parking lots is no small job. It's important to get ready before flurries and heavier snows arrive. The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute is offering tips for safe and correct use of snow throwers, often referred to as snow blowers. Outdoor Power Equipment Institute encourages home and business owners to ready snow throwers now for wintry weather, and review safe operating proce-



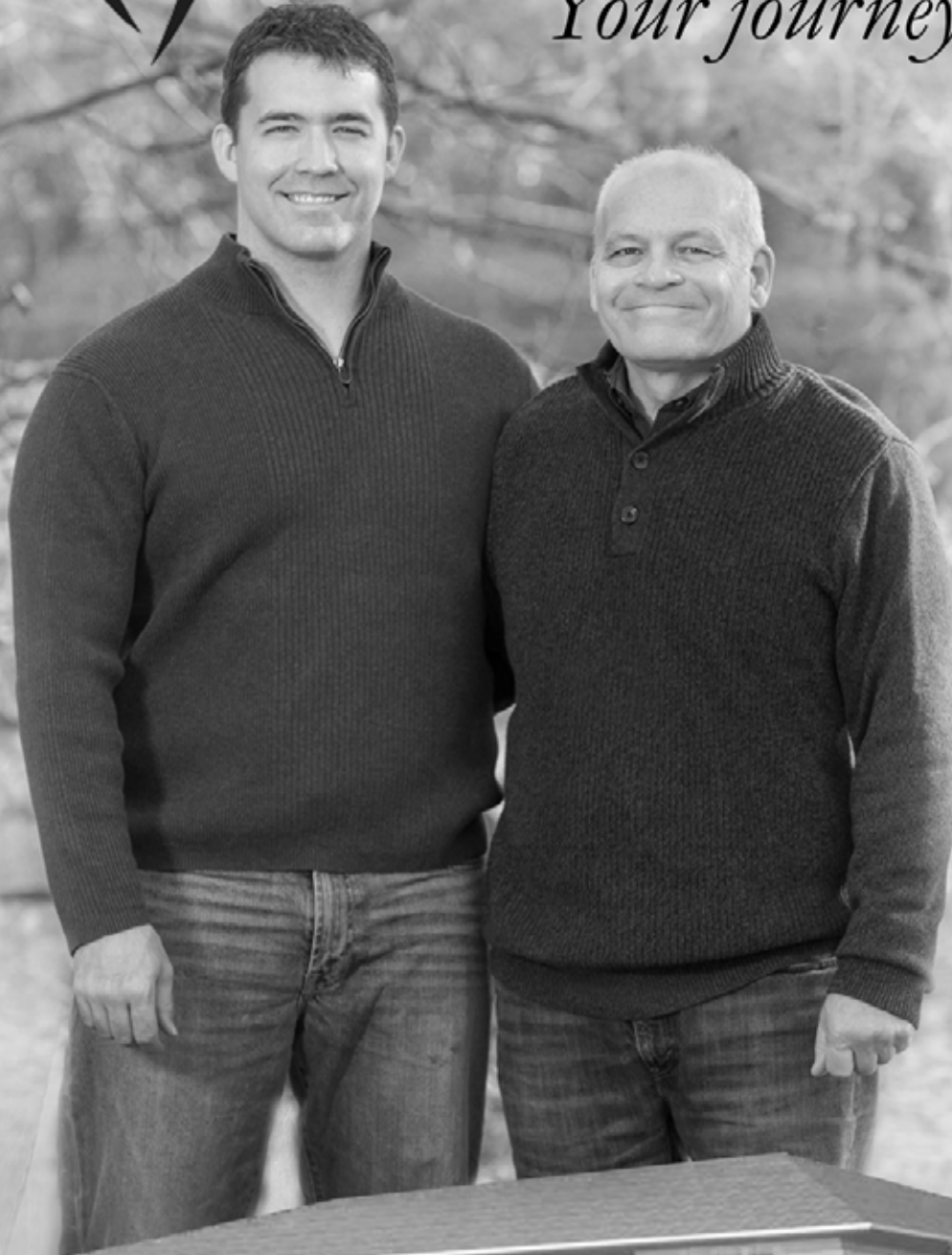
dures. "Weather today is more unpredictable than ever, and you need to have your snow

thrower serviced and ready to power up," says OPEI president and CEO Kris Kiser. (See *Safety* Pg. 6)



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**Across the street from Lakes of the Four Seasons**

**Valpo parks Luminary Walk returns for second year this Saturday**

Valpo Parks invites the public for a free community Luminary Walk on Saturday, December 16, from 6 to 9 p.m., at the Vale Park West Pathway. Valpo's award-winning pathway will come alive after dark with thousands of luminaries, singing, and tasty

*(Rotary from Pg. 1)*

whom are Dyer residents.

Also shown, from left, are Julie Mallers, clinic nurse practitioner and grant manager; Jennifer Willis, clinic practice manager; and club members Hans Enderlin, sergeant-at-arms; Mary Wright, a past president; and Skip Bosak, also a past president.

Larsen said the club donates the turkeys to the fami-

*(Heart from Pg. 1)*

again this year to the community members helping make this great program possible," said Theresa Bosak, owner of Bosak Auto Group. "Last year we had great success in having nearly 1,000 hats dropped off at our dealerships. If we can educate more people about congenital heart defects while they are visiting our dealerships, we have done our job as a partner of this amazing initiative raising awareness about the #1 birth defect in the country."

The American Heart Association is looking for hats in both newborn and preemie sizes made of yarn that is red, cotton, or acrylic, medium to heavy weight, and machine washable and dryable. Donations of yarn are

delights. Carolers, cookies, and hot chocolate await walkers as they stroll through the crisp night experiencing the ambiance of the ¾-mile pathway that spans over Beauty Creek.

For those driving to the trailhead, on street park-

lies, because, "they depend on us." St. Clare, 1121, S. Indiana Ave., Crown Point, since 1996, has provided free health and various other services to underprivileged residents in six area counties. The clinic is under the auspices of Franciscan Health Crown Point. For more information, call 219-663-2160.

also accepted.

Send your hats or yarn donations to Indiana's Little Hats Big Hearts distribution office at American Heart Association; C/O: Allie Tribble - Little Hats Big Hearts for Northwest Indiana, 6500 Technology Center Dr., Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46278.

Or, drop your hats or yarn donations off at: Bosak Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram in Merrillville; Bosak Honda in Highland; Bosak Honda in Michigan City; Bosak Kia in Burns Harbor; or Bosak Chevrolet in Burns Harbor.

To learn more about the program here in Northwest Indiana, call 219-765-0127 or visit [www.heart.org/LittleHatsBigHearts](http://www.heart.org/LittleHatsBigHearts)

ing is available in Keystone Commons, Windsor Park/Beauty Creek subdivisions, Foundation Meadows Park, Valpo Parks Admin Building, and Valparaiso High School. The walk is free and luminary sponsorships are available. For more information, contact the Parks Department office at 219-462-5144.

**Barker Mansion visitors can decorate holiday treats, take tour of 38-room mansion on Sunday**

Visitors to Michigan City's Barker Mansion can decorate holiday treats during the Christmas season thanks to a partnership with Uptown Cakery. The local bakery will be on-site to assist participants in decorating cookies on Sunday, December 17. Activities begin at 11 a.m.

Central Time and are free of charge after the mansion admission fee of \$8 per adult and \$5 per child.

Additionally, the mansion will be open for self-guided tours from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will offer guided tours at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. both days. Reservations are not neces-

sary. The Barker Mansion is located at 631 Washington Street in Michigan City. The 38-room mansion was built by freight car industrialist and philanthropist John H. Barker in 1905. Visit [www.BarkerMansion.com](http://www.BarkerMansion.com) for a complete calendar of Christmas activities.

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# ‘Mommy’s Little Piggy’ the main event at ‘A Christmas Story Comes Home’ exhibit this Saturday

“This holiday season, the ‘A Christmas Story Comes Home’ exhibit, presented in collaboration with Warner Bros. Consumer Products, will be on display until January 7 at the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond. The exhibit takes visitors to the streets of downtown Hohman, a fictional Indiana town which was a disguise for author, Jean Shepherd’s, hometown Hammond.

The popular “Mommy’s Little Piggy” Mashed Potato Eating Contest features plates mounded with mashed potatoes and contestants of different age groups showing how the piggies eat and will be held this Saturday, December 16. Registration will start at 9:30 a.m., and the first wave of participants will begin at 10 a.m.

‘A Christmas Story Comes Home’ exhibit features animated scenes from the

holiday movie A Christmas Story. The displays include Higbee’s Department Store Window, Flick’s Tongue and the Triple Dog Dare, It’s a Major Award, Santa’s Mountain at Higbee’s, The Bumpus Hounds and A

Hero’s Dream.

In addition to the exhibit, visitors will have the opportunity to see a bronzed Flick with his tongue stuck to the flag pole.

This homage to the classic scene is the perfect photo

opportunity in front of the Indiana Welcome Center.

The Indiana Welcome Center is located at the intersection of I-80/94 and Kennedy Avenue South in Hammond.

All events are held at the

Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond and registrations are available online at [www.AChristmasStoryComesHome.com](http://www.AChristmasStoryComesHome.com).



(Avoid from Pg. 1)

decrease heat loss. Fewer drafts can help with bodily warmth.

- Move while inside. Work out, dance, clean or simply stand and move.
- Bake cookies, cake, pie or cook dinner. Having the oven on will help with residual heat, but don’t use the stovetop or oven to heat a home.

Working smoke alarms are important all year around, but they can be especially important in the winter months with the added risk of alternative heating sources. According to the Red Cross, families have as little as two minutes to safely escape a burning home,

and having a working smoke alarm can double a person’s chance of surviving.

“Test your smoke alarm to make sure it works. Even if it responds correctly, if you don’t remember the last time you changed your batteries, do it today. If you don’t have a smoke alarm, buy one and install it. If you don’t have the funds, contact your local fire department, Red Cross or social service agency to see if one can be provided,” says Greeson.

For more tips on smoke alarms, as well as fire and alternative heat safety, visit [www.getprepared.in.gov](http://www.getprepared.in.gov).

## DIRECTOR PROFILE: MICHELLE KATSAROS



Crown Point resident, member of the Winfield Chamber of Commerce

Funeral Director with Geisen Funeral Homes for over 13 years

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Crown Point Tri-Kappa member, Co-Chair for Crown Point 4th of July Parade

Enjoys spending time with her husband Gus and daughter Ella



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## This day in history

### December 15, 1890

After many years of successfully resisting white efforts to destroy him and the Sioux people, the great Sioux chief and holy man Sitting Bull was killed by Indian police at the Standing Rock reservation in South Dakota. One of the most famous Native Americans of the 19th century, Sitting Bull was a fierce enemy of Anglo-Americans from a young age.

The Native American chief was devoted to the traditional ways. He believed that contact with non-Native Americans undermined the strength and identity of his Sioux tribe and would ultimately lead to their decline.

His refusal to bring his people onto a reservation led to the Battle of Little Bighorn, which the Sioux and Cheyenne won by defeating the troops of General George Armstrong Custer’s 7th Cavalry.

Sitting Bull and his followers fled, but faced with mass starvation, they returned and surrendered. With the revival of the spiritual Native American Ghost Dance on the reservation, U.S. agents feared it might lead to an uprising and police were sent to arrest the chief.

He refused to go quietly and a crowd gathered. A shot was fired that hit an officer; the police retaliated by shooting Sitting Bull and killing him on December 15, 1890.

Two weeks later, the United State Army suppressed the Ghost Dance movement with the massacre of the Sioux at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, which was the last battle of the American-Indian War.

[www.history.com](http://www.history.com)

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(Safety from Pg. 1)

“You want to have the right fuel on hand and review your owner’s manual now so you can use your equipment safely.”

Kiser says preparation is key and that home and business owners should consider the following tips:

**Review your owner’s manual.** Check your owner’s manual for safe handling procedures. If you lost your manual, you can look it up online (and store a copy on your computer so you have the manual available to reference in the future). Review how to operate the controls. You should be able to shut off your equipment quickly.

**Check your equipment.** The snow thrower should be completely powered off when you are checking it over. If you forgot to drain the fuel last winter before storing your snow thrower, drain the gas tank now. Adjust any cables. Check the auger.

**Put your equipment where you can get to it easily.** Move your equipment to a convenient and accessible location, so you can get to it easily when you need it.

**Purchase your fuel.** Often gas stations are closed after a storm. Be sure to use the correct fuel, as recommended by your equipment’s manufacturer; for more information on fueling properly see [www.LookBeforeYouPump.com](http://www.LookBeforeYouPump.com). Fill up the fuel tank outside before you start the engine and while the engine is cold. Never add fuel to a running or hot engine.

**Store your fuel properly.** Place fuel in a fuel container and label it with the date purchased and the ethanol content of the fuel. Fuel that is more than 30 days old can phase separate and cause operating problems. It’s important to use fresh fuel in your snow thrower. Make sure fuel is stored safely and out of the reach of children.

**Tidy the area you intend to clear with your equipment.** Snow can sometimes hide objects. Doormats, hoses, balls, toys, boards, wires, and

other debris should be removed from the areas you intend to clear. When run over by a snow thrower, these objects may harm the machine or people.

**Plan to dress for winter weather.** Locate your safety gear now, and place it in an accessible closet or location in your home. Plan to wear safety glasses, gloves and footwear that can handle cold and slippery surfaces.

**Never put your hands inside the auger or chute.** Use a clean out tool or stick to unclog snow or debris from your snow thrower. Your hands should never go inside the auger or chute.

**Turn OFF your snow thrower if you need to clear a clog.** If you need to remove debris or unclog snow, always turn off your snow thrower. Wait for all moving parts to come to a complete

stop before clearing any clogs or debris.

**Only use your snow thrower in visible conditions.** Never operate the snow thrower without good visibility or light.

**Aim your snow thrower with care.** Never throw snow toward people or cars. Do not allow anyone to stand in front of your snow thrower. Keep children or pets away from your snow thrower when it is operating.

**Use extreme caution on slopes and hills.** Use caution when changing directions on slopes. Do not attempt to clear steep slopes.

**Know where your cord is.** If you have an electric powered snow thrower, be aware of where the power cord is at all times. Avoid tripping. Do not run over the power cord.

**Keep pets and children inside.** Kids and pets may love

to play in the white stuff, but it’s best to keep them inside your home and under supervision while you are using your snow thrower to clear a path or drive. Do not allow them to play in the snow as it is tossed out of the snow thrower’s chute.

More safety tips and information are available at [www.opei.org](http://www.opei.org). The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute is an international trade association representing more than 100 power equipment, engine and utility vehicle manufacturers and suppliers.



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## General Classifieds

*Classified ads must be submitted by Sunday at 3 p.m. to run in that Friday’s Winfield American. Submit your ad online at [www.winfieldamerican.com](http://www.winfieldamerican.com).*

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# Give the gift of planting a tree this holiday season to support conservation

Celebrate this year's holiday season with friends and loved ones while supporting conservation and tree planting with the help of the Arbor Day Foundation.

Returning for the eighth season in a row, Give-A-Tree cards from the Arbor Day Foundation offer a unique holiday giving opportunity with conservation benefits that will endure for generations. And again this year, Give-A-Tree cards can be purchased individually and with customized text. Cards can be purchased for \$5.95.

Purchasing the Arbor Day Foundation's coffee helps preserve rain forests in Central and South America. The Foundation's coffee, a part of the Rain Forest Rescue program, is shade-grown under the canopy of Latin American rain forests. Unlike sun-grown coffee plantations, this traditional shade-grown method gives the coffee a rich and delicious flavor. Each bag helps preserve two feet of rain forest. Cost per bag is \$13.49, including shipping.

The Foundation's Trees

in Celebration program allows the giver to honor loved ones while supporting crucial conservation efforts. For each dollar donated, one tree is planted in a high-need forest, and recipients are given a certificate showing them where the trees were planted.

Give the gift of membership with the Arbor Day Foundation and recipients will be sent 10 free trees, which will be shipped at the right time of year for planting. Membership levels vary and begin with a \$10 contribution.

"The holidays are a time for thinking about others, and as you do, take a moment to think about what you can do to protect the beauty

and splendor of the earth," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "We encourage everyone to give gifts that

will have a lasting impact for generations to come."

To purchase holiday gifts that give back to the planet, visit [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org).

## State Park holiday gift pack available for residents who love the outdoors; includes camp option

The Indiana DNR has bargain packages available for purchase at [www.InnsGifts.com](http://www.InnsGifts.com).

Whether your loved ones enjoy camping outdoors or sleeping in the comfort of one of seven Indiana State Park Inns, residents are covered with a \$99 state park holiday gift pack.

The gift pack includes a 2018 resident Annual Entrance Permit, a one-year subscription to Outdoor Indiana magazine, and one of two \$65 gift card options. Choose between a \$65 State Park Camp gift card or a \$65 Inns gift card. In past years, the gift pack gift card applied only to Inns.

The buyer saves \$31 over the regular price of the items purchased separately. Orders ship within three to five business days. The offer is avail-

able through December 31.

Indiana has 32 state parks and reservoirs throughout the state. The entrance permit grants gate entrance for all of 2018 for all state parks and reservoirs beginning January 1.


The Inns gift card can be used at any of seven state park lodging facilities, as well as at the award-winning Pete Dye-designed golf course at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis. The inns gift card can be used for lodging, meals in the dining rooms or gift card purchases.

The camping gift card can be used at any state park or reservoir campground, as well as at the following DNR Division of Forestry properties: Greene-Sullivan State Forest, Covered Bridge Retreat, and Deam Lake and Starve Hollow state recre-

ation areas. The gift card can be used toward cabins (excluding inns-operated cabins), campsites, cottages, group camps, recreation buildings, rent-a-camp cabins, shelters, and youth & rally camps.

In addition to camping, the camp gift card also may be used to pay for daily or annual entrance fees, lake permits, horse tags, and many other items sold by a state park property, except for those operations run by private concessionaires.

Outdoor Indiana is a bi-monthly magazine that brings you the best of the state's outdoors in 48 pages of full color. The normal subscription rate is \$15 per year. You can learn more about the magazine at [www.outdoorindiana.org](http://www.outdoorindiana.org).




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Winfield American 

# 2018 state parks special events schedule is now available online

When you start thinking about your 2018 recreation, plan for every month. Use the DNR's special events schedule, [www.StateParks.IN.gov/3282.htm](http://www.StateParks.IN.gov/3282.htm), which shows what events are planned for this year at state park properties throughout Indiana.

You'll find everything from the winter dog hike at Brown County State Park on February 3, to the 'Paddlers Paradise' at Summit Lake State Park on August 18, to 'Hoots and Howls Weekend' at Mounds State Park on October 26. Some changes are bound to

occur during the year, so check in often. An online calendar of events is also at [www.calendar.dnr.IN.gov](http://www.calendar.dnr.IN.gov).

"In addition to these special events, our interpretive naturalists offer a wide range of hikes, talks and other outdoor experiences to introduce Hoosiers

to our natural and cultural resources," said Ginger Murphy, deputy director of Indiana State Parks.

These events are posted online in the DNR calendar or on printed program schedules at nature centers and park gates. Some state parks also offer

periodic electronic newsletters with event details. You can see a list of these at [www.public.govdelivery.com](http://www.public.govdelivery.com) and sign up for your favorites. Entering your email in the landing page will take you to another webpage with a list of the newsletters.

For camping reservations as much as six months in advance, visit [www.Camp.IN.gov](http://www.Camp.IN.gov) (available 24 hours) or call 866-622-6746 between 12 p.m. and 8 p.m. For reservations at Indiana State Park Inns, visit [www.IndianaInns.com](http://www.IndianaInns.com) or call 877-563-4371.





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