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A Famous Friend Honors a Dying Wish

by Andrew Tallackson

Daniel J. Travanti first met Robert Swan on the short-lived TV series “Missing Persons,” which ran for 17 episodes on ABC between August 1993 and February 1994. By then, Travanti had already scored two consecutive Primetime Emmys and a Golden Globe for playing Capt. Frank Furillo on “Hill Street Blues.” But for many in the series, this was their proverbial golden ticket.

The series, directed by Gary Sherman (“Poltergeist III”), whom Travanti calls “a Chicago boy and my friend,” was set in Chicago, relying on Chicago-based actors to round out the cast. Swan was one of them. Travanti starred as Lt. Ray McAuliffe, who headed the Missing Persons Unit. Swan was the unit’s secretary, Dan Manaher. By that point, Swan had amassed a healthy resume of credits that included “Hoosiers,” “The Untouchables,” “Backdraft” and appearances in TV shows like “All My Children,” “Spenser: For Hire” and “The Equalizer.”

When the show was canceled, Travanti says everyone took it hard.

“I really loved the cast,” Travanti told *The Beacher*. “I felt bad that our series wasn’t picked up... and how could I not? These people were getting the break of their lives, and Bob was one of them.”

So, the show came to an end.

Then, a funny thing happened.



The publicity photo for “Missing Persons” features Daniel J. Travanti (far left) with the cast, including Robert Swan (seated). Note a young Jorja Fox (right), who would go on to great success in “ER,” “The West Wing” and “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.”

Swan, a towering, Teddy bear of a guy who knows no stranger, laid the groundwork for a friendship between the two that lasted three decades.

“I’m a little reclusive,” Travanti admits, “and if it hadn’t been for Bob, persisting, we wouldn’t have been friends.”

Swan called once. Then twice. Then the actors began visiting each other, Swan and his wife, Barbara, owning a classic brownstone in Chicago’s Hyde Park neighborhood. Bob would travel great distances to see Travanti’s stage performances. Travanti returned the favor, arriving at The Acorn in Three Oaks, Mich., to see Swan and his troupe perform.

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A Famous Friend Honors a Dying Wish

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Dogs were another shared passion. They loved their pets with unflinching compassion.

Sadly, Swan passed away on Aug. 9, at age 78, in his Rolling Prairie home. He'd been battling cancer before then. He always seemed to bounce back from the latest setback, but by August, he'd fought the good fight as best as he could. He was surrounded by family and friends when he passed away.

Now, Travanti is honoring Swan's dying wish, joining three actors in a celebration that includes the first public reading of Swan's award-winning screenplay, "The Saint and the Scoundrel."

Travanti and Swan had many discussions about a reading of the script before an audience. In fact, Swan wanted Travanti for the role of Samuel Johnson, even though Travanti felt Sir Anthony Hopkins was the ideal choice.

Swan was flattered his longtime friend wanted to be involved. Travanti's response?

"I told him, 'I'm your buddy. I'm your friend.' It's the least I can do."



Before his passing, Robert Swan, seen here in this *Beacher* file photo with Martha Cares, spent a considerable amount of time working on the script for "The Saint and the Scoundrel."

“Celebrate the Life of Robert Swan” is from 12:30-5 p.m. EDT Sunday, Oct. 8, at The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Included is a 90-minute reading of “The Saint and the Scoundrel” at 1:15 p.m. EDT that includes not only Travanti, but also Si Osborne, Holly Schroeder and Arnie Saks.

The event is the brainchild of his dear friend, Betty Hoeffner. In fact, she was with him the last four days of his life.

“We became quick friends who laughed a lot,” she said of Swan. “I was a huge fan of his work and talent, and he loved that I was a former publicist who would get him media coverage in our early days together.

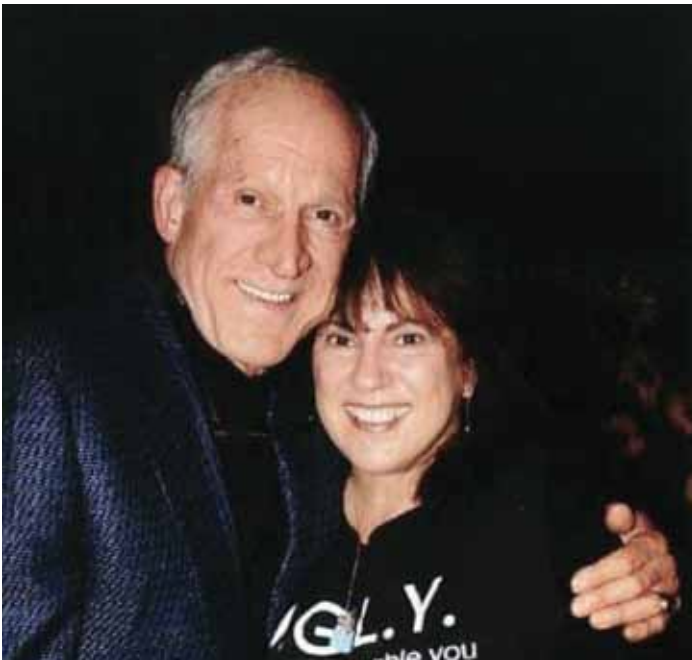
“His dying wish to me was that his beloved play be turned into a movie,” she said. “I found a great documentary filmmaker who will be filming the table read at The Acorn for use in enticing producers to help us do just that.”

If anyone can pull it off, it is Hoeffner, the driving force behind the anti-bullying nonprofit Hey U.G.L.Y. She has the connections to realize Swan's last wish. And, it is partly why Travanti is involved in The Acorn project.

Travanti, who moved from Los Angeles to Lake Forest, Ill., in 1995, moved late last year to the village of Lincolnshire, a north suburb of Chicago. He spoke with *The Beacher* for more than an hour, in great detail about his friendship with Swan, and their discussions on “The Saint and The Scoundrel” shortly before his death.

A screenplay Swan worked on over the past few years, “The Saint & The Scoundrel” was honored in the PRIZ ROYAL Paris Screenplay Awards. It centers on Samuel Johnson, who created the first modern dictionary, suffered from Tourette Syndrome and is credited with many memorable quotes. His private life, which Swan's screenplay delves into, earns him the script's “scoundrel” designation.

Swan and Travanti had the kind of friendship where they could agree to disagree. If they didn't see eye to eye



Betty Hoeffner is photographed with Daniel J. Travanti. Hoeffner is a driving force behind the upcoming reading of Robert Swan's screenplay, "The Saint and the Scoundrel."

on what they perceived as entertaining, it never affected, nor tainted, their friendship.

When it came to "The Saint and the Scoundrel," the two spoke at great lengths about it just weeks before Swan's passing. Travanti knew his friend was suffering.

"He was telling me what was happening to him," he said. "What do you say to someone who is in serious health trouble and pain? It's very hard."

What Travanti could offer, though, was his admiration for Swan's work. As an actor, Travanti says he's always been a champion of the writer, because it is the writer who breathes life into a story.

"So," Travanti says, "I said, 'OK, now your script. I think this was only three weeks before he passed away. You would like a reading of it, wouldn't you?' There was a long pause. I said to him, 'You know what? I'm a tough, mean grader.' And I said, 'Your screenplay. It's really special.' He said, 'What?' I said, 'It's really good.'"

Travanti told his friend he could pull off the role of Johnson. Swan agreed.

"He said, 'I know you can.' He then said, 'Wow, sure, that would be just great. You're prolonging my life.'"

Now, almost two months to the day of Swan's passing, his dying wish is about to become a reality.

When Hoeffner approached me about an interview with Travanti, there was no way I could turn it down.

My father, like so many, revered "Hill Street Blues" as the greatest TV show of its time. It was like a religious experience for him. No one could speak while it was on. We had to watch in shared silence. I would observe my father as he viewed the

Continued on Page 4

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show, admiration for the writing, acting and directing evident through the glint in his eyes.

As a birthday present, I bought the sheet music for the “Hill Street Blues” theme and learned it for him on the piano. I also played it at the performing arts schools I attended, earning the nickname “Hill Street Blues Boy.”

I shared that story with Travanti, who laughed. I wanted to discuss not only that milestone series, but also another work that deeply impacted me: his Emmy-nominated turn as John Walsh, whose son was kidnapped and brutally murdered, in 1983’s “Adam.”

Travanti said he and Walsh hit it off immediately.



Travanti is photographed with his co-stars, JoBeth Williams and John Boston, in this publicity photo for “Adam.”

“We shook hands,” Travanti recalled, “and I realized, I’m going to become him. I had never played real people, a real person who was actually there with us.”

I told Travanti, the scene where he learns the gruesome truth about his son’s death, that portrait of the ground zero of grief, has stayed with me to this day.

Travanti credited one of the film’s producers, the late Linda Otto, for the impact of the film and that scene in particular, which was set in a hotel room.

“We shot that movie in 17 days, which is aston-

ishing,” he recalled. “Linda Otto was the prime mover. She deserves most of the credit for that whole project.

“I told her later,” he continued, “I never need to cry, be angry, be upset, be afraid again after these 17 days. I have done it all, and to a very high degree.”

The aforementioned scene, in which Travanti ransacks the hotel room amid crushing grief, was achieved in one take. The film crew, he said, received permission to trash the room. And, because of the tight quarters, the performance had to be tightly choreographed.

Travanti also had asked Walsh what happened to him, how he felt, the precise moment he learned what happened to his son. Travanti says Walsh replied, “I thought I was going to have a heart attack.”

From there, Travanti knew what he had to do when the cameras rolled on that scene.

“I forget that I am me,” he said. “Instead of throwing the phone, I bang the phone, smash it against the wall and hold it there. My heart is pounding in my chest. And then, I stand up, I forget that we have choreographed the scene, and I get to the mattress, and that wasn’t preconceived, and I ended up smashing the mattress against the wall, and I smashed the wooden shutters of the closet. My brain is racing, my heart is racing. I may have been sweating, but I’m in it.”

That moment, Travanti says, was like an out-of-body experience..

“It’s really curious,” he explained. “A part of your brain is watching it, but you’re completely involved. It’s one of the reasons you have this out-of-body experience, because you almost are. You are these two creatures operating at once.”

Iwould be remiss, of course, if we didn’t chat about Travanti’s experience with “Hill Street Blues.”

To this day, he considers it one of those “too good to be true” fairy tales.

Before being cast in the Emmy-winning series that ran on NBC from 1981-1987, Travanti had more than paid his dues. His first credited role was in a 1964 “Route 66” episode called “Child of the Night.” His first film role was in 1965’s “Who Killed Teddy Bear?” From there, he appeared in everything from “The Patty Duke Show,” “Gidget” and “The Man From U.N.C.L.E.” to “Perry Mason,” “The Mod Squad,” “Mission: Impossible,” “Kojak” and “The Bob Newhart Show.”

But the big break? As the 1980s arrived, it had not happened yet.

“There are gems in your career,” Travanti says, “and in between, long gaps. Silences.

“I always want the great role,” he continued. “What I want are considerable demands made on my abilities. I can deliver. I can prove it. It took 17 years to get there. I kept thinking, when are they



Travanti won two Emmys and a Golden Globe for his work on "Hill Street Blues."

going to give me a role that's as demanding as my abilities are? Then came 'Hill Street Blues.'"

And the script for the pilot episode of "Hill Street Blues"? Travanti was mixed in his reaction. He wasn't that jazzed about another TV series.

"I can't be in a series," he figured at the time. To do it, he added, "It would have to be the world's best series of all time."

Then, Travanti read the script. His reaction: "This is the best thing I've ever read since I've been in the business."

So, his approach to the audition? What he always tells himself: "All I have to do is just go make the day. Make the day. Make them glad you were there that day."

Later, after the audition, Travanti says he learned the reaction to his audition was every actor's dream. That fantasy moment where the actor leaves the room, then someone utters behind closed doors, "Who was that guy?"

What made the show a phenomenal success? Again, Travanti turns to the writing.

"I get these letters from people, saying things like, 'You changed my life.' They're attributing these grand characteristics to you, and I say, no, it's the writing. It's the strength of the writing, and the ambiance of it, where they put you in these heroic situations. They write this lovely stuff, and you add the wherewithal, the nuance, the subtleties. We were all just thrilled to be together, that we all found each other."

Travanti continued.

"I was the new discovery at the time, but I have found that I have very little to do with my own life," he said. "I found, you had to be the right person, at the right time, for the right project that day. I was just so thrilled. We had little ups and downs (on the show), but it was a dream. It still feels too good to be true. An impossible dream right out of a storybook. Better than fiction. It changed, it altered my life."

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“The Creator” Deserves to be Seen on the Big Screen

by Andrew Tallackson

This is why we go to the movies...in a theater.

“The Creator” fears artificial intelligence *and* is awed by it, and it’s told in a grand style that’s part James Cameron, Ridley Scott and Steven Spielberg. The fourth film by Gareth Edwards after the inventive indie “Monsters” (2010), the slow-burn “Godzilla” (2014) and the magnificent “Rogue One,” this is his masterpiece. A timely story with sprawling images and an emotional core that climaxes with an exhaustively moving final shot.

You could say “The Creator,” which Edwards wrote with “Rogue One” partner Chris Weitz, assembles itself out of spare parts from other movies. In the near future, artificial intelligence is fully integrated into everyday life. Not just with robots, but lifelike simulants, which are marvels of effects wizardry. Human faces in front, mechanical nuts and bolts whirling about in the back.

A.I. is blamed for a nuclear bomb dropped on Los Angeles. Ten years later, “New Asia” is the only country embracing A.I. A strike team is sent to destroy “the creator,” which birthed dangerous A.I., and its secret “weapon” that could wipe out humanity.

As the rambunctious strike team heads to New Asia, led by Allison Janney’s no-nonsense Col. Howell, we are reminded of the motley Marines from Cameron’s “Aliens.” And with tech at the forefront, New Asia has shades of Scott’s “Blade Runner.” Stinging social commentary has sweatshops cranking out simulants through cheap labor.

The simulants, by the way, aren’t the movie’s only dazzling effect. Sentries move with an agility often lacking in movie robots. The landscape blooms with towering structures. And the most indelible image: the U.S. military spaceship NOMAD, a triumph of production and sound design. Hard to believe Edwards only spent \$80 million on the picture. It looks like it cost three times that.

Indeed, Edwards knows how to set up a spectacle. Take, for instance, the moment when the U.S. military sends out a mammoth tank to wipe out an A.I. settlement. Edwards holds off on showing it. We hear it, achieved through dynamite sound effects. The anticipation builds and builds, with Edwards placing his camera at low angles so we get a feel for the immensity of what is to come.



John David Washington stars in “The Creator.”



“The Creator”

Running time: 133 minutes. In theaters. Rated PG-13 for violence, some bloody images and strong language.

And like Spielberg, Edwards never loses sight of his humanity. The movie uses its characters to explore which is worse: the technology itself, or the people who created it. John David Washington (“Tenet”) has a desperate urgency as Joshua, a strike team member with ties to New Asia: it’s where he met his now deceased wife, Maya (Gemma Chan).

The movie’s twist, spoiled by the trailers, is that the creator’s “weapon” is a simulant child (Madeleine Yuna Voyles), whom Joshua names Alphie. Voyles has a fragile voice that can melt the hardest of hearts. And it is through Alphie that Joshua recovers his own humanity.

Ultimately, “The Creator” is about love. The love an adult possesses for a child, and the love between spouses. All of this leads to a final shot, Hans Zimmer’s magnificent score soaring, that stays with you long after the screen fades to black.

Expect “The Creator” to land high on my list for the year’s best.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at atallackson@gmail.com

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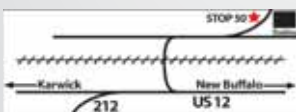
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The concert is by the LaPorte County Symphony Orchestra Jazz Trio, which features Becky Osborn on piano, Don Parker on bass and Brad Staats on drums.

Osborn has been the LCSO keyboard player for the last 14 years. She taught music courses at Purdue University-North Central for 22 years and high school choral music before that. She owns the Music of Oz studio, where she coaches voice, teaches piano and leads a staff of 22 teachers. She has served as a vocal coach for the TV show “Empire,” directed many musicals, worked in church music and founded and directed the LCSO vocal ensemble Illumination.



Osborn

Parker has been playing bass for more than 50 years. In addition to LCSO and the LCSO Jazz Trio, he gives private lessons, performs with the Zone 3 Band and various ensembles and theater orchestras around Northwest Indiana, and is principal bassist and vice president of Valparaiso’s South Shore Orchestra.



Parker

Staats has been playing drums and percussion since he was in the fifth grade. At the University of Arkansas, he performed with several university performance groups, such as marching band, concert band, jazz band and percussion assemble. He has been the LCSO principal percussionist for 32 years. He also has performed with other local organizations such as the Elkhart symphony orchestra, South Shore Brass Band and LaPorte Little Theatre Club.



Staats

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LaPorte Mission Quilters Annual Sale

The LaPorte Mission Quilters will hold its 12th annual Mission Quilt Sale from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 7, at LaPorte Missionary Church, 104 E. 18th St., near Kesling Middle School.

More than 150 quilts will be available at \$60 each, with a limited number of baby quilts for \$45 each. While some fabric is donated, the group hosts its annual October sale to raise funds for quilt batting, equipment and supplies. The goal is to make more quilts for people in need and help with missions.

More than 3,000 mission quilts have reached people in the community, state, nation and globally, including: LaPorte Homeless, Worthy Women Recovery Home, People in Song and Lincoln Elementary School in LaPorte; Stepping Stone Shelter for Abused Women and Children and Sand Castle Shelter for Homeless Families in Michigan City; The Community Reserve in New Carlisle; The Caring Place for Abused Women and Children in Valparaiso; the Veterans Homeless Shelter in South Bend; all fire departments in LaPorte, Michigan City and throughout LaPorte County; disaster relief, such as hurricanes in North Carolina, Florida, Texas and the East Coast; Tegucigalpa, Honduras; Togo, West Africa; and the Children's Hospital

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Clean cotton and cotton blend fabrics, clean cotton flat sheets only (sizes double bed, queen and king) may be donated at the church.

Anyone interested in helping make quilts is invit-



ed. No sewing skills are required. The group meets from 9-11:30 a.m. Thursdays in the church's lower-level fellowship hall. Women and men can participate. All equipment is supplied. There are standing and sitting jobs, as well as hauling boxes, cutting, sorting, counting, matching fabrics, tying knots, pinning and ironing.

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Nick Bello (left) as Nick Bottom and Rob Morris as The Bard appear in a scene from the musical-farce "Something Rotten," which runs Oct. 6-8 and 13-15 at LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times are 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors and \$13 for students. Make reservations at www.laportelittletheatreclub.com



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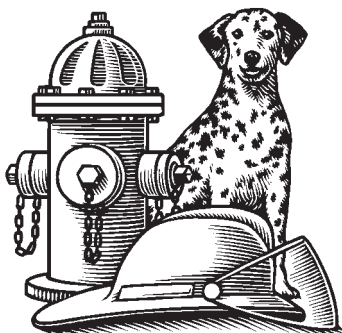
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What's Happening?

Some cybercrook crashed our Indiana MLS a few weeks ago, so the historical data is not trustworthy. I am reduced to reporting on what has been happening to me and my office.

Case 1. I listed a house in the country 10 minutes from the beach, shops and restaurants that has been renovated very nicely into a 1,600 square foot, 3 bedroom, 3 full bath house on 1.7 acres. Sellers changed their minds about using it and put it on the market for \$495,000. Nothing. Down to \$430,000 with no offer so far.

Interestingly, one agent, who showed and liked the house a lot, noted the address is related to a town trying to kill all of its short-term rentals. He suggested this caused people to not even look at any house related to that town.

Since it is not in the town where the mail goes through, I assigned it to a nearby town's zip code, messed with the pictures and pointed out how close it is to all the fun of Harbor Country, and noted in all caps it already has a permit for short-term rentals.

Did that this morning, and we got a showing request this afternoon.

Case 2. An agent in my office listed a new 975 square foot, 2 bedroom, 1 bath house impeccably fitted out with high-end kitchen, bath and the rest of the house for \$599,000. Forty showings, 10 offers, under contract and may close for cash north of \$675,000 in fewer than two weeks. This house has a heated patio, garage and fenced-in backyard. But it is on a high traffic road two miles from a busy beach.

The main difference between these two houses is the extraordinary quality and design of the finishes on the house that sold. A second difference is that the house that sold immediately was on the edge of a beach community. The one that did not is in the country.

Is it the location? The finishes? Both location and finishes combined? Something else that causes these two houses to create totally different sales scenarios?

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Michiana Humane Society Benefit

"Fall into Art," the third annual artist studio tours that benefit Michiana Humane Society, is from noon-5 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 7.

A guidebook with studio addresses is provided during check-in from 11 a.m.-noon EDT at Section House, 5896 Sawyer Road, Sawyer, Mich. Participants return to Section House for the after party from 5-8 p.m. EDT. That event includes live music, a live auction, raffle, art, open bar and appetizers.

The eight participating artists are:

- Janis Kanter – textile collage.
- Lenore Senovic – painter.
- Brent Walker – tie-dye.
- Cameron Covert – ceramics.
- Susan Henshaw – paint and photography.
- Norman Leigh Design – woodworking.
- Gregg Fraley & the Hairy Buffalos – improv.
- Michelle Stambaugh (Mud-Luscious) – ceramics and jewelry.



"Dog People/Cat People," a 24x24 acrylic by Susan Henshaw.

Tickets for the tours and after party are \$125, or \$75 for the after party only. All proceeds benefit the roughly 1,000 animals cared for by Michiana Humane Society.

Visit tinyurl.com/mcyjx6dj for reservations and more information.

Way to Grow Baby Shower

Franciscan Health Michigan City will host a free Way to Grow baby shower for expectant families and new parents from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Oct. 7, at Franciscan Health Michigan City, 3500 Franciscan Way.

Held in the Maria Theresia Conference Room, the program will include information and education on car-seat safety, prenatal care, safe sleep and community resources, as well as tours of the Family Birth Center, refreshments and giveaways.

Registration is required at tinyurl.com/6b58n9w6 or by calling (800) 931-3322.



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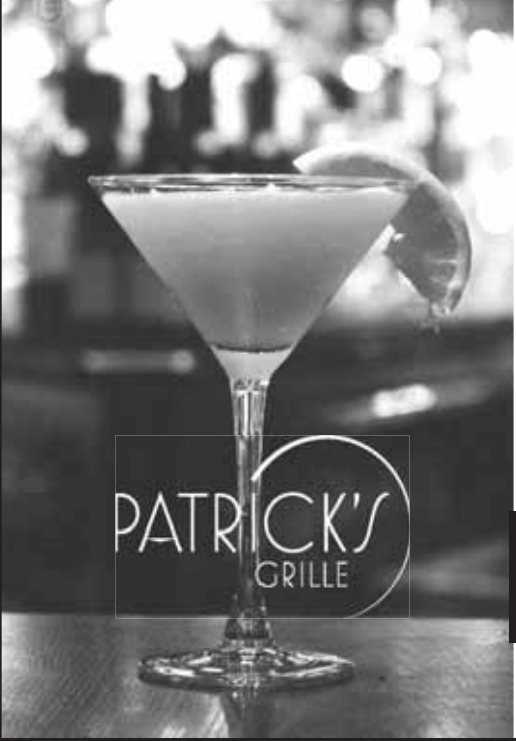
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MARY LOU IS A LONG TIME RESPECTED RESIDENT IN LONG BEACH

Weddings Aren't Just for the Bride and Groom

This past month, I attended a wedding for the son of my dear longtime friend, Sara. When I received the invitation, I marked the date on my calendar, thinking, "This will be a true celebration. One I wouldn't dream of missing."

The wide smile brightening my face was not just delight for the happy couple — the groom in particular — or for Sara and her family. I was excited about the wedding because it meant reconnecting with people I hadn't seen in a long while.

I met Sara in the 1990s, not long after my family moved to Chicago's western suburbs. She lived in the stucco foursquare up the block from my clapboard Victorian. When Sara appeared on my doorstep welcoming me to the neighborhood with a plate of warm brownies, I felt like I had landed in the right spot. Within days, Sara introduced me to two other neighborhood moms with a handful of preschool-aged kids like me. I felt as if I'd joined a sisterhood.

Between our four families, the kids numbered 14. Clustered in similar age groups, our children spent a lot of time together. If the girls hung out at my house after school, the boys played in Sara's basement, or in the yards of the other two moms. When Sara's son dubbed our tight little band of moms, "the neighborhood ladies," the nickname stuck.

As we got to know one another, we swapped baby-

That Girl, This Life

Julie McGue



sitter phone numbers, restaurant tips for date night and information on kids camps and lessons. We carpooled, hosted potluck dinners and trick-or-treated together. When we met at the park or lingered on the street corner, we commiserated about the daily joys and challenges of motherhood and marriage. There was always a shoulder to cry on, and usually it was Sara who chased away tears with her infectious laugh and humorous spin on the predicament.

Time and shared experiences crafted us into soul sisters, fellow warriors entrenched in the ongoing, often uphill battle of parenting. Our mindsets were aligned: nurture our kids' diverse interests, provide safe opportunities for them and ensure they stay clear of trouble. We also wanted to achieve those expectations while maintaining our sanity. Humor, humility, honesty and camaraderie made it possible.

As our clans splintered off and attended various local high schools, "the neighborhood ladies" cultivated our connection. At monthly lunches, which often stretched two hours or more, we shared and listened. Nothing was left unsaid. We chatted about our personal goals and interests, husbands' careers and what the kids were up to, including their latest screwups. Let's just say, each of us had more than a few colorful, tender stories to relate. Yet, we didn't judge or pity. We consoled, empathized and boosted. And we hoped. Hoped the children we knew since pre-school and had grown to know and love like our own would succeed, thrive and find happiness.

Some of our collective children, young men like Sara's son, faced bigger obstacles than most, and carried those heavy challenges far longer than any of us imagined. Yet, they made it.

As I took my seat at the wedding reception with "the neighborhood ladies" and their spouses, I glimpsed Sara's face at the adjacent table. She watched her son on the dance floor twirling his new bride. She glowed. Her full dimpled cheeks held pride, joy and contentment. Relief, too. Sara's son had championed all the many forks in the multiple roads he'd encountered. Happiness had been won at last.

When Sara caught my eye, I winked. A year ago, she might have thought all the same things of me as my son walked to the altar and married the girl he loved.

When Sara and her husband came around to our



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table, “the neighborhood ladies” and I giggled like we had when we were those young moms decades ago. As Sara slid into the fancy skirted chair next to me, she said, “Thanks for being here,” then she pressed a tissue to the corner of her soulful brown eyes. “There were times when I didn’t think....”

My friend didn’t need to complete the sentence. I hugged her hard and said, “You had your doubts, but...” I waved at our friends. “We knew you’d mother him through all the detours. Besides... we all had a kid we worried about more than the others.”

I giggled conspiratorially, “Remember ...?”

I reminded Sara about the time my husband heard a noise in the middle of the night. The alarm had been set, but he got up to check it out anyway. About 15 minutes later, he slid back in bed, chuckling.

“I caught him,” he said.

It was fall, the time of year when critters perpetually breached the limestone blocks of our 100-year-old foundation in search of a warm spot to hunker down for the winter.

“What did you catch?” I rubbed my eyes.

“Not what. Whom.” My hubbie dished me one of those broad Jack Nicholson smiles of his. “Your son was using the only unarmed window in the house – the one above your desk – as a route to visit a girl or some other kind of trouble.”

Snickering, I said, “I’ll call the alarm company in the morning.”

“Good idea. And by the way, he’s not the only one who’s been climbing in and out of that window.”

My friend, Sara, tosses her head back and laughs at my reminiscence. “I remember that.” Then she pulls me in close. “Do you remember when one of my kids shot the dart gun and it landed,” she points to her tall handsome son, the groom, “in his calf?”

When Sara finished the story — one that culminated in an ER visit and a painful tetanus shot — another one of “the neighborhood ladies” launched into an equally outrageous tale involving recompense for the bully on our block.

I grinned at the familiar faces around the table. “It’s truly a miracle that our kids survived their childhood. And that we did, too.”

Soon, the groom motioned to Sara to join him on the dance floor, and she stood, her dark eyes filling. “I’m glad all of you were able to come tonight. It means so much.”

Around the table, “the neighborhood ladies” and I shared knowing glances. Our presence had many layers. Of course, we had come to witness and celebrate the marriage of a loving, happy couple. But mostly, we had been eager to support our friend Sara, to relish in her son achieving happiness and to reconnect with each other. Weddings are not just celebrations for the bride and groom. They commemorate our shared history and reaffirm our belonging to one another.

(Julie McGue is a Duneland Beach resident.)

Kaitlyn Dever is Fantastic in Alien Invasion Tale With Little Dialogue

by Andrew Tallackson



Kaitlyn Dever stars as a woman confronting aliens in her home in "No One Will Save You."

hulu

I was spellbound by "No One Will Save You."

It's a gimmick, basically. An experiment by writer-producer-director Brian Duffield to see if he can craft a thriller — an alien invasion tale, no less — with next to no dialogue. Can he ratchet up the tension when no one's saying anything?

The answer, thanks to savvy storytelling and a fantastic performance by indie darling Kaitlyn Dever ("Booksmart," "Dear Evan Hansen"), is a resounding yes.

Duffield is not a household name, but he's written endearingly eccentric flicks. The dark-as-dark-can-be splatter comedy "Spontaneous" (2020), a teen love story where half the cast abruptly, and inexplicably, explodes. And in the same year, the loopy "Love and Monsters," in which Dylan O'Brien plays a misfit who discovers the world may be overrun by creatures, but home is wherever you make it.

"No One Will Save You," which just debuted on Hulu, swings for the fences with a fresh take on a dusty premise. It's not perfect. Not by a long stretch, but the boldness of it is riveting.

So how do you pull off a movie with not much dialogue and *not* confuse the viewer? Duffield is very precise in how he releases every detail, so a close-up, a reaction from Dever's beautifully expressive face, lets you know what's happening.

As the movie begins, we meet Brynn, who appears content living an isolated existence in her rural childhood home. She's mourning the recent death of her mother, and it appears the decade-ago death of her best friend, Maude.

As she drives into town running errands, the icy

★ ★ ★ 1/2

"No One Will Save You"

Running time: 93 minutes. Hulu. Rated PG-13 for violent content and terror.

reaction by those in the community is the first red flag all is not right. Again, nothing said, just a collective cold shoulder that triggers your imagination into figuring out Brynn's backstory.

Later that night, while sleeping, she's awakened by what sounds like prowlers in the living room. As she makes her way down a flight of steps, she spots what she believes is a hallucination. Could that actually be some type of alien stumbling about?

The cat-and-mouse sequence that follows is such a master class in editing, shadows and sound, you realize something. You don't need dialogue. The fear, and feral instincts, achieved by Dever, matched by Duffield's ability to mostly conceal the intruder from view, achieve one taut pursuit.

At the same time, the fact that Dever rarely speaks, that she has little contact with others, triggers the big unanswered question of "No One Will Save You." Is any of this actually happening...or is Brynn mentally ill and imagining it? It is quite clear she is suffering from grief, but could all of this be in her head?

That's the driving force behind the movie's galvanizing midsection — there are spectacular images, by the way, of ominous storm clouds — in which Brynn taps into a reservoir of resourcefulness. There are gaping inconsistencies, to be sure. If, indeed, this is

an alien invasion, and the unwanted visitors have wiped out all power, then there is no way Brynn could still rely on certain electrical devices in the house. However, the fact that there doesn't seem to be much devastation elsewhere only heightens our suspicions about Brynn's sanity.

Whether we roll with the punches, whether we believe in Brynn, rests on Dever's shoulders, and she achieves the best performance of her career. We have to cull the emotion of the tale from her without hearing her speak. The beauty is, we know exactly

what's running through her mind. We can see the wheels turning, working through each new crisis, processing each threat and scrambling to thwart it.

And by the end, "No One Will Save You," for all its mystery and villainous E.T.s, really is a parable about grief. About owning up to the past and starting anew.

I'm still not sure if the final scene works. You get what Duffield is trying to say, but it feels like he leapfrogged past essential story threads. We should



An overturned mail-delivery truck is one of the few signs of an alien invasion in the community.

be moved, in an offbeat way, but the awkward juxtaposition of images makes the ending feel like it's been stitched together from two entirely different movies.

To Duffield's credit, you admire the fact that he took an oddball approach. Not every choice hits the mark, but the bulk of them do. They *really* do.

□

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Moving “A Million Miles Away” Proves the Underdog Tale is Alive and Well

by Andrew Tallackson



Michael Peña (center, left) stars as José Hernández in “A Million Miles Away.”

We love an underdog story. Particularly the American dream filtered through the eyes of immigrants. We’re moved because, no matter society’s ignorance, courage and brains almost always triumph.

“A Million Miles Away,” which just debuted on Prime, tells the true story of José Hernández, a migrant worker who became a NASA astronaut. Even if you are unfamiliar with his story, as I was, you can figure out where the story is headed. When the big moments will arrive calculated to tug at the heartstrings.

We don’t care, because underdog movies are like comfort food. And “A Million Miles Away” proves as long as you infuse these tales with heart, you fall for them all over again.

Based on Hernández’s 2012 autobiography [Reaching for the Stars: The Inspiring Story of a Migrant Farmworker Turned Astronaut](#), the movie begins in the late 1960s as José’s family, which leave Mexico for a better life in California, never sets camp for long anywhere. They go where the work is. And it is in these scenes that director Alejandra Marquez Abella, working from a script she co-wrote with Hernán Jiménez and Bettina Gilois (“Glory Road”), establishes a beautiful family dynamic: the warm, loving ebbs and flows between parents, children and cousins. The labor as migrant workers isn’t

★ ★ ★ 1/2

“A Million Miles Away”

Running time: 121 minutes. Prime. Rated PG
for thematic elements and language.

easy. We see that in the fingers of José and his siblings, covered in calluses and Band-Aids. In José’s cousin, unable to stay awake in class from early-to-rise tasks in the field. And in the subtle way José’s teacher, Miss Young (Michelle Krusiec), strokes his back, aware of the hardships his family faces.

When Miss Young meets with José’s family, pleading for them not to move, that José and his siblings need consistency, a surprising thing happens. Most immigrant sagas depict the parents as etched-in-stone rigid. José’s parents initially resist, then take a step back from themselves, doing what’s best for their children.

Krusiec, in fact, is the movie’s most beautifully realized creation: that one special teacher who saw potential and nursed it along its intended path.

Michael Peña, whose presence from the last “Ant-Man” was *sorely* missed, takes over playing José after college graduation. Peña makes you smile, in anything he does, because he’s instantly likable. A Hollywood everyman in the same tradition as Tom Hanks. Here, he is a case study in determination. Good with numbers, securing an engineering

degree, but not necessarily possessing the traits of a NASA astronaut: his true desire.

The movie is subdued in how it depicts the racism blocking his path. No violence depicted, no racial epithets, just an insultingly low bar set for him. The way, for instance, the office secretary, upon seeing him, hands him keys to the room with cleaning supplies, assuming he's the janitor. The unacceptable office handed to him as his workspace. The way white colleagues insist on checking his work, as if he's incapable of getting things right on his own.

Much of the film charts his courtship, and eventual marriage to, Adela (Rosa Salazar, of "Alita: Battle Angel" fame). Again, family fuels the warmth of "A Million Miles Away." Adela and José are equals in their marriage. They're allowed to be human. To be thrilled *and* disappointed by each other, particularly Adela, who is saddled with raising their many children while he's gone.

José is rejected 11 times by NASA before his application is accepted, and if the movie's midsection feels long(ish), it's because it wants you to feel the repeated hope crushed by rejection. It also achieves a fragile power in scenes where José receives support from astronaut-aerospace engineer Kalpana Chawla ("Never Have I Ever" regular Sarayu Blue) who, sadly, would die in the 2003 Space Shuttle Columbia disaster.

By that point, you can't help but feel José deserves his "moment." So when he heads in person to Johnson Space Center to hand-deliver his application, Peña does his best work. It is a rare case where



Rosa Salazar is delightful as José's future wife, Adela.

you can feel how badly someone wants something. How hard they've worked to arrive at this point.

From then on, "A Million Miles Away" earns the uplift it strives to achieve. There is a scene, in fact, where someone from José's past arrives to see him shortly before he heads off to space. Anyone who says they didn't tear up is a stone-cold liar.

Again, none of this comes as any surprise. In fact, if "A Million Miles Away" did *not* end as it triumphantly does, we'd be disappointed. The fact that it do so having won our heart is cause for celebration.

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Back in Time

It was the perfect weekend for families to visit Creek Ridge County Park for the annual Pioneer Days on Sept. 23-24. Visitors encountered blue skies and warm temperatures as LaPorte County Parks volunteers recreated aspects of life in the past. All photos by Andrew and William Tallackson.





Now We Are Four

“How many typewriters do you need?!?”

Good question. Especially when coming from my dear wife of 46 years and chief financial officer, Natalie.

“Well, this one is free, and—”

“Where are you going to put it? You already have three, and we don’t have anymore room in our little house.”

Hmmm.

She had me there.

Still, there was that email from fearless *Beacher* editor Drew Tallackson noting a reader in “Beacherland” wanted to give me an old typewriter. That’s right: GIVE. All I had to do is call, and call this lovely lady I did.

Said lady, and her loyal husband, did, indeed, have a humdinger of an L.C. Smith & Corona typewriter from 1927. Said couple shall remain anonymous, in respect to their privacy. We Google-mapped our way to their hideout in the dunes and followed them to their open garage. There stood, on an elegant, old typing stand, a pearl of great price, the aforementioned big, honking L.C. Smith & Corona office model. Yes, hubby had used that beast to type many a document at the family business. He said it never let him down. And, when he was done typing, he “folded” the typewriter back into the desk, via a clever mechanism, no more to be found in the present officescape.

Hubby noted said typewriter was purchased at a Manning Office Supply Co. in Michigan City (anyone remember them?) The company sticker still adorned the typewriter, adding even more value.

I was blown away by a typewriter stored in a crawl space for many a year and only recently rediscovered when the couple decided on some serious housecleaning and reduction of “stuff.” Their adult children and growing grandchildren had no interest in, or use for, a dusty old relic of long ago, even after grandma gave it a good cleaning.

As soon as I popped in a sheet of paper and began typing, I knew — in my heart of hearts, I knew — that my collection of three vintage, manual typewriters had just grown to four.

I was at two when last weighing in on these pages about buying a 1935 Royal De Luxe typewriter on New Year’s Eve 2022. Don’t get me wrong, that black portable with silver trim and glass keys was

Life With Charley

Charles McKelvy



Thanks to some helpful videos, I am having a blast putting this blast from the past to work again.

all I will ever need, and more. But then, one sunny day, when I was riding east on our spiffy new Harbert, Mich., bike path, I realized Dunes Antique Center was actually open. (It had always seemed to be closed on earlier rides.) And, of course, they had two, not one but *two*, portable typewriters for sale. One was a powder blue Royal Safari from the 1950s and, well, it matched my baby-blue eyes. I had ample funds in my coin jar, so I added that righteous little Royal to my collection. I took it, of course, to my friend and partner in old-typewriter obsession, Jim Roe of Independent Copier in St. Joseph, Mich. Jim spiffed her up in no time flat, and I was soon cranking out copy with a post-war Royal in powder blue.

Woohoo!!!

Natalie, of course, wanted to know if that was it. If I was finally satiated. If I had completed my collection of old typewriters.

“Yeah,” I said. “Unless a free one appears out of the blue.”

Well, Drew’s email sure appeared out of the ether. There I was, taking that vintage LC Smith & Corona

for a test type. I'm tellin' ya: love at first keystroke.

"You sure," I said to the generous couple in question, "you want to just give me this typewriter?"

They were sure.

Absolutely sure.

So I backed our car down their driveway and loaded the beast into the trunk. We profusely thanked the fun couple for their gift. Then, we drove straight away to St. Joseph to enroll my latest in a rigorous course of Jim Roe cleaning and buffing. Jim was just getting ready to head out on a bike ride, but he put that off long enough to cast a professional eye on the L.C. Smith & Corona. Jim's eyes went wide with wonder. He said we had what could be a museum piece. After, of course, he promised to buff it up and restore its luster, after he returned from his bike ride.

Well, Jim Roe did a bang-up job of bringing that relic back to life. He told me to keep an ear to the ground for more typewriter bargains, then sent me on my way with my new/old typing toy. No, my new/old vintage typewriter. I set it on my desk, figured out how to set the margins and typed happily away. But there was one problem: the existing ribbon was shot, bone-dry.

Thankfully, I had seen ahead and ordered a ribbon from a company that makes such things for kooks like me. It arrived the next day. Natalie and I, after a frustrating 15 minutes of fumbling fingers and fuming, realized they sent the wrong ribbon. The spools simply wouldn't fit. Just not gonna happen.

So, emails to the ribbon company, and a time of waiting to set it all right. And they are making it right. As I anxiously await the arrival of the correct ribbon, I realize the name of the game when dealing with old typewriters is patience.

Extreme patience.

Serenity now!!

Not one of my strengths, but I do take this as a learning experience, as a lesson in humility. I will wait patiently for the correct ribbon to arrive. Then, Natalie and I will happily and expertly install it, and all will be well with my growing collection of vintage, manual typewriters.

Well, guess what? The ribbon company did make it right, and we popped in the correct ribbon, in no time flat. The 96-year-old typewriter is upright, taking nourishment, and performing like the true champion it is.

Meanwhile, a postal from our (formerly of Michigan) friend in Wisconsin, Wendy Jones, arrived. Wendy included a clipping from *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* noting the city was about to celebrate the 150th birthday of the "QWERTY" keyboard with a weekend-long QWERTYFEST MKE. Lectures on the history of the typewriter, an open-mic night, live music...and typing, typing, typing. I was ready to hop in the car and head over to Milwaukee with at least one of my typewriters when I realized the event had come and gone.

Still, the June 23 article by Brittany Truong did explain the whole QWERTY thing in glorious detail. To wit: "Since 1873, when the first typewriter was commercially produced by Remington Arms Company, the QWERTY keyboard has essentially remained unchanged. Take a look at your own laptop keyboard. Numbers sit in the top row. Punctuation marks are grouped together on the right-hand side. Letters are arranged in a seemingly random fashion underneath the numbers. QWERTY refers to the first six letters in the upper left."

Wendy Jones suggested

I visit www.wisconsinhistory.org and search "type-

writer history/Milwaukee" for "some great information" about how it all came to be in Milwaukee. So do check it out, if you're at all interested in tapping on old typewriters.

Also, you might want to screen the 2016 documentary, "California Typewriter," and hear Tom Hanks, historian David McCullough and others extoll the virtues of vintage typewriters. After watching it, you'll want to run out and search the estate sales and antique stores for your own forgotten treasure.

And if that's not enough, read Anthony Casillo's [Typewriters: Iconic Machines from the Golden Age of Mechanical Writing](#). Hanks, who can change a ribbon in the blink of an eye, wrote the foreword for this visual homage to those magnificent typing machines.



This was my "thank you note" to the wonderful couple who gave me their L.C. Smith & Corona typewriter.

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Michigan City Public Library's circulation/front lobby area is open to the public. Public seating is available, and the computer lab is open. Hours are: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday-Saturday and closed Sundays.

The following programs are scheduled:

- **Scratch Club (ages 7-17) at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5.** Learn to code with Scratch — a platform to create stories, games and animations — by working through projects and sharing ideas. Call Dave at (219) 873-3045 for details.
- **Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 5 and 12.** Membership is open to anyone interested in needle arts such as crochet, needlepoint, cross-stitch, crewel, tatting and other hand stitching. All skill levels and ages are welcome. Also, the group has organized a local chapter of the Warm Up America Foundation. Volunteers are knitting and crocheting handmade squares (7x9 inch) that will be joined together to make full-size afghans.
- **Family Bad Art from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7.** The focus is astronomical-themed art. Craft projects will be available, in addition to canvases and art supplies. No registration is required.
- **Happy Birthday, Michigan City Public Library! at 11 a.m. Monday, Oct. 9.** Celebrate

the library turning 126 years old with cider and donuts.

- **Any Book Book Club (adults only) from 5-6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9.** Participants can discuss any books they are reading. Meetings are the second Monday of the month. Light refreshments will be served.
- **Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17) from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in October.** Create with LEGO WeDo, Micro:bits, paper circuits, Ozobots and 3-D pens. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- **Rock Painting for Adults from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 10.** All supplies are included in the free event. Pre-registration is required because limited spots are available.
- **Weekly Crafts for Kids & Teens weekly.** Each week offers a different project. Take-home craft kits are available, or create some in the Maker-space. Supplies are limited.
- **Story Time at 10 a.m. Wednesdays.** Children birth to age 5 and adults will enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Check out previous story time videos through the library's YouTube channel, Facebook page and website.
- **Spooky Halloween Scavenger Hunt in October.** Visit Youth Services, find all the characters and win a prize. Children can return each week when the characters move around.

Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit www.mclib.org for more details.

New Buffalo Township Library

- **Hogwarts House Reading Challenge begins Monday, Oct. 9.** Sign up at the library.
- **Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9.** The movie is "In the Mood for Love."

Weekly programs:

- Craft Time on Wednesdays while supplies last.
- Chess Club from 6-8 p.m. Thursdays.
- Read to a Dog Sessions for all ages from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday and 4-4:45 p.m. Wednesday.
- Lego Club all day Fridays.
- Saturday Morning Cartoons from 10 a.m.-noon.
- Story time at 10 a.m. Mondays.

All times are Eastern. New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson St. Call (269) 469-2933 for more details.

Duneland Weavers Guild

Duneland Weavers Guild meets at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 7, at Washington Evangelist Free Church, 3805 LaPorte Ave., Unit A, Valparaiso.

Natalie Drummond will present the program "Deflected Double Weave."

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TEAM STANDING		WON	LOST
1. Lady Strikers		7	1
2. Pin Pushers		6	2
2. Diagonal Divas		6	2
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES		SCORE	
1. Nancy Kubath			178
2. Mary Lou McFadden			157
3. Dottie Brinckman			155
3. Pat Collado			155
4. Ann Bogart			152
4. Debbie Novak			152
STRIKES			
Mary Clohessy, 4/Ann Bogart, 3.			

Sept. 26, 2023

TEAM STANDING		WON	LOST
1. Dolls With Balls		9	3
1. Striking Beauties		9	3
2. Diagonal Divas		8	4
HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAMES		SCORE	
1. Debbie Novak			177
2. Ann Bogart			167
3. Debbie Novak			165
4. Tammy Vouri			156
SPLITS			
Debbie Novak			5-6
THREE STRIKES			
Terri Bekkan, Debbie Novak.			

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Historians of the Year



LaPorte County Historical Society has named Gloria Arndt, Michigan City Historical Society, Fenker's Furniture and Horizon Bank as Historians of the Year. Pictured are (from left): William Halliar and Kirk Rogers, Michigan City Historical Society co-presidents; Arndt; Fenker's Furniture Owner Paul Fenker; and Steve Kring, Horizon Bank for Northwest Indiana regional president.

Arbor Day Dedication

The Village of Michiana will hold a dedication ceremony to establish Arbor Day Foundation membership at 4 p.m. EDT Saturday, Oct. 7, at Forest McCance Park, which is northeast of the village hall at 4000 Cherokee Drive.

Council President Timothy McCarthy will read the inaugural proclamation. Also planned is the presenting of the U.S. flag by Boy Scout Troop 802 and Girl Scout Troop 8022 Honor and Color Guards. A local dignitary and village Tree Board member will attend. A ceremonial tree will be planted, along with an additional tree.

Donations to the village in an ongoing stewardship and planting effort will be accepted. Call the village hall at (269) 469-4600 for more details.

Power of the Purse

United Way Women United will host the "Power of the Purse" fundraiser from 6-9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, at Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St.

Participants can donate and create a package featuring a designer purse and other items to raffle off. The evening also includes a performance by Carnessa the Poetess. All donations to Women United and United Way of LaPorte County are tax deductible. Tickets, which cost \$50, include entry and dinner. Guests also can purchase five raffle tickets for \$20. Make reservations at tinyurl.com/9m3fvfpd

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**North Course, "Early Birdies"
Sept. 25, 2023
End-of-Season Awards, 50/50**

A Flight

Average Low Gross

First Place: Barb Rumbuc.
Second Place: Pat Czizek.

Average Low Net

First Place: Phyllis Roach.
Second Place: Jane Shuger.

Average Low Putts

First Place: Linda Hirsch, Carol Tylisz.
Second Place: LuAnn Uremovich.

B Flight

Average Low Gross

First Place: Paula Hutchinson.
Second Place: Carol Hullings.

Average Low Net

First Place: Sheila Brackin.
Second Place: Jane Spang, Linda Wabshall.

Average Low Putts

First Place: Mary Lou Marshall.
Second Place: Evelyn Cassin.

C Flight

Average Low Gross

First Place: Kathy Nelson.

Second Place: Bev Szybala.

Average Low Net

First Place: Kathy Grott.
Second Place: Sandra Provan.

Average Low Putts

First Place: Alice Wozniak.
Second Place: Ann Batagianis, Mary Schlunz.

D Flight

Average Low Gross

First Place: Jan Smith, Nancy Wilhelm.
Second Place: Tina Kintzele.

Average Low Net

First Place: Cindee Schroll.
Second Place: Pam Betcher.

Average Low Putts

First Place: Shirley McCarty.
Second Place: Linda Sperling.

Season Totals

Most Pars: Barb Rumbuc.
Most Chip-Ins: Jan Smith.
Most Birdies: Barb Rumbuc.
50/50: Pam Betcher, Jan Smith.

End-of-Season Scramble

First Place

1. Barb Rumbuc.
2. Kathy Nelson.
3. Kathy Grott.
4. Jan Smith.

Second Place (Tie)

1. Linda Hirsch.
2. Mary Knaup.
3. Sandra Provan.
4. Nancy Wilhelm.

Second Place (Tie)

1. Phyllis Roach.
2. Carol Hullings.
3. Paula Hutchinson.
4. Mary Schlunz.

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Harbor Country Film Group



Wong Kar-wei's 2001 film "In the Mood for Love."

Harbor Country Film Group will screen Wong Kar-wei's "In the Mood for Love" at 6:30 p.m. EDT Monday, Oct. 9, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

Group leader Eve Moran will provide an introduction, along with discussion after the screening.

The movie is about a man and woman — neighbors in a Hong Kong apartment building — who suspect their spouses of having an affair. Something unexpected happens.

Moran, in a press release, calls the film "visually striking and delicately mannered...with deep themes of betrayal, yearning, confused loyalty, constricted lives and, yes, love."

The movie was voted the fifth-greatest film of all time by critics in British Film Institute's *Sight & Sound* poll for 2022.

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The River We Remember by William Kent Krueger (hardcover, \$28.99 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 421 pages.)

“The land feeds us, then we feed the land...thinking sadly that lately what he and the others in Black Earth County had been feeding to the land was mostly poison.”

I first became familiar with Krueger with his series about Cork O’Connor, a sheriff near an Indian reservation in northern Minnesota. Good, solid stories with believable characters, and in the beautiful setting of our northern lakes and forests.

His bestselling novels, *Ordinary Grace* (2013) and *This Tender Land* (2019), gave us new perspectives and new characters. He’s only gotten better with this novel that is sure to be loved and treasured for years to come.

The year is 1958 in a small town called Jewel, Minn., close to the Iowa state line and along the banks of the Alabaster River. There are an array of interesting characters living there, but first...

Local citizen Herman Ostberg runs into the sheriff’s office to blurt out that Jimmy Quinn is dead. He found the body hooked on branches and floating in the river.

Sheriff Brody Dern is surprised, but feels no remorse, as Quinn is the richest, most despised man in Black Earth County. But a shotgun blast to his middle says this could be an accident? A suicide? Or murder? Ostberg also feels it is his duty to explain the catfish have been busy eating out Quinn’s eyes and other parts, making him a mess to look at. Ugh. More than I needed to know.

Trying to keep this a secret in a small community is like setting your 5-year-old next to a cake and telling him not to touch it. Yeah, rumors are flying, and the one getting the most press is that he was killed by Noah Bluestone, a native Sioux living on a small farm with his Japanese wife, Kyoto. They met in Japan during World War II.

Several “concerned citizens” come out to the Bluestone home to question Noah. Apparently, all the horrible things about Quinn are suddenly forgotten when a Native American is accused of murdering a white man. Bluestone suddenly becomes the most likely suspect.

Both Bluestones worked for Quinn, and neither will cooperate with the investigation. Several damning pieces of evidence could persuade a jury they are guilty, but Noah Bluestone refuses to plead guilty or not guilty. This man is a glutton for punishment.

Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



Dern puts him in jail for his own safety until he can appear before a judge.

It may have been 13 years since the end of WWII and four years since the Korean War, but prejudices still run deep against Germans, Japanese, even the Sioux who used to live on the land the white man claimed many years ago for his own.

There’s the requisite small diner run by a war widow, Angie Madison, her teenage son, Scott, and mother-in-law. Sam Wicklow is the publisher of the *Black Earth County Clarion*. He has a prosthetic left leg due to injuries in WWII. They prove to be among the cooler heads in Jewel.

Just past the story’s halfway point, Krueger throws out a bombshell. What’s going on? Apparently, everything neatly stacked up in front of us might not be the real story. You will certainly sit straight up and see that Krueger has other things in mind. This is not a straightforward murder-mystery by any means.

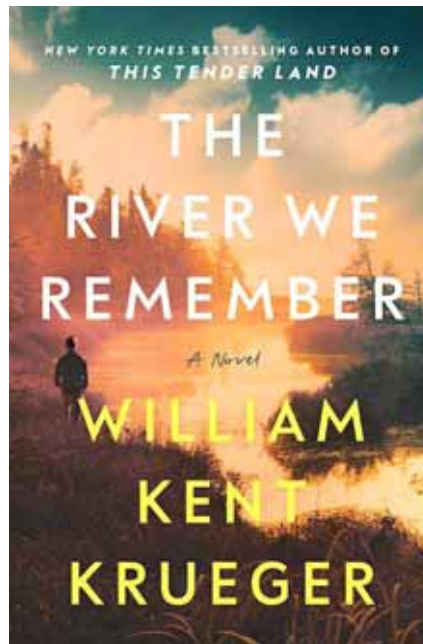
Dern is a solid, fair and honest man, 35 years old, but has his devils deep inside, too. He was a decorated hero during WWII, which he keeps quiet about, and brought back some PTSD resulting in many sleepless nights.

Arriving first at the scene of Quinn’s demise, he does something strange: he wipes down the shotgun, the doors of Quinn’s truck, even sweeps clean any footprints other than his own. Krueger lets the reader simmer with that clue until the very end of the story. It drove me crazy, wondering why he did that. Then, there is the tarp, covered in blood, found buried in Bluestone’s apple orchard. At the same time, an approaching storm rumbles in the distance...a portent of things to come?

Stories come out during the murder investigation, leading you to realize there’s a lot of hidden secrets in this little community — slowly and cleverly exposed. It’s what Krueger does so well.

The final word from Krueger: *“Our lives and the lives of those we love merge to create a river whose current carries us forward from our beginning to our end. Because we are only one part of the whole, the river each of us remembers is different, and there are many versions of the stories we tell about the past. In all of them there is truth, and in all of them a good deal of innocent misremembering.”*

Till next time, happy reading!



Chesterton Art Center

Duneland Plein Air Painters will return with a new exhibit, "A Brush with Nature: Duneland Plein Air Adventures 2023," through Oct. 30 at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.

An artists reception, complete with a cash bar and light bites, is from 4-7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, as part of the Chesterton Arts District 3rd Friday events.



Kei Constantinov's oil piece, "Old Fence Post."

The group exhibit includes 29 local artists through Duneland Plein Air Painters, whose focus is painting outdoors. The exhibit features works from its year of paint-out sessions, showcasing locales from across the region in watercolor, acrylic and oil painting.

Exhibiting artists include: Sandy Appleby, Lee Bauman, Ed Bricker, Lynn Buckmaster, Kei Constantinov, Kris E. Cook, Pamela Davis-Butler, Melissa Dittmann, Bunny Dimke, Dawn Duty, Sharon Goodall, Sandra Hass Yamhure, Dina Heijselaar, Kuhn Hong, Susan Hughes, Laura Krentz, Carolyn Lelek, J.D. Moffitt, Christine Newton, Carleen Rivera O'Connor, Nancy Petruska, Anita Phillips, Kirsten Renehan, DeBorah Stipanovich, Margaret Sullivan, Ginny Takacs, Betty Thomas, Lina Wheat Monahan, Nicole Wilbur and Gail Woolever.

Visit Duneland Plein Air Painters on Facebook for more details.

Chesterton Art Center is located at 115 S. Fourth St. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Call the center at (219) 926-4711 or visit www.chestertonart.org for more details.

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In the Area

Oct. 4-5 — La Lu Players, “Witch’s Brew,” La Lumiere School Fine Arts Building, 6801 N. Wilhelm Road, LaPorte. Free. Times: 4 p.m. Oct. 4/6:30 p.m. Oct. 5.

Oct. 5 — Scratch Club (ages 7-17), 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3045.

Oct. 5 — United Way Women United “Power of the Purse,” 6-9 p.m., Uptown Social, 907 Franklin St. Tickets: \$50. Info: tinyurl.com/9m3fvfpd, (219) 210-3534.

Oct. 6-8, 12-15 — “Four Old Broads on the High Seas,” Footlight Theatre, 1705 Franklin St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thur.-Fri., 2 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$12/children. Reservations: www.footlightplayers.org

Oct. 6-8, 13-15 — “Something Rotten,” LaPorte Little Theatre Club, 218 A St. Times: 7:30 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. Tickets: \$17/adults, \$16/seniors, \$13/students. Info/reservations: www.laportelittletheatreclub.com

Oct. 7 — The Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s, 9 a.m., Washington Park. Info: www.act.alz.org/nwiwalk

Oct. 7 — The LaPorte Mission Quilters 12th annual Mission Quilt Sale, 9 a.m.-noon, LaPorte Missionary Church, 104 E. 18th St. Info: (219) 362-1133.

Oct. 7 — Family Bad Art, 2-4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 7 — The Village of Michiana dedication cere-

mony, 4 p.m. EDT, Forest McCance Park (northeast of village hall at 4000 Cherokee Drive). Info: (269) 469-4600.

Oct. 8-Nov. 6 — Glasswork by Judy Gregorich & students, The Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores.

Oct. 9 — Happy Birthday, Michigan City Public Library!, 11 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 9 — Any Book Book Club (adults only), 5-6 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Oct. 10 — Page Turners Book Club, noon-1 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Info: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 10 — Virtual Author Talk with Rick Steves, 3-4 p.m., LaPorte County Public Library, 904 Indiana Ave. Registration: www.laportelibrary.org

Oct. 10 — Rock Painting for Adults, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Registration: www.mclib.org

Through Oct. 21 — “Vivian Maier: In Color,” “Under the Same Sun,” “to render the infinite,” Lubeznik Center for the Arts, 101 W. Second St. Info: www.LubeznikCenter.org, (219) 874-4900.

Through Oct. 29 — “A Different Look at the Century of Progress,” “Volunteers: With A Little Help from Our Friends,” The Beverly Shores Depot Museum & Art Gallery, 525 S. Broadway. Info: www.bsdepot.org

Through Nov. 5 — “Glass: An Exhibition,” The Ellen Firme Gallery, 92 W. U.S. 12, Beverly Shores. Regular gallery hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays/Saturdays.

First and Third Mondays — Singing Sands Toastmasters Club, 6:30-8 p.m., Senior Health/Wellness Center (old hospital ER, Barker/Buffalo).

Mondays in Michigan City — Bingo, Moose Family Lodge 980, 2107 Welnetz Road. Doors open/8:30 a.m., early birds/9:30 a.m., regular Bingo/10 a.m.

Mondays in LaPorte — Weekly line dance lessons, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1130, 181 W. McClung Road. Cost: \$5. Beginner lessons, 2-3 p.m. Improver lessons, 3-4 p.m. Info: (219) 363-8301.

Tuesdays — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church, 109 Ann St. Doors open: 3:30 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. \$45 entrance fee (includes all cards). Info: (219) 336-3099.

Tuesdays in October — Creative Tech Activities (ages 6-17), 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Tuesdays though mid-November — Dave Littell improv classes, 5-6:30 p.m., Long Beach Community Center gym, 2501 Oriole Trail. Recommendation donation to center. Info: (203) 219-5700.

Thursdays in October — Needle Arts Club to Warm Up America Joining Night, 5:30-7 p.m.,

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Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

Saturdays through Oct. 28 — Michigan City Farmers Market, 8 a.m.-noon, Eighth & Washington streets. Info: www.emichigancity.com

In the Region

Oct. 6 — Meagan McNeal “Do It With Love” Benefit Concert for Neighbor by Neighbor, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35 (general) + \$5.50 convenience fee, \$75 (reserved) + \$7 convenience fee. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Oct. 6-7 — Hallo-Weekend, Gabis Arboretum at Purdue University Northwest, 450 W. County Road 100 North, Valparaiso. Times/tickets: pnw.edu/hallo-weekend

Oct. 7 — Dunes Calumet Audubon Society Bird Walk, 8 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Registration: tinyurl.com/3sypmtjdj

Oct. 7 — Duneland Weavers Guild, 10 a.m., Washington Evangelist Free Church, 3805 LaPorte Ave., Unit A, Valparaiso.

Oct. 7 — “Fall into Art” (Michiana Humane Society benefit), noon-5 p.m. EDT. Check-in: 11 a.m.-noon EDT, Section House, 5896 Sawyer Road, Sawyer, Mich. After party: 5-8 p.m. EDT, Section House. Tickets: \$125, \$75/after party only. Reservations: tinyurl.com/mcyjx6dj

Oct. 7 — An Evening with Shovels & Rope, 8 p.m. EDT, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$45 (general) + \$6.50 convenience fee, \$70 (reserved) + \$6.50 convenience fee. Reservations: www.acornlive.org

Oct. 8 — The School of American Music concert, “Great American Songbook for a Sunday Afternoon,” 3 p.m. EDT, Episcopal Church of the Mediator, 14280 Red Arrow Highway, Harbert, Mich. Free. Tickets: www.SchoolofAmericanMusic.com. Info: (269) 409-1191.

Oct. 8, 15 — Fire Side Chat, 5:30-7 p.m., 100 Riverwalk Road, Portage. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Oct. 9 — Harbor Country Film Group with Eve Moran (“In the Mood for Love”), 6:30 p.m. EDT, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Info: (269) 469-2933.

Through Oct. 30 — Duneland Plein Air Painters exhibit, “A Brush with Nature: Duneland Plein Air Adventures 2023,” Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Artist reception: 4-7 p.m. Oct. 20. Info: (219) 926-4711, www.chestertonart.org

Through October — “Ever Yours: Postcards From the Golden Age,” Porter County Museum, 20 Indiana Ave., Valparaiso. Free admission. Hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Sun. Info: www.pocomuse.org

Through Nov. 3 — Diversified Art Visionaries (Dave), Art Barn School of Art, 695 N. County Road 400 East, Valparaiso. Info: www.artbarnschool.org/

exhibitions

Through Nov. 30 — Artist David Gray, The Village Gallery at Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso.

Through May 12, 2024 — “Indiana Lore,” South Bend’s The History Museum, 808 W. Washington St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11/adults, \$9.50/seniors, \$7/youth 6-17, free/members. Info: www.historymuseumSB.org, (574) 235-9664.

Mondays — Pickleball, 5:30 p.m. EST, New Troy (Mich.) Community Center, 13372 California Road. Free, donations welcome. Info: (269) 426-3909, friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com

Saturdays in October — Pinhook Bog Open House, 9-11 a.m., 700 N. Wozniak Road in Michigan City. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Saturdays in October — Paul H. Douglas Center Open House and Nature Play Date, 1-3 p.m., 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Saturdays-Sundays in October — Furs to Farm Flashback, 1-3 p.m., Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farmhouse, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays in October — Mount Baldy Summit Hike, 9-11 a.m., parking lot off U.S. 12. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays in October — Miller Woods Hike, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Paul H. Douglas Center, 100 N. Lake St., Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Sundays in October — Feeding at the Farm, 4:30-5 p.m., Bailly Homestead/Chellberg Farm, 618 N. Mineral Springs Road, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, www.nps.gov/indu

Vickers Theatre — *Now Showing*: Silent Film with Live Music. Time: 7 p.m. Oct. 5. Also: “Stop Making Sense.” Rated PG. Times: 7 p.m. Oct. 6 & 8. All times Eastern. Theater address: 6 N. Elm St., Three Oaks, Mich. Info: www.vickerstheatre.com, (269) 756-3522.

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Northwest Indiana Green Drinks

“Carbon Neutral Indiana: A Practical Guide to Carbon Optimism” is the topic of the next Northwest Indiana Green Drinks at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, through Zoom and Facebook Live.

The speaker is Daniel Poynter, executive director and founder of the nonprofit Carbon Neutral Indiana. Visit tinyurl.com/mvctatbb for the Zoom link. The Meeting ID is 893 4370 5742 and the Passcode 883861.

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

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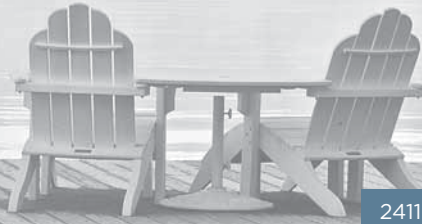
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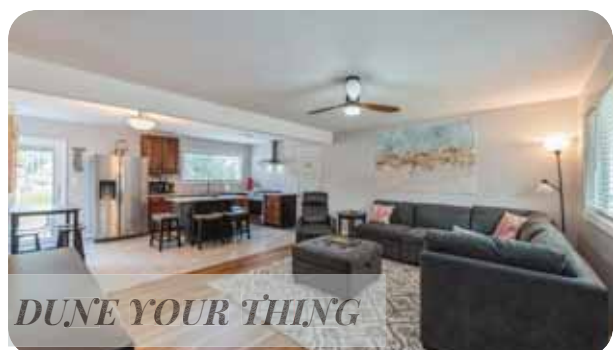
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