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Dan Meyer wrote “Bulls” 20 years ago, but it was only recently he decided to revisit it.

His first screenplay, about two buddies drawn into a world dart championship, the Michigan City native intended the comedy to be something he could star in with actors Michael Shannon, Paul Rudd and Adam Scott.

Nothing came of the project. Meyer to this day remains friends with Shannon and Rudd, but at the time, the actors all went on to forge their own distinctive careers in the industry.

Meyer recently found his first draft for “Bulls.” Wrapped in a paper bag, buried in one of his closets. Time and age can alter our perception of the projects of youth, and “Bulls” was no exception.

“I started reading it, and I was like, yeah, I remember, I thought this was great. I couldn’t get through more than 10 pages,” he admits. “I used to write what I thought was funny as opposed to letting the characters tell the story and then be funny.

“That is something I have learned through the process of writing,” he continued. “There

# GAME ON

by Andrew Tallackson

was stuff that I thought was funny 20 years ago and now I’m like, ugh, no, that’s terrible. That’s the big difference now.”

Meyer, who wrote and produced 2017’s Netflix comedy “Pottersville,” subsequently did a complete rewrite of the “Bulls” script. Set it in Michigan City. Fleshed out the characters.

Did the changes work? Meyer and “Bulls” Line Producer Kelly Daisy decided to find out. They invited about 15 people to a reading of the script. Friends, people they knew in the area. The screenplay contains some 30 roles,

so a few of those present read more than one role. Meyer even rehearsed a bit with them.

This would be the test if they had something on their hands.

“It was phenomenal. Everybody loved it,” Daisy said of the experience. “All I heard was how much better it was than they could have imagined.”

For Meyer, the enthusiastic response was a huge sigh of relief.

“As a writer, I’ve grown a lot since I first wrote it...so it was really important to



Dan Meyer and Kelly Daisy are photographed by *The Beacher’s* Andrew Tallackson in the area of Zorn Brew Works where many scenes in “Bulls” will be filmed.”

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The group invited to this past December's read-through of "Bulls" gets into the characters of Dan Meyer's screenplay.

hear it (the script) out loud. I wanted to get a response.

"There were parts in the script that I didn't think were going to work, and then when I heard it out loud, I was like...it *does* work."



With the first day of shooting on "Bulls" set to commence April 12, Meyer and Daisy are about to bring more of the area into the fold. Auditions are Feb. 18-19. The two aren't just seeking extras. They look to cast local talent in key roles and the production crew.

"There is a lot of talent here," Daisy said, "and we're going to try to use as much of it as we can."

Filming is projected to take four weeks, with a bulk of the scenes set at Zorn Brew Works, 605 E. Ninth St. At press time, details to secure other key locations were being finalized.

Meyer shared his screenplay with *The Beacher* a few weeks back. It is laugh-loud hilarious. Sweet and salty, with moments of outrageous comedy and

quietly affecting exchanges between friends. It also is a love letter to Michigan City, the community in which Meyer grew up and appreciates now as an adult more than ever.

The story finds two roommates in their 30s, Hank and Austin, who run a local bar filled with its fair share of colorful folk, and where the game of darts frequently takes center stage. The two are good, decent guys, not exactly heading anywhere specific with their lives. Through an unexpected series of events, they find themselves coached by one of the bar regulars, Virgil, to compete in a world dart championship in town. At press time, that location, a significant one in Michigan City, was in the process of being finalized. However, Vita del Lago, 521 Franklin St., is locked in for a key scene involving Austin and an attractive woman he meets there.

The story's most outrageous creation is Hank and Austin's direct competition: Nicki and Lance Gallyan, brothers from Manchester, England, and the textbook definition of people who don't give a fly-





Dan Meyer and Kelly Daisy say reaction to the screenplay for "Bulls" exceeded everyone's expectations.

ing you-know-what. Drunk or wasted during interviews, most of their live sound bites must be bleeped for fear of offending TV viewers.

Meyer, who played darts long before "Bulls" came to be, based the Gallyan brothers on the English rock band Oasis, which debuted in Manchester in 1991 and was notorious for internal squabbles, changes in band lineup and publicly profane behavior.

So, yes, there is a lot of Oasis in the story's Gallyan brothers.

"They're two of my favorite characters in the film," Meyer says.

Another refreshing aspect of the script: Hank is gay, but Meyer does not define the character by his sexuality. In fact, the word "gay" never appears once in the script.

"One of the things I did in rewriting the script, I went through the latest census for Michigan City and other data. So, I thought, let's cast this movie according to the demographic of the city. Let's be realistic," he said. "We gotta have LGBTQ characters. I don't want them hanging out in the back. Let's put them up front."

Michigan City, too, is very much a character in the film. Hank and Austin live and breathe the community in which they live. And in turn, Michigan City rallies behind them as they enter the dart championship.

"On its surface, the movie is a comedy about two best friends that get a chance to play for the world darts championship, but if it were only about that, I wouldn't have any interest," Meyer said. "Underneath, the movie is about hope, believing in oneself, love, friendship, community and as one character says, coming to the realization that 'the world is what we make it.'

"So, I'm trying not to overthink it — a problem of mine — and simply realize what each scene is

Continued on Page 4



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# GAME ON

Continued from Page 3

about, how it plays into the whole and what I want the audience to get, think and feel from that scene and make sure we nail it. If we do that, then all of those scenes and all of those moments will add up to the movie I set out to make.”

“Bulls” also marks Meyer’s directorial debut.

EXT. CITY PARK - MORNING

Hank and Austin are at The Park, it's PACKED, and they're THROWING A GAME OF DARTS, IN THEIR UNDERWEAR!

And, they're THROWING A GAME OF DARTS. In fact, they are so IN THEIR ELEMENT and FOCUSED that as the CROWD at the Park is CHEERING THEM ON, they DON'T EVEN NOTICE.

ANGLE ON

Ian, watching from a distance like a PROUD FATHER.

EXT. FRANKLIN STREET - DAY

Hank waits in front of the GOOD NEWS VINTAGE SHOP. Jackie rounds the corner.

JACKIE  
Hey.

HANK  
How's it going? I'm on my way to training, but I wanted to see you real quick.

JACKIE  
Great. How are you holding up? The big match is tomorrow.

HANK  
I know, it's crazy, right? But, you're still coming, aren't ya?

JACKIE  
Of course. I'm really excited, and just think pretty soon you'll be World Champs.

HANK  
I don't know about that, but...

As a PASSERBY goes past...

This excerpt from the screenplay reveals how Dan Meyer works Michigan City into the story of “Bulls.” Image reproduced with permission from Dan Meyer.

“I keep reminding myself that I have one job, and that's to make the best movie I can,” he said. “That's why I keep going back to the script and working on it. Casting will play a big role, the crew we have. But one thing that's very important to me, is to have a safe and open set where people feel free to express their ideas. A great idea is a great idea, and I'll take it from anyone.”

□

Daisy is no stranger to the world of independent TV and film. In addition to co-producing two John Hancock films (“The Looking Glass,” “The Girls of Summer”), she was the production supervisor/executive producer of the 2015 drama “The Middle Distance,” which was shot in New Buffalo and other areas in Southwest Michigan. Other producing credits include the horror film “Grave Deception” and a TV pilot, “Broken,” along with serving as co-director of the short film “Jessica's Ashes.”

She says the support for “Bulls” from city officials has been wonderful. Ditto Zorn Owner John Van Prooyen, who not only gave the OK to film “Bulls” there, but is remodeling the brewery's backyard bar area in time for the shoot.

“He's like a partner in the film. He's a huge asset,” Meyer said of Van Prooyen. “I remember our first meeting. He said, ‘I want to do this for the town. I think this town has so much to offer, and I've been wanting something like this to happen in this town for a long time, and it's not just about me. What's good for the town is good for everyone.’”

Van Prooyen told *The Beacher* he looks forward to sharing Zorn's space with the cast and crew of “Bulls.”

“Dan and Kelly's project is highly focused on local in the movie, from production to content,” he said. “That's very significant and exciting for our town and will continue to impact our local community in the years to come.”

That type of community embrace is embedded in Meyer's screenplay. It also is part of the reason Daisy was drawn to the project.

“It has so many layers to it,” she said of the screenplay. “It's an underdog story about these guys, and how the town rallies around them and lifts them up. I love the LGBTQ aspect, that it's there, but it's not about that. It's just normal. The way life is.

“I always love an underdog story,” she continued. “These characters are so three-dimensional that I really believe in its success. I really do.

As for Meyer, the 1985 Rogers High School graduate wants to do the best job honoring the community he calls home.



Zorn Brew Works Owner  
John Van Prooyen.



The space at Zorn Brew Works that is being renovated in time for “Bulls” to begin filming. Photo by Andrew Tallackson



“We set the movie in Michigan City...and its people play a role in the film,” he said. “Given that, I hope to make a movie that we’re all proud to call our own.”

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [atallackson@gmail.com](mailto:atallackson@gmail.com)


### Auditions for “Bulls”

Auditions for “Bulls” are from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 18-19.

The location will be announced soon, those planning to audition notified by email. Audition times can be scheduled at [tinyurl.com/2p8jdxvk](http://tinyurl.com/2p8jdxvk). Make sure February is selected on the calendar, followed by the preferred day and time slot.

Meyer seeks people 21 and older. Details will be announced later for 21 and younger. On audition day, individuals will be placed in a group time slot (the hour selected). Be prepared to wait at least that hour. Arrive 5-10 minutes prior to the group time. Take a headshot and resume if having them. Those present will receive sides (portions of the script) when arriving. Those who can’t make it should send an email to [bullscasting@gmail.com](mailto:bullscasting@gmail.com). Efforts will be made to schedule a time, or a pre-recorded audition can be submitted, along with a headshot and resume.

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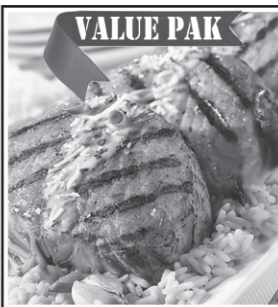
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## Harbor Country Film Group



A scene from "Once Upon a Time...When We Were Colored."

In recognition of Black History Month, Harbor Country Film Group will screen "Once Upon a Time...When We Were Colored" from noon to about 2:30 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 18, at New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St.

The 1995 release, directed by Tim Reid, portrays life in the segregated south in the 1950s.

"The film celebrates the close bonds of family, friends and church that sustained and nurtured a young boy growing up in Mississippi," film group leader Eve Moran said in a press release.

The group has temporarily moved meetings to Saturday afternoons because of early sunset and the potential for poor weather. Free popcorn will be available.

## New Buffalo Township Library

- **Valentine Story Time at 4 p.m. EST Thursday, Feb. 16.**
- **Harbor Country Film Group at noon EST Saturday, Feb. 18.** The free screening is "Once Upon a Time...When We Were Colored."
- **Youth Advisory Board Meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21.**

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

## Earth Day Event Registration

Registration is under way for vendors and sponsors in Porter County Recycling and Waste Reduction's 15th annual Earth Day celebration.

The event is from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, April 22, at Porter County Expo Center. The theme is "Invest in our planet." Registration is at [www.PorterCountyRecycling.org/Earth-day/](http://www.PorterCountyRecycling.org/Earth-day/)

The event includes vendors, live music, wildlife shows, recycling performances, interactive children's games, guest speakers, a reuse fair and raffle giveaways. Registration also is available for Rain Barrel Design Contest participants and Reuse Fair benefitting organizations. Potential Reuse Fair groups can email [Gabrielle@PorterCountyRecycling.org](mailto:Gabrielle@PorterCountyRecycling.org) to apply.

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### Genealogy Bus Trip

The LaPorte County Genealogical Society and Michigan City Public Library again are sponsoring a genealogy research bus trip Wednesday, April 26, to Allen County Public Library.

All books are available on open stacks at ACPL, which is one of the primary genealogical research libraries in the country.

A Cardinal bus with Wi-Fi leaves Michigan City at 7 a.m. from the former Marquette Theatre at Marquette Mall, with a 7:30 a.m. pickup at Kabelin Ace Hardware, LaPorte. It leaves for the return trip at 4 p.m. CST. Masks are optional on the bus, but not required at ACPL.

The reservation cost of \$35 per person is due no later than April 1 and payable to LaPorte County Genealogical Society c/o 164 Riviera Drive, Michigan City, IN 46360-6800. The registration requires a signature from the individual stating he/she will not hold the genealogical society, library or bus company liable for contracting COVID-19 and/or any resulting health issues.

### Foundation Grant Proposals

Healthcare Foundation of LaPorte has opened its 2023 Cycle 1 grants portal through March 3.

HFL seeks proposals that impact its strategic priorities of Healthy Children, Healthy Living and Healthy Minds. The goal must be measurable results that contribute to positive change in one or more community-wide indicators HFL uses to monitor and track progress for each strategic priority.

HFL also welcomes grant proposals to meet community health and wellness needs outside of strategic priorities.

Organizations interested in grants of more than \$25,000 are required to submit a Letter of Inquiry as a first step no later than 11:59 p.m. CST Jan. 27. All grant applications and LOIs must be submitted online through HFL's grant portal to be considered.

Visit [www.hflaporte.org/grantmaking-overview](http://www.hflaporte.org/grantmaking-overview) for more details.

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- ▶ A record of your child's immunizations and proof of lead screening. By August 9th, your child must be up to date! (You'll also be asked for emergency contact info for your child.)

**NEED HELP?** All MCAS elementary schools will be open **Wednesday, March 1 from 12-6pm** for those who need to drop off documents.

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## LaPorte County Parks



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

### Nature's Tiny Tots

Designed for parents and grandparents, explore nature with toddlers and preschoolers at Luhr County Park, 3178 S. County Road 150 West, LaPorte. That includes music, dancing, storytelling and, weather permitting, hiking. Call at least one week in advance to register.

The schedule is: Feb. 14 and 28, and March 14.

### Daddy Daughter Dance

The "Princess Style" event is Friday-Saturday, Feb. 24-25, at Red Mill County Park.

The dance includes refreshments and crafts. Times are 6-8 p.m. Feb. 24 and 2-4 p.m. Feb. 25. A maximum of 80 people are allowed each time. The cost is \$25 per couple, and \$5 for each additional daughter.

Pre-registration and payment are required on or before Feb. 16 or until full, whichever comes first.

### Retirement Open House

Rangers Laura Moyer and Niki Schmutte are retiring after years with LaPorte County Parks.

An open house is from 1:30-4 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, at Luhr County Park Nature Center. Refreshments will be served.

### Masquerade Storytime and Games

The free program aimed at children ages 2-11, and accompanied by an adult, is from 3-4 p.m. Thursday, March 16, at Luhr County Park.

Space is limited, so call at least one week in advance to reserve a spot.

### Rock Painting Craft Make and Take

The free program is from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, March 22, at the Luhr County Park Nature Center.

Take two favorite rocks to paint and place somewhere fun for people to find. All ages are welcome, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Supplies will be available while they last. No pre-registration is required.

### Field Trips

Educators, Scout leaders and groups can schedule a free organized program for students or group at any county park.

The programs on various topics meet state standards and patch requirements.

Call (219) 324-5855, visit [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org) or email [natureniki@csinet.net](mailto:natureniki@csinet.net) for details.



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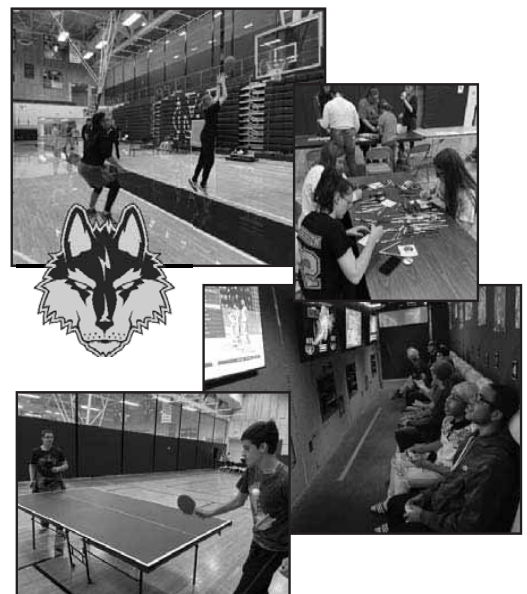
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**After Wolfpack Roundup:** Be our guest at our FREE MCHS student event in the Wolves Den gym. Featuring a video game truck, open basketball, pop-up art, movies & popcorn, music, and more.

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*8th graders are welcome to stay (with or without parents) til 10pm.*



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Michigan City High School - 8466 W. Paks Road - [www.educateMC.net/MCHS](http://www.educateMC.net/MCHS)

## Indiana Dunes National Park

- **Drop-In Volunteer Program (Trash Trekkers) from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily in February at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** Trash Trekkers is a no-hassle volunteer option that helps keep trails and beaches clean. Temporary passes are available. Visit [tinyurl.com/2p83798v](https://tinyurl.com/2p83798v) for more details.
- **The Save the Tunes Council performs from 7:30-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** The group preserves folk songs in the traditional way, using guitar, autoharp, dulcimer, banjo, harmonica, bagpipe, penny whistle, hurdy gurdy and other obscure instruments.
- **National Park Themed Movie from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturdays-Sundays in February at Indiana Dunes Visitor Center.** The schedule is: Feb. 18-19 — “Flying for Freedom”; Feb. 25-26 — “Octave Chanute and South Shore: Riding the Rails.”
- **Snowshoe Open House at Chellberg Farm (snow permitting) from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays in February at the Park Connection Office at Chellberg Farm.** At least 3 inches of snow is required, and a limited number of snowshoes are available for loan. Regardless of snow, the farmhouse may still be open for hikers to stop by. Call the visitor center at (219) 395-1882 for details. Park at the lot off Mineral Springs Road

between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter. The program is sponsored by the Friends of Indiana Dunes.

- **Chellberg Farm Open House from 1-3 p.m. Saturdays-Sundays in February.** Rangers and volunteers will share the area’s history as visitors tour the farmhouse and garden and visit the animals. Passes are required. The parking lot is off Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12 and 20 in Porter.
- **“Sense of Place: Works from the Artists-in-Residence of Indiana Dunes National Park” on Monday-Friday at Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St.** The exhibit surveys works in the National Park collection, including some from 2021-2022 that have not yet been publicly exhibited.



The National Park Service seeks short-term housing in nearby communities for the seasonal workforce of park rangers, guides, maintenance workers and research aides.

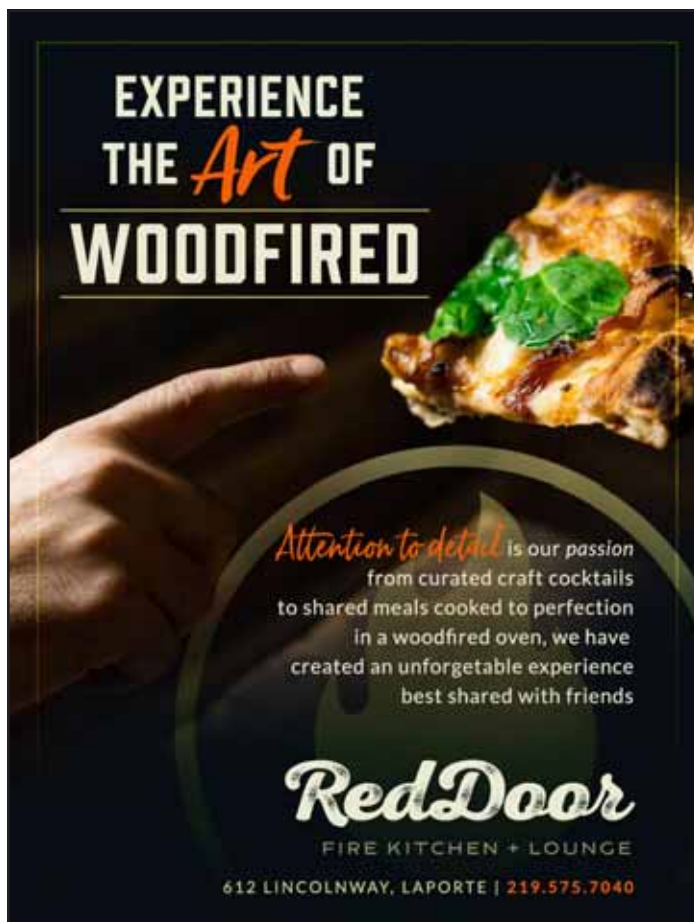
IDNP is willing to lease housing for up to one year. Furnished multiple-bedroom units are preferred, but all proposals will be considered. Contact Todd Fletcher at (219) 395-1751 or [todd\\_fletcher@nps.gov](mailto:todd_fletcher@nps.gov)

*The Visitor Center is at 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. The Paul H. Douglas Center is at 100 N. Lake St. in Gary’s Miller Beach neighborhood. Call (219) 395-1882 or visit [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu) for details.*

## Indiana Dunes State Park

- **Awesome Amphibians at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 18.** Learn about frogs, toads and salamanders at the Nature Center Auditorium.
- **Beaver Tales Trek from 10 a.m.-noon Sunday, Feb. 19.** Take the three-mile easy hike along Trail 2 to learn about the park’s largest rodent. If weather permits, free snowshoes will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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



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### Artificial Intelligence Focus of New Krasl Art Center Exhibit

Multi-media artwork by artist-poet-artificial intelligence researcher Sasha Stiles is on display Feb. 18-April 16 in The Lab at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

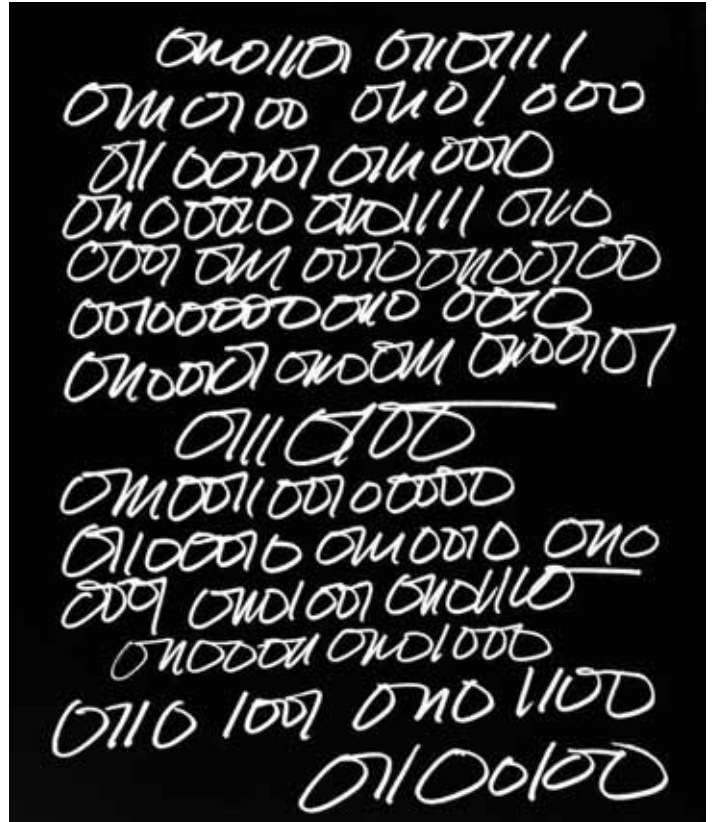
The multi-media artist writes traditional verse, collaborates with AI robots and creates artworks based in binary code. The resulting poems, photos, installations, digital projections and Non-Fungible Tokens (digital identifiers) explore concepts of life, death and immortality in a post-human world. Her cross-media work has been honored in the Future Art Awards, nominated for the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net, exhibited at The Museum of Contemporary Digital Art, Miami Art Week, SXSW, New York Fashion Week and Virtual Times Square, published as NFTs and auctioned at Christie's.



Stiles

“Artists in Dialogue: Nathaniel Stern and Stiles” is from 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Feb. 18. The event is free, but registration is required.

Gallery hours are (all times Eastern) 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with extended hours Wednesday-Thursday. The galleries are closed Tuesdays and Sundays through March. Visit [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org) for details.



Sasha Stiles' 2020 work “Cursive Binary: motherboard begets brainchild,” a digital print/ink on paper.

### Exhibiting Opportunities for Artists at KAC

A site-specific installation, an interactive outdoor installation and an indoor exhibit are among the artist opportunities this year at Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich.

Artists can apply individually or as a collaborating group. Full details are available at [www.krasl.org/art/artist-opportunities](http://www.krasl.org/art/artist-opportunities).

The options are:

- **Pride 2023.** LGBTQIA+ artists can propose 2-D designs for vinyl installations on the exterior of the center, on view starting this summer. Now in its second year, the display will use vinyl wraps on two areas of the building that respond to the theme, “Strengthening, Inspiring, Changing.” Proposals are due March 17. The selected artist(s) have until April 18 to complete their ideas, and the installations will be on display for one year

beginning in late May.

- **East Garden.** KAC seeks artists to submit a proposal for an outdoor, summer-long installation. The garden is a greenspace in memory of Maria G. “Lupe” Hopp. Proposals are due March 17, artists will be notified by March 31 and the project will be on view late May-fall 2023. Examples of past projects can be found at [www.krasl.org/east-garden](http://www.krasl.org/east-garden).
- **The Lab.** Proposals are open and reviewed on an ongoing basis year-round. This year, The Lab returns to its experimental roots, with KAC seeking emerging artists to submit solo or group proposals. Opportunities begin as early as September, and proposals are held and considered for a period of up to two years. Visit [www.krasl.org/art/past](http://www.krasl.org/art/past) to see examples of past exhibits.



Email Associate Curator of Engagement Laura Winkle at [curatorial@krasl.org](mailto:curatorial@krasl.org) for more details.

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### Public Art Committee

The Michigan City Public Art Committee meets at 10 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, in the City Hall Mayor’s Conference Room, 100 E. Michigan Blvd.



### Zoo Bids Farewell to Tiger

Washington Park Zoo staff recently had to make the tough decision to euthanize an 18-year-old male tiger, Stars, who was suffering from chronic kidney disease.

The disease is a common cause of illness and death in older feline species, including tigers. Stars was diagnosed a few weeks ago and closely monitored and treated with medications, but his activity and appetite declined. The tough decision to euthanize him was necessary based on his extreme medical condition before quality of life declined any further.



Photo by Paul Kemiell

In a press release, zoo staff said, "We are very proud of our animal care team who work together with other zoological professionals to provide the best welfare, husbandry and medical care for all the animals who call the Washington Park Zoo home. The lifespan of tigers in the wild is usually between 10 and 15 years. In human care, or on rare occasions in the wild, a tiger can live up to 20 years."

Stars was born at an Iowa zoo on Oct. 15, 2004, and was at Washington Park Zoo with his brother, Stripes, since 2005.

### Input Sought on Water Tower Project

The Michigan City park department seeks input on the Water Tower Park Renovation Project, with preliminary designs presented from 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Michigan City Police and Fire Training Center, 2510 E. Michigan Blvd.

Funding comes from a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant and a \$250,000 federally funded Land and Water Conservation Fund grant.

Call (219) 873-1506 for more details.



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## “Triangle of Sadness” Takes Wild, Often Gross Jabs at the Rich

by Andrew Tallackson



Social media “influencer” Yaya (Charlbi Dean) and her boyfriend, male model Carl (Harris Dickinson), promote a luxury cruise in “Triangle of Sadness.”

Ruben Östlund’s “Triangle of Sadness” may be the first Oscar contender — Best Picture, Director, Original Screenplay — whose midsection is nothing but explosive vomit and loose stools.

My point being, there is *nothing* subtle here. The sole point of the film is to expose rich folk as vain, stupid and shallow, and it won’t stop until every last drop of blood is spilled.

The academy tends to frown on the darkest of dark satires. Hence, the absence of nominations for “The Menu,” which used food as the metaphorical means to achieve the same goal. The difference is that “Triangle of Sadness,” streaming through View on Demand, is much sneakier. It doesn’t remove its mask of faux respectability until the midpoint. Then, all bets are off.

The starting point is a fashion-magazine friendly couple we meet amid relentless squabbling: himbo male model Carl (Harris Dickinson, “Where the Crawdads Sing”) and social media “influencer” Yaya (South African actress Charlbi Dean who, sadly, died shortly after the film’s release). She thanks Carl for paying the dinner tab as the check arrives. He pouts, then argues gender roles dictate he should pay, which is insulting to her as a woman. The truth: he’s cheap, she makes more, he wants her to pay. But by disguising the discussion in PC nonsense, Carl, in his mind, believes he’s made one small step forward for mankind.

These two fit right in during a luxury cruise on



### “Triangle of Sadness”

Running time: 147 minutes. View on Demand.

Rated R for language and some sexual content.

a monster yacht, the agreement being they experience the trip in all its glory while, in return, providing social-media presence. The other passengers come from all corners of the globe. A Russian oligarch and his wife. An elderly couple where the husband produced grenades and other weapons. A lonely tech millionaire.

Östlund wants everyone on this boat to get their just desserts. But first, we get their narcissistic personalities. Carl complains about one of the crew members removing his shirt, thus arousing Yaya. The crew member is subsequently fired. The Russian oligarch’s wife insists the crew take time off by swimming: a phony display of “empathy” despite her enormous wealth.

But it is her insistence, and the crew’s willingness to appease her, that steers the ship into disaster. And it is here Östlund cuts loose. The ship enters treacherous waters, with the kind of waves that capsized the Poseidon. With no one staffing the bridge, the boat rocks like a cradle tossed back and forth... all with wait staff arriving with each new seasick-inappropriate dish to eat. Östlund’s approach is dead-



pan to the extreme. An elegant tone, an insistence on decorum, complete with classical music on the overhead speakers, while the passengers spew chunks in every direction and the plumbing backs up with a vengeance. Some of the humor is pure irony. Like the ship's drunk captain (Woody Harrelson, terrific) expounding on capitalism and socialism, right as capitalism's heartiest benefactors lose control of their insides. Other moments are so subtle, you nearly miss it. Like, the elderly couple, staring on in horror, behind them a crew member using a squeegee to wipe puke off the window.

For outrageously funny reasons, a few passengers and crew end up stranded on an island. Östlund proceeds with his satirical jabs. Not a single passenger has a trace of survival skills. Taking charge is the cleaning lady, Abigail (a wry Dolly de Leon), who berates the passengers for being useless, trades sex with Carl for pretzel rods, and who in the movie's most wicked gag, prepares fish for dinner, but still preoccupies herself with presentation, ensuring it looks dining-guide worthy.

There is no subtext in "Triangle of Sadness." No hidden meaning. Östlund simply wants to introduce a bunch of rich dolts, then sabotage them, their entitled demeanor crumbling amid an every-man-for-himself scenario.

"The Menu," to me, pulled off the same feat, but in a more brisk fashion. That "Triangle of Sadness" takes its time, to the tune of nearly 2 ½ hours, that it contains more exotic locations — much of it was shot in Greece — and that the cast has an interna-



Woody Harrelson (right) is terrific as the luxury cruise's eccentric captain.

tional flavor may account for its three Oscar nominations. What you cannot deny, however, is that once the movie revs up, once Östlund goes for the jugular, there is no stopping him. And we are there with him, laughing all the way.

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# The Importance of Heritage and Legacy

by Kim Nowatzke

This month, Michigan City resident Allen Williams is leaving his stamp on Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St.

In honor of Black History Month, his “Celebrating African-American History through U.S. Postage Stamps” exhibit on the building’s east slatwall, as well as the “Remember Our History” display featuring images from pivotal historical events, can be seen this month by the circulation desk.

“The library is thrilled to offer this unique display to the community by Mr. Williams,” Robin Kohn, the library’s public relations director, said. “The extensive stamp collection features so much history and culture celebrating African American History month. Mr. Williams’ collection is a jewel for Michigan City residents to absorb and be proud of.”

Williams said his first black history display at the library began in 1990, where it remained for several years. Those displays included two library showcases for small items and several partitions borrowed from Jaymar-Ruby for hanging displays.

“The early displays were not extremely large and stamps were a feature, not a focus as they have become,” Williams explained. “It was a good historical representation.”

From there, he began to expand his collection of stamps, as well as photos, magazine collections and articles, historic newspapers, artwork, copies of historically significant documents and speeches, significant events displays, authentic African artifacts, movies and documentaries, even a couple of artifacts from the slave period. All as he made presentations to churches, schools and other groups.

“It just grew as I accumulated information,” he explained.

Eventually, he said, his “comprehensive display of every aspect of African American history” filled up the former Mullen Elementary School for seven years. At the time, he was an employee of the Safe Harbor after-school program. With the support and encouragement of former Safe Harbor directors Herb Higgin and Sherri Silcox, Williams educated students and the public on the subjects of science, education, politics, business, black power, black feminists, entertainment, inventors, role of blacks in the military, civil rights, black cinema, black sports and sports figures and legal documents and decisions crucial to black history. His involvement with the Michigan City Black History Commission, of which he is an emeritus member, coincided with and complemented his presentation.



Allen Williams is photographed by *The Beacher's* Kim Nowatzke at the “Celebrating African-American History through U.S. Postage Stamps” display.

“It uncovered a lot of information people weren’t aware of,” he said. “It was very comprehensive in terms of trying to show that the history and heritage of African Americans was very broad. It was all from the standpoint of living up to our heritage and, regardless of the odds, we can succeed and move forward.”

The repurposing of the former Mullen building, coupled with the effects of COVID-19, put an end to those displays in 2020. However, when Kohn reached out to him this year about bringing a smaller exhibit to the library for Black History Month, he welcomed the opportunity. He didn’t bring his entire collection, but Williams estimates there’s about 200 postage stamps displayed. Some are in postcard form, which offers a larger view.

The rarest (on display is a copy) features Booker T. Washington, the American author, educator, orator and adviser to multiple U.S. presidents. He was the first African American to be featured on a stamp, which was released in 1940.

A big part of the display is the “Black Heritage” series created in 1978 to “recognize the achievements of individual African Americans,” according to [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com).

“That was when I really started building my collection,” Williams said. “I saw a release of a stamp in the ‘Black Heritage’ stamp collection. I was already interested in African-American history. It snowballed from there.”

The series began with Harriet Tubman. American author Ernest J. Gaines is the most recent addition, bringing the total to 46. In fact, “Black Heritage” is the longest continuous series in postal history.

Furthermore, Williams says, through 1996, most of the images on the “Black Heritage” stamps were created by African-American artists.

Within the series is a smaller set of “I Have A Dream” stamps featuring the likes of Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable, the first permanent non-Indigenous settler of what would later become Chicago,



Above: A collage in the “Remember Our History” display. Below: In the “Celebrating African-American History through U.S. Postage Stamps” exhibit, some stamps are displayed as postcards for easier viewing. Photos by Kim Nowatzke



jazz great Duke Ellington, journalist/activist Ida B. Wells and Arctic explorer Matthew Henson.

Williams’ stamp collection is divided by other themes, including entertainers, civil rights pioneers, black vocalists and blues.

One of his favorites is the “To Form a More Perfect Union” commemorative collection made up of 10 stamps that had to be purchased as a set.

As explained at [www.uspo.com](http://www.uspo.com), “‘To Form A More Perfect Union’ stamps recognize the courage and achievement of the men and women who, during the years of the Civil Rights Movement, struggled to bring the vision of our founding fathers closer to reality. Ten important milestones of the Civil Rights



Continued From Page 19

Movement are commemorated with the ‘To Form A More Perfect Union’ stamps: Executive Order 9981, issued by President Harry S. Truman and implemented over several ensuing years, abolishing segregation in the United States Armed Forces; ‘Brown v. Board of Education’; Montgomery Bus Boycott; Little Rock Nine; Lunch Counter Sit-Ins; Freedom Riders; March on Washington; Civil Rights Act of 1964; Selma March and Voting Rights Act of 1965.”

Speaking about “Brown v. Board of Education,” Williams stated, “I consider it one of – if not – THE most important legislature in African-American history. A lot of people don’t know it consisted of five cases (heard by the U.S. Supreme Court concerning the issue of segregation in public schools) throughout the country. It brought forth a change in how a lot of things should be done. It now made them statutory.”

Included in Williams’ collection is the 2014 stamp of Shirley Chisholm who, Williams points out, not only was the first African-American woman in Congress in 1968, but also the first woman and African American to seek the nomination for U.S. president from one of the two major political parties in 1972.

“I met her in college at Ball State,” Williams recalled. “Shirley was serious – she didn’t play. She was serious about life. I always remember her saying, ‘Service is the rent you pay for being on this earth.’”

Williams pointed out the far-reaching effect of the display.



The display is arranged for easy viewing.

“That’s the beauty of it,” he said. “The stamps cover such a range of people that had such an impact on people – not just African Americans.”

On display is the large collection of stamps featuring President Barack Obama. Tying for second place among Williams’ favorites are the set of three stamps featuring Jackie Robinson and another three in the Martin Luther King Jr. collection. He is especially fond of the Kwanzaa stamps with their eye-catching vibrant artwork.

The “Remember Our History” display showcases images, scenes, magazine articles and collages created from pivotal events and historical themes involving African Americans in American history. These include the March on Washington in 1963 and Rosa Parks.

“A large part of African-American history has not yet been told, been distorted or not been true. Let’s make sure that we set the record straight and, in doing so, I want to encourage African Americans and let them know that the stories need to continue to be told and the messages told because if they are not, they will be forgotten,” Williams said. “Our heritage and legacy are important. From them, we can draw strength and encouragement to move forward. It’s important that you know that you came from a lineage that was more than slaves. We can’t let ourselves be defined by that kind of limitation.”



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**Favorite books/authors:** "The Life and Times of John Wayne" and anything "Pooh Bear." I have every size of them that you can think of.

**Favorite singers/music:** Rod Stewart, Dolly Parton.

**Favorite TV shows:** "Blue Bloods," "Monk," Hallmark all year-round.

**Favorite food:** lamb.

**Hobbies:** collecting dolls.

**Favorite sports team:** The Chicago Bears.

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## Ignore the Backlash: Riseborough Deserves the Oscar Nod for “To Leslie”

by Andrew Tallackson



Andrea Riseborough stars as a self-destructive woman alienating everyone in her path in “To Leslie.”

We arrive at “To Leslie” with some trepidation, ready to dismiss it. It’s the little film that crashed the Oscars, scoring a Best Actress nod for its star, British actress Andrea Riseborough, intercepting sure-bets Danielle Deadwyler (“Till”) and Viola Davis (“The Woman King”). Cries of sketchy campaign tactics prompted an investigation that, ultimately, backed the nomination.

As more people see “To Leslie,” now that it’s available through View on Demand, the prevailing theory is that the backlash directed at Riseborough is a sign of the elitist mentality of the Oscars, that she’s a “nobody” undeserving of the recognition.

Early in “To Leslie,” I wasn’t sure what to think. The movie taps into all the tired indie tropes of small-town failure and addiction, with scenes designed to showcase its star, where she’s shouting amid drunken stupors.

But then, something happens. “To Leslie” emerges as a film about redemption. Riseborough begins to carefully modulate the performance and, by the end, we are deeply moved.

The Oscar nomination is deserved.

Riseborough (“Birdman,” “Nocturnal Animals”) stars as Leslie, a West Texas woman who, in news footage at the movie’s start, celebrates winning \$190,000 in the state lottery. She doesn’t appear in-

★ ★ ★ 1/2

### “To Leslie”

*Running time: 119 minutes. Rated R for language throughout and some drug use.*

toxicated, but there is something reckless about her, coupled with the detached response from her son, James, that hints all is not right.

Six years later, Leslie is dangerously self-destructive, having squandered all the lottery money on booze and drugs. Destitute, she returns home. Her son, James (Owen Teague), is now a responsible adult, having his own place and a job. He allows her to stay, but with rules, the prime one being she can’t drink or he kicks her out. The child has now become the parent to the parent.

Leslie lasts one day before hitting the local bars. When James tosses her out, Leslie’s friend Nancy (Oscar-winner Allison Janney) and her boyfriend, Dutch (Stephen Root), reluctantly welcome her into their home. That, too, falls apart quickly.

This isn’t exactly fresh material. And what is it about Texas that plunks so many aspiring filmmakers there to tell these tales? My theory is that it contains large stretches of empty, desolate land. It is an

easy, almost symbolic place to lose oneself, to slip off life's intended path.

"To Leslie" exhaustively charts the character's one-step forward, 10-steps-back existence, with plenty of "big" scenes for Riseborough to stumble about bars and lash out at folk. The movie, in a way, feels like an extended Oscar reel to get its star a shiny gold trophy.

Then, Leslie is the recipient of an act of grace. An impulsive gesture by Sweeney, one of the proprietors of a rundown motel with his buddy, Royal. They are played by Marc Maron and Andre Royo, respectively, and director Michael Morris does something interesting here. A Hallmark movie would cast young studs in the roles. Obvious love interests. Instead, Morris chose two middle-age actors who look like they've never once hit the gym. They feel like real, average guys taking a risk by hiring Leslie.

And it is here, bit by bit, that "To Leslie" finds its soul in Riseborough's achingly sketched performance. Moved by Sweeney and Royal's kindness, Leslie goes cold turkey. The journey from there isn't easy, and Riseborough makes you feel the pull, the alcohol, calling out to her. Rarely has sobriety been depicted this fragile. Riseborough is like a porcelain doll that could shatter at any minute. And as Leslie flirts with taking a drink, her shattering conversation with a guy seated next to her at the bar gets to the heart of the character's demons.

"To Leslie" arrives at an emotional big finish, but what surprised me is how dialed down it is. Another low-budget Oscar nominee this year, "The Whale," cranks itself up at the end to shamelessly extract tears. The final scene of "To Leslie" is about the silence, about three people who've endured a whole world of hurt arriving at a moment of truth. And it got to me.

Without question, Riseborough belongs among this year's Best Actress nominees. I would have



Allison Janney and Stephen Root star as friends who try to help out Leslie despite her difficult past.

scrapped Ana de Armas ("Blonde"), whose nod is more a consolation prize for having to appear in that scuzzbucket of a movie. Deadwyler could have slipped into her spot. Then, only then, would this category be complete.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [atallackson@gmail.com](mailto:atallackson@gmail.com)

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## Shyamalan Back on Solid Ground With Tense “Cabin”

by Andrew Tallackson

“The Cabin at the End of the World” (2018) was my introduction to Paul Tremblay. Hadn’t heard of him, but when Stephen King sings the praises of an author in the same genre, fans take notice.

The book was bleak: a “Twilight Zone”-style home-invasion thriller that, as I would learn with Tremblay, boasted his favorite tactic: ambiguity. He flirts with the supernatural, gets oh so close, then plugs in nagging doubt. By the end, you’re not sure what to believe. That was the case with his breakout novel, “A Head Full of Ghosts,” and it has persisted through “Disappearance at Devil’s Rock” and his latest, “The Pallbearers Club.”

When it was revealed M. Night Shyamalan was adapting “The Cabin at the End of the World,” now titled “Knock at the Cabin,” my reaction was, *crap*. The guy with only one great movie (“The Sixth Sense”). I feared Shyamalan lacked the guts to honor Tremblay’s vision, that it was too dark... and I was not proven wrong. His film is easier to digest.

However, “Knock at the Cabin” is his best amid his past few years of renewed popularity. Tightly told, with some of the best performances in any of his films, the movie is a swift, knots-in-the-stomach experience.

The setup is a twist on a classic horror scenario. A married couple, Andrew (Ben Aldridge) and Eric (Jonathan Groff), are on vacation with their adopted daughter Wren (Kristen Cui) when a stranger arrives. Leonard (Dave Bautista). An imposing wall of a man, he seems dangerous, but there is something nervously sweet about him. Ditto his accomplices, played by Rupert Grint, Nikki Amuka-Bird and Abby Quinn. They burst into the cabin and issue an ultimatum: they must choose which one of them dies, and at their own hands. If they do not, they will begin sacrificing themselves, inching the world closer to an apocalypse.

Are these four nuts? Part of some religious cult? The movie, like the book, expertly introduces Tremblay’s penchant for doubt. All four visitors don’t seem like they want to be there. Jittery, nerves frayed. Bautista and Amuka-Bird are particularly effective. Persistent in carrying out their plan, but allowing flashes of humanity to emerge. And, with Andrew repeatedly calling the bluffs of his visitors, the story emerges as an allegory where a gay couple, having been subjected to violence in the past, is convinced the presence of these four is a carefully

plotted home invasion drenched in hate.

Like the book, “Knock at the Cabin” is careful not to come across as using gay characters as a PC gimmick. In fact, the movie, more so than the book, goes out of its way to have the visitors ensure the family they are not being targeted because of their sexuality. And, it shows Andrew, played with steely determination by Aldridge, as refusing to play the victim. Ditto Cui as their young daughter. The child



Jonathan Groff (from left), Ben Aldridge and Kristen Cui play a family amid a home invasion in “Knock at the Cabin.”



### “Knock at the Cabin”

Running time: 100 minutes.

Rated R for violence and language.

actor has a fierce intelligence.

The back and forth between captors and captives makes for compelling tension. Thing is, the third act of Tremblay’s book introduces its most shocking move. You weren’t sure what to make of it, although there was something moving about the message that love is worth preserving amid the unthinkable.

Shyamalan is no dummy. He knows the book’s ending will never fly in theaters. So, he comes up with a compromise. It strips the story of any ambiguity, but on its own terms, it is satisfying.

Shyamalan still has not lived up to the promise of “The Sixth Sense.” “Signs” came close, but since then, it’s been a toss-up between misfires (“The Village,” “The Lady in the Water,” “The Happening”) and engaging time killers (“The Visit,” “Split”).

“Knock at the Cabin” puts him on solid ground. The film is no masterpiece. All it wants to do is unnerve you. It does. And that’s enough.

Contact Andrew Tallackson at [atallackson@gmail.com](mailto:atallackson@gmail.com)

# And the Nominees Are...

## PICTURE

- "All Quiet on the Western Front"
- "Avatar: The Way of Water"
- "The Banshees of Inisherin"
- "Elvis"
- "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- "The Fabelmans"
- "TÁR"
- "Top Gun: Maverick"
- "Triangle of Sadness"
- "Women Talking"

## DIRECTOR

- Martin McDonagh, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
- Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Steven Spielberg, "The Fabelmans"
- Todd Field, "TÁR"
- Ruben Östlund, "Triangle of Sadness"

## ACTOR

- Austin Butler, "Elvis"
- Colin Farrell, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
- Brendan Fraser, "The Whale"
- Paul Mescal, "Aftersun"
- Bill Nighy, "Living"

## ACTRESS

- Cate Blanchett, "TÁR"
- Ana de Armas, "Blonde"
- Andrea Riseborough, "To Leslie"
- Michelle Williams, "The Fabelmans"
- Michelle Yeoh, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

## SUPPORTING ACTOR

- Brendan Gleeson, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
- Brian Tyree Henry, "Causeway"
- Judd Hirsch, "The Fabelmans"
- Barry Keoghan, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
- Ke Huy Quan, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

## SUPPORTING ACTRESS

- Angela Bassett, "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever"
- Hong Chau, "The Whale"
- Kerry Condon, "The Banshees of Inisherin"
- Jamie Lee Curtis, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"
- Stephanie Hsu, "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

Contest  
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## Rules for The Beacher's Beat the Editor Contest:

Check one box in each category. Only one entry per person. Entries from *Beacher* employees will not be accepted. Forms can be dropped off at *The Beacher* or submitted by mail to: The Beacher, Attn: Oscar Contest, 911 Franklin St., Michigan City, IN 46360. Only scanned copies will be allowed by email to atallackson@gmail.com. The deadline is noon Friday, March 3. Editor Andrew Tallackson's picks will appear in the March 9 edition, before the March 12 telecast. Those who beat his picks will be placed into a drawing. First place receives a \$25 Swingbelly's gift certificate and an AMC movie pass. Second place receives an AMC movie pass. If no one beats him, readers with the most correct picks will be placed into the drawing. The winner will be revealed in the March 23 edition.

Name:

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## Michigan City Public Library

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 library is changing overhead lighting to LED fixtures. They will feature automatic ambient lighting, centralized controls for turning on and off and conservation in unoccupied public areas. The library will remain open during all phases of the project, but reserves the right to close if necessary. Areas under the work zone will be closed. The goal is to minimize closure time to its collections and services. The meeting rooms will close while work is done.

*The following programs are scheduled:*

- **Coding Microbit Art Machines! at 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16.** Aimed at ages 10-17, participants learn how to code an art machine to draw a star, circle or any shapes and scribbles. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend the session with them.
- **Film showing: "The Woman King" at 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17.** The movie is rated PG-13.
- **Film showing: "Till" at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 20.** The film, rated PG-13, runs 2 hours 10 minutes.
- **Video Game Day from 3-5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20.** A Nintendo Switch and Xbox will be available

to play. No reservation is needed.

- **Dream Big and Engineer On! from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21.** Aimed at ages 2-8, participants explore activities related to engineering. An accompanying adult is suggested. All materials are provided for free.
- **Makerspace: open lab hours from 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesdays in February.** Youth ages 6-17 can create with LEGO WeDo, Micro Bits, paper circuits and Ozobots. Children 12 and younger must have a parent or guardian attend with them.
- **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.

The library seeks volunteers to help at least one day a week during tax season (February-April) through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. The IRS provides some training, and volunteers must pass the VITA test through the intermediate level. Testing and training are online. Call (219) 873-3049 for details.

Volunteer genealogists can answer questions from 1-4 p.m. Tuesdays (Pat Harris) and 11 a.m.-2 p.m. the last Saturday of the month (Colleen Miltenberger).

Two displays can be viewed celebrating Black History Month.

"Remember Our History," found at the circulation desk, shows images and scenes from pivotal events involving African Americans in American history.

"Celebrating African American History with U.S. Postage Stamps," located on the east slatwall, focuses on stamps celebrating black history and African-American greats. Booker T. Washington was the first featured in 1940. Most notable is the Black Heritage Series, which began in 1978 with Harriet Tubman.

*(Michigan City Public Library is located at 100 E. Fourth St. Visit [www.mclib.org](http://www.mclib.org) for more details.)*



Jim Eriksson, Agent  
405 Johnson Road  
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## LaPorte County Public Library

LaPorte County Public Library has updated its curbside pickup service using meeScan.

New users can download the meeScan app through options such as Apple and Google Play. Then, place holds on items using a customer account. Once at the library, check in using the app and clicking Pick-up from the bottom of the screen (or calling the library location). An appointment no longer is needed. Add the parking space on the app if picking up from the main location. Enter information in the instructions box if picking up holds placed on more than one account, or if needing additional assistance. A staff member brings held items to the vehicle. Customers using the app receive updates as their requests are processed. Returns can be placed in book drops and be checked in within 24 to 72 hours. At this time, there is no limit to the number of items customers can reserve and pick up during curbside.

- Coolspring Branch: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Main Library: Tuesday/Thursday (10 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

□

LaPorte County Public Library patrons are no longer charged daily overdue fines when an item is returned late. Customers only will be charged for items they damage, lose or never return.

□

*The following programs are planned:*

- **Virtual Author Talk with Grace M. Cho (Adults 19+) from noon-1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16.** The award-winning author will discuss her memoir, *Tastes Like War*. Advanced registration is required at <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/22968>
- **Stories & More from 10-10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at the main library.** Children ages 3-5 with their caregivers experience stories, songs, crafts and activities.
- **Gmail for Beginners from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at the Main Library Meeting Room B.** Learn how to use a Gmail account. Registration is required.
- **Build an Origami House from 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, at the Coolspring branch.** Library staff will provide tools and supplies.
- **Intro to the Internet: Adults (19+) from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 21, in the Main Library Meeting Room A.** Learn the basics of Internet use.

LaPorte County Public Library is located at 904 Indiana Ave. The Coolspring Branch is located at 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Visit [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org) for more details, including programming through the Exchange building.

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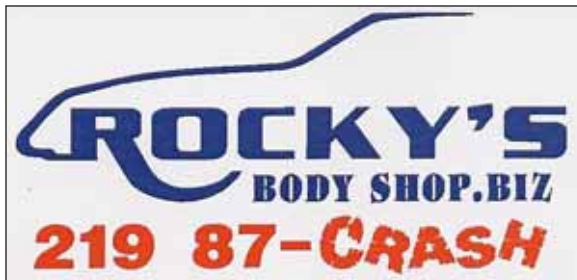
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### Harbor Country Hikers

Harbor Country Hikers will learn about bushwhacking — or off-trail hiking — at 2 p.m. EST Saturday, Feb. 18, and starting at the New Buffalo Area Schools Nature Trails.

HCH President Pat Fisher will show how, while mapping unmarked trails or planning new ones, he must explore without the aid of blazes, worn paths or a trail map. He will walk the group through the planning stages and reveal his methodology to make such hiking a pleasant experience.

The Feb. 18 hike actually is two hikes: an easy one-mile hike or a longer, more rugged three-mile trek. Those who attend are advised to dress in layers, wear a warm cap and sturdy shoes or boots, and take water. Depending on the weather, there may be muddy or icy areas along the trail.

Membership is preferred; however, the public is welcome. An all-terrain rollator — a wheeled walker with oversized tires for unpaved surfaces — is available on a first-come, first-served basis by emailing harborcountryhikers@gmail.com

Visit [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com) or visit the group’s Facebook page, Harbor Country Hikers, for more details.

### History Museum Free Admission

The History Museum and Studebaker National Museum are offering free admission in honor of Presidents’ Day on Monday, Feb. 20.

Museum hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. EST.

Exhibits on view at The History Museum include “Unveiled: Wedding Traditions” and “The Fabric of a Global University,” which explores The University of Notre Dame’s international education, research and engagement. The Studebaker National Museum features “Built to Last: Studebaker Buildings Past & Present” and “The Top of the Line: Studebaker’s President.”

First-floor tours of The Oliver Mansion are every 30 minutes from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. EST. Programs about fossils are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. EST in Kids-first.

The History Museum is located at 808 W. Washington St., South Bend. Call (574) 235-9664 or (574) 235-9714, or visit [www.historymuseumSB.org](http://www.historymuseumSB.org) or [www.studebakermuseum.org](http://www.studebakermuseum.org) for more details.

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### Celebrating Black History Month



Numerous Black History Month exhibits are on display in February at LaPorte County Historical Society Museum, 2405 Indiana Ave. The displays highlight many prominent black men and women from LaPorte County. Pictured here is the display on suffragette Naomi Anderson.

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### In the Area

**Feb. 16** — Virtual Author Talk with Grace M. Cho, noon-1 p.m., through LaPorte County Public Library. Registration: <https://libraryc.org/laportelibrary/22968>

**Feb. 16** — Coding Microbit Art Machines!, 4 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Feb. 17** — Film showing: “The Woman King,” 2 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Feb. 18** — “Drive-Through Shoe Drive,” 9 a.m.-noon, Deals on Wheels, 2114 Franklin St. Info: (219) 879-9415, [contact@stlukeunitedlutheran.org](mailto:contact@stlukeunitedlutheran.org)

**Feb. 18** — Build an Origami House, 1-2:30 p.m., Coolspring Library, 6925 W. County Road 400 North. Info: [www.laportelibrary.org](http://www.laportelibrary.org)

### **Feb. 20 — PRESIDENTS DAY.**

**Feb. 20** — Film showing: “Till,” 10 a.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Feb. 20** — Video Game Day, 3-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Feb. 20-26** — Michiana Humane Society online Cabin Fever Pawction. Info: [www.michianapets.org/events](http://www.michianapets.org/events), (219) 872-4499.

**Feb. 21** — Dream Big and Engineer On!, 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

**Feb. 21** — Bingo (host: Long Beach Park Board), 5-6 p.m., Long Beach Community Center, 2501 Oriole Trail.

**Through March 31** — Artwork by Madeleine Schooley/the late Barbara Fedder, The Legacy Center Gallery at Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 1719 E. Barker Ave. Gallery hours: 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sun. Info: (219) 872-9196.

**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.

**Tuesdays** — Bingo, St. Stanislaus Kostka

Catholic Church, 109 Ann St. Doors open: 3:30 p.m. Bingo: 6 p.m. Starting Feb. 7: \$45 entrance fee (includes all cards). Info: (219) 336-3099.

**Tuesdays in February** — Makerspace: open lab hours, 3:30-5 p.m., Michigan City Public Library, 100 E. Fourth St. Info: (219) 873-3049.

### In the Region

**Feb. 16** — PechaKucha Vol. 26, 7 p.m. EST, The Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Tickets: \$5. Reservations: [www.krasl.org/events/pechakucha](http://www.krasl.org/events/pechakucha)

**Feb. 17** — Dan Navarro with James Neary, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$35 + \$5.50 convenience fee, \$60 + \$5.50 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**Feb. 17** — The Save the Tunes Council, 7:30-9 p.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu), (219) 395-1882.

**Feb. 18** — Awesome Amphibians, 10 a.m., Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Feb. 18** — Harbor Country Film Group (“Once Upon a Time...When We Were Colored”), noon-2:30 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Township Library, 33 N. Thompson St. Free.

**Feb. 18** — Cemetery preservation program, noon EST, Three Oaks Township Public Library, 3 N. Elm St. Info: [rebecca.deweyto@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.deweyto@gmail.com)

**Feb. 18** — Harbor Country Hikers, 2 p.m. EST, New Buffalo Area Schools Nature Trails. Info/directions: [harborcountryhikers@gmail.com](mailto:harborcountryhikers@gmail.com), [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com)

**Feb. 18** — Brooklyn Charmers: The Music of Steely Dan, 8 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$40 + \$5 convenience fee, \$65 + \$5 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**Feb. 18-April 16** — Exhibit, artist-poet-artificial intelligence researcher Sasha Stiles, Krasl Art Center, 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: [www.krasl.org](http://www.krasl.org)

**Feb. 19** — Beaver Tales Trek, 10 a.m.-noon, Indiana Dunes State Park, 1600 N. County Road 25 East, Chesterton. Info: (219) 926-1390.

**Feb. 19** — The Acorn’s Dance Showcase: CC Dance and Diamond Dance Academy, 3 p.m. EST, The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, Mich. Tickets: \$25-\$35 + \$3 convenience fee (reserved). Reservations: [www.acornlive.org](http://www.acornlive.org)

**Through Feb. 26** — “Stories from the Soil” (Jon Hook-Andrea Peterson exhibit), Box Factory for the Arts, 1101 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich. Info: <https://boxfactoryforthearts.org>

**Through March 1** — “Sense of Place: Works from the Artists in Residence of Indiana Dunes National Park,” Chesterton Art Center, 115 S. Fourth St. Info: (219) 926-4711, [www.chestertonart.org](http://www.chestertonart.org)

**Through March 2** — Oil painter Judy Davis,

The Village Gallery, Pines Village Retirement Communities, 3303 Pines Village Circle, Valparaiso. Info: (219) 465-1591.

**Through March 5** — “Enchanted Lands: The Collage Works of Scott Hatt, Elkhart’s The Midwest Museum of American Art, 429 S. Main St. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 1-4 p.m. Sat.-Sun. Admission: \$10/adult, \$6/ages 8-12, \$8/ages 13-18, \$8/college students with ID. Info: (574) 293-6660, [www.midwestmuseum.us](http://www.midwestmuseum.us)

**Through March 24** — Group exhibit, “Sense and Sensibility: Poetry in Painting,” South Shore Arts, 1040 Ridge Road, Munster.

**Through May 29** — “Built to Last: Studebaker Buildings Past & Present,” The Studebaker National Museum, 201 Chapin St., South Bend. Hours (Eastern): 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon-5 p.m. Sun. Admission: \$11 - adults, \$9.50 - seniors 60+, \$7 - youth ages 6-18. Info: (574) 235-9714, [www.studebakermuseum.org](http://www.studebakermuseum.org)

**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](mailto:friendsofnewtroy@yahoo.com)

**Saturdays-Sundays in February** — National Park Themed Movie, 10-11:30 a.m., Indiana Dunes Visitor Center, 1215 N. Indiana 49, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/indu](http://www.nps.gov/indu)

**Saturdays-Sundays in February** — Snowshoe Open House at Chellberg Farm (snow permitting), 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/ind](http://www.nps.gov/ind)

**Saturdays-Sundays in February** — Chellberg Farm Open House, 1-3 p.m., Mineral Springs Road between U.S. 12/20, Porter. Info: (219) 395-1882, [www.nps.gov/ind](http://www.nps.gov/ind)



# American Red Cross

*The American Red Cross LaPorte County Chapter will sponsor the following bloodmobiles:*

- LaPorte County Annex, 809 State St., 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16.
- A.K. Smith Career Center, 817 Lafayette St., 7:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17.
- Hamon Gray, American Legion Post 83, 228 E. Lincolnway, LaPorte, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23.

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

## Cemetery Preservation Program

Daughters of the American Revolution, Rebecca Dewey Chapter, and Three Oaks Township Public Library will host a program on cemetery preservation at noon EST Saturday, Feb. 18, at the library, 3 N. Elm St.



Henthorn

The speaker is history professor Dr. Thomas Henthorn. He will share ways he and his students are working to make cemeteries active public spaces through preservation, and how to interpret them in communities. He also will discuss the current technology and procedures to preserve cemetery headstones and structures in relation to cleaning, repairing and restoring monuments.

Henthorn is the Wyatt Endowed Professor of Public History at The University of Michigan-Flint. His research and teaching interests examine the intersection of public and urban histories.

Rebecca Dewey chapter members will present methods to research and locate cemetery history and burials.

Email [rebecca.deweyto@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.deweyto@gmail.com) or contact the library for more details.

## Rotary Club Scholarships

The Rotary Club of Michigan City Foundation is offering \$2,000 scholarships to two high-school seniors served by Michigan City Area Schools and exemplifying Rotary’s motto “Service Above Self.”

Application and letters of recommendation must be postmarked no later than March 24. The application can be accessed at <http://www.mcrotaary.org> (see the homepage blue banner “2023 Scholarship Application”).

The foundation, in honor of J.M. Ruby, Robert Schwartz and A.K. Smith, funds the two scholarships. To be eligible, students must:

- Have a minimum of a “C” average in high school (class rank will not be considered).
- Graduate from any accredited high school before June 30, 2023.
- Plan to attend post-secondary education in fall 2023.

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- |     |
|-----|
| 164 |
| 161 |
| 158 |
| 152 |
| 409 |
| 405 |

**SPLITS**

Linda Neulieb

5-7, 2-7-9-10

**THREE STRIKES**

Dottie Brinckman, Linda Neulieb

**Westchester Public Library**

Westchester Public Library has curbside pickup at its Thomas and Hageman branches.

Use a library card or go online to place holds on up to 10 items. Once notified the items are available, park in specially-numbered spaces at each branch. While parked, call the library phone number posted on the numbered space sign. Curbside hours are Monday-Friday (1-6 p.m. at Thomas and Hageman) and Saturday (11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Thomas and 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Hageman).

Hageman Library (219-926-9080) is located at 100 Francis St., Porter. Thomas Library (219-926-7696) is located at 200 W. Indiana Ave., Chesterton.

**Going to be gone for a while?**



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**So Long, Chester Weaver** by Catherine Ryan Hyde (hardcover, \$24.95 retail in bookstores and online; also available as an eBook and an audiobook. 292 pages.)

The obvious questions are twofold: who is Chester Weaver? And where is he going? The answers may seem simple, but they involve a complicated story of loss and promises kept, homophobia and tolerance.

Let me introduce you to our principle players in this all-too-human drama with comedic overtones from the outside, but certainly not to the people involved.

Chester Weaver is a 70+ cranky man, who also calls gay people fruits and is a full-blown homophobic. Lewis Madigan, his next door neighbor, is the gay individual Chester likes to insult whenever he gets a chance.

One day, Lewis has more than anyone can stand. He arrives at the software company where he is a developer expecting a raise. Instead, he gets laid off. To add insult to injury, he goes home to find his boyfriend in the middle of moving out, having already cleared out their joint savings account (he'll find that out later). You can imagine that Chester is the last person on earth he wants to deal with right now. Of course, Chester watches the whole sad scene and just has to announce that there goes one fruit from the basket.

Chester is stuck in a wheelchair with daily home health care. Practically each day, there's a different caregiver. The latest tells Lewis this is her last day. She can't stand the old coot either. Chester has officially gone through all the workers at the agency and his daughter, Ellie, arrives in town to see what can be done. Her daughter is about to give birth in another city, and Ellie needs to be by her side.

Lewis, meanwhile, has had no luck looking for employment and the bills keep piling up. What can he do? Oh no, no, no...yes.

Ellie approaches Lewis and offers him the job of taking care of Chester. After all, he's right next door, he would receive a decent paycheck, yada, yada, yada. She keeps at Lewis, who by now is at the end of his financial rope. The real kicker comes with Ellie's admission that Chester has cancer and about three months to live. So the job does have an end-by date. Ellie tells him, *"This might be a really interesting challenge for you."* Challenge?! More like a test of every fiber in his body. But, in the end, Lewis relents.

He opines to Ellie that Chester can't be too happy with this arrangement. Ellie says, *"No offense, Lewis, but don't think you're so special. My father can't stand anybody. He barely tolerates me."* And, off we

## Off the Book Shelf

by Sally Carpenter



go...

It's Lewis' voice we hear narrating. He tolerates all of Chester's awful comments and watches him take his pills, because if he doesn't, Chester will hide them in the potted plant by his bed. Making demands is Chester's forte, and it almost takes an act of Congress to get him to use a cell phone.

Ellie leaves, and Lewis soldiers on with gritted teeth. Then comes the bombshell...

Chester wants to visit his ex-wife one last time before he dies. Did I mention Lewis and Chester live on the east coast in New York State and Sue lives in California? And that Chester should have mentioned she doesn't know he's coming? Sounds like a reunion to remember...

Big problem for Lewis. How do you turn down the request of a dying man? Lewis is a good man and knows he cannot.

But, how to get there? Airplane? Nope. Bus? Heck, no. Chester has the perfect solution. Well, perfect in his mind. Seems years ago, Chester purchased a used Winnebago motor home he never got to use. Looks like Lewis has a destination, a means of travel and a dying, difficult oldster for a traveling companion. Great. Should be a blast.

Funny how things turn out. The trip starts out as expected. Chester blustering, Lewis wondering if he will still have his sanity before this trip is over.

Close quarters can have a strange effect on people. Having to help Chester go to the bathroom, bringing him food to the Winnebago because taking him out in the wheelchair is too hard, and finally, little by little, something happens...

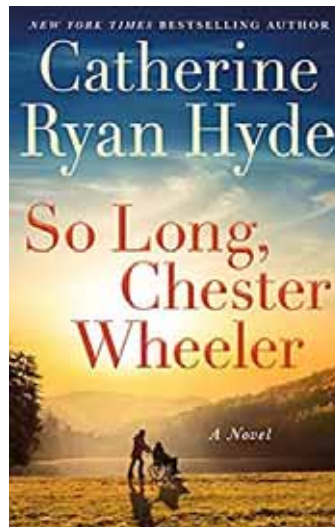
Spending thousands of miles in a confined space with someone you don't like could prove to be difficult — ha! How about explosive?

As the two men slowly begin to talk, something happens...*détente*? Or is the chasm between them too deep to overcome?

It's funny, sad, revealing and a story you won't soon forget. As Lewis says, *"I opened my mouth to try to explain that I wasn't exactly the same person I'd been when I first drove that land boat out of Buffalo...and I wasn't sure I was ready to say it."*

*The final word:* As good a read as you will get this year, and characters who are real and will touch a part of your heart.

Till next time, happy reading!



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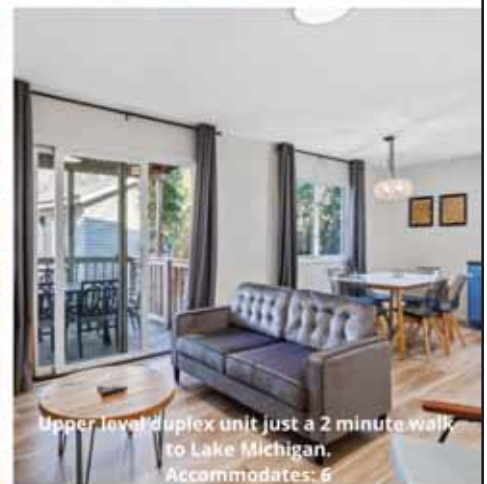
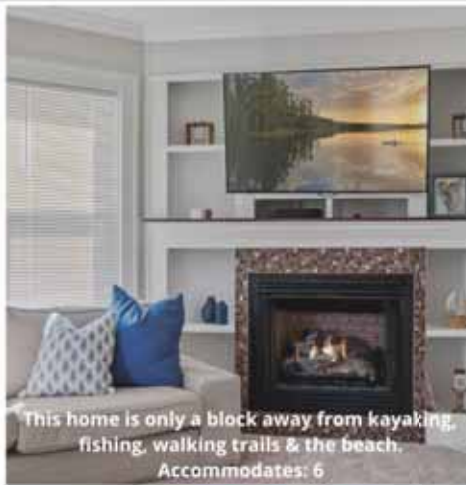


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