

May 13, 2023

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Moody on The Market

Pat **Moody** 

#### South Haven's 'Taste' Celebrates Ten Years With Remodel & Refocus

With spring in the air across southwest Michigan, the local trees aren't the only things turning over a new leaf.

South Haven's Taste unveiled a twomonth interior renovation with a "soft" opening in April, and Owners Heidi Gesiakowski and Chef Joel Gesiakowski are ready to show off the restaurant's new look ahead of its 10-year anniversary May 15.

"The opening was *not* soft," Heidi said. "We opened the doors and the floodgates opened. The customer's reactions were just outstanding."

From a more open floorplan and accessible entrance to new booths and expanded bar seating, the Gesiakowskis said with the anniversary coming up, they knew they wanted to make a change to their restaurant at the corner of Kalamazoo and Phoenix Streets.

"We decided to put our twist on it and make it our own," said Joel, who first met Heidi while she was bartending at Harborside Bistro in the mid-2000's. "It's not like we were boring after 10 years, but it just kind of re-excited me about the whole thing. It's like running or opening the brand new restaurant without moving locations. It's like a rebirth."



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### Marcy **Simpson**

Executive

Director.

Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council Fun and interesting things to do in Southwest Michigan

April showers bring May flowers, and we certainly have had our share of that. The vibrant green is beautiful, and the blossoms arrived in time for the Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade this weekend beginning at 1pm! The spring calendar has an increasing amount of fun and interesting things to do and this weekend

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we celebrate the Mothers in our lives! Join Urban Garage Market for the 5th Annual Succulent Bar on Mother's Day weekend. Don't miss out on the fun, Friday, May 12 from 10:00 - 5:00 pm and Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 - 3:00 pm Plan to do

May 12 from 10:00 - 5:00 pm and Saturday May 13 from 10:00 - 3:00 pm. Plan to do this event with your Mama or create a

Continued on page 2

#### **Inserts & Promotions**

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#### **Simpson** Continued from cover

planter as a gift for her. Bring your kiddos too! This is open house style and while supplies last. No experience is necessary as the friendly plant tenders will be ready to help guide you!

Lazy Ballerina Winery in St. Joe is hosting Mother's Day Wine & Chocolate Flights on Sunday, May 14 from 12:00 - 5:00 pm. Four 2-ounce samples of wine will be paired with four different chocolate truffles from Patricia's Chocolate. Reservations are suggested.

Forest bathing - nature immersion - is a great way to improve mental health, reduce stress, and inspire creativity. Karen from Nature Therapy of Michiana will guide participants in meditation followed by a series of invitations to engage and interact with the natural world. Each session closes with a sharing circle including wild-harvested tea and healthy snacks. The next session is Sunday, May 14 at 2:30 pm in Three Oaks at Robinson Woods Preserve. This is another great experience to share with Mom.

Michiana Annual Art Competition (MAAC) is a local juried fine art exhibition intended to recognize, foster, and reward the excellence of artists in Southwest Michigan and Northern Indiana. The MAAC opening reception will be held Friday, May 19 beginning at 5:30 pm at the Box Factory for the Arts.

During the free and public opening reception, there will be live music, a cash bar, refreshments, and an awards presentation.

The Inn at Harbor Shores is gearing up for wedding season with a Wedding Open House on Sunday, May 21 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Come see their space, sample some of their hors d'oeuvres and signature cocktails, meet the staff, and see some of their preferred vendors.

The Melodious Faithful: Music at the House of David will be presented at the Morton House Museum Tuesday, May 23 at 7:00 pm. During the first of the 20th century, the musicians of Benton Harbor's Israelite House of David entertained the public and helped make famous their already well-known religious commune. Brian Carroll, historian, and archivist at the Israelite House of David, will introduce the season-long exhibit on music at the House of David showing at the Morton House Museum.

ARS Gallery, Arts, and Culture Center is excited to announce their upcoming exhibition: "Art That's Relative" featuring the ladies of the Pasquinelli family. Art That's Relative will showcase five generations of proud, female artists including Sallie Pasquinelli, Christina Cameron, Katrina Pasquinelli, Betsey Pasquinelli, and Caroline Jacobson. Art is Relative will run from May 27th through August 1st. Opening Reception will be held Saturday, May 27 from 4:00-7:00 pm. Small appetizers will be provided by the Mason Jar Cafe, light refreshments served, and live guitar by Steven Reed.

If you would like more information on these and many more events and activities in the area, please visit our website at swmichigan.org.



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**Misty Morning** Photo by Jennifer Akkasian

Please email your favorite photo with a brief description to Photos@MailMaxOnline.com Photos must be horizontal orientation to be considered for Photo of the Week.











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Nick **Christe** 

Real Estate Investor, Business Consultant, Proud St. Joe Lion

#### **NO HONOR AMONGST THIEVES**

There are two kinds of thieves, an honest thief and the justified thief. An honest thief, despite the obvious misnomer, is a thief that steals to steal. They have no reason or excuse. There is no deception in their actions. They're just plain thieves

A justified thief is one who has a "good reason" to steal. Some see capitalism and corporate greed as a moral wrong, so stealing from organi-zations like these is ok. Unlocked doors and open windows are enough for some to make a hasty decision to take what's not theirs. Other's use hunger, unemployment, and other circumstances to justify stealing. These thieves walk amongst us. They are your neighbors and your coworkers. They are your friends and at times, your family.

Regardless the reason, or the lack thereof, most, although sympathetic to some, would not voluntarily place themselves in the path of either type of thief. One will most definitely steal from you. The other, it's just a matter of time.

Most don't realize there are two real estate housing markets - homes listed on the MLS with Realtors, "on-market", and private property sales, without buyer/seller representation, "off-market". I move properties primarily off-market. The challenge most have with selling off-market, is the lack of oversight and accountability. Most off-market real estate professionals are not licensed. They are wholesalers, landlords, and flip-

pers. These individuals are not held to the same standards as those sworn to uphold specific eth-ics requirements. I'm a hybrid. I am a wholesaler but I'm also licensed so maintaining integrity, offmarket, is very important to me.

The two stories below are what NOT to do as a "wholesaler", off-market.

The first assisted the sale of my rental. I signed a standard purchase agreement indicating the buyer would be covering closing costs and title fees (which is common off-market). A few days before the closing, I received the settlement statement. It said I was to pay closing costs? I called my title company for clarification. I was to pay closing costs however they referenced a contract I had never signed. I forwarded the original contract showing my signature where the buyer indeed was to pay closing costs. This person submitted an altered contract without my signature and claimed we never negotiated closing costs!

This is the off-market. There is no one for me to complain to. There is no ethics board here. negotiated the closing of the sale and moved along.

The second left a business card on the seller's door of a property I had privately under contract in Indiana. This was also an off-market deal my group intended to sell. I was out of town so a partner investor was to meet the buyer. I was assured by the buying party my partner wasn't need for the showing, that I shouldn't wor-ry about them "stealing" the deal,... that I could "trust" them. They met with the seller for the showing. Soon after, they submitted a low offer that didn't work for our group. When they didn't get the answer they wanted, they called the seller directly to negotiate! Needless to say, the seller was distraught and because of that, negotiations were over.

Never judge a book by its cover and always do business with those who choose to be virtuous even when they're not being watched...ESPE-

CIALLY when they're not being watched. Plot twist, the two "professionals" above were not wholesalers. They were Realtors.



Column Writer is a REALTOR<sup>®</sup> with eXp Realty. Nicholas.Christe@eXpRealty.com • (269) 332-0747





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### FORE! Ladies Exclusive & Annual Outing

Sarah

Regional

Director.

SMR Chamber

*Spoonholtz* 

Heading into summer many of us will find ourselves on the golf course for the classic mix of business and pleasure. We at the **Southwest Michigan Chamber** are right in the middle of planning not one, but two golfing events that will allow you some quality time on the links!

First up is our brand new **Wine & Nine** event on **Friday, June 2nd at Pipestone Creek Golf Course** from **2:00 until 7:00 p.m**. This *ladies exclusive event* is targeted towards helping women feel comfortable on the course. We've had countless members share with us that heading into summer, they get inundated with requests for business meetings or to play in golf outings, but many of their female staff don't feel comfortable doing so.

Wine & Nine was created to help remove the intimidation factor of being a new player who might be out on the course with more experienced players. The event will begin with 30-minutes with golf pros going over the basics of the game, before heading out on the course for 9 holes, and returning to the clubhouse for wine, networking, and tacos! (Because, who doesn't love wine and tacos!)

While discussing the premise of Wine & Nine, I asked multiple female friends what course they would feel the most comfortable on, and it was a resounding "Pipestone Creek Golf Course." Not only is it an easily walkable 18 holes, but the atmosphere in general is relaxed, beautiful, and the farthest from intimidating. Everything that makes it appealing to a first time golfer!

Hey Sarah, that sounds like a fun event, how can we get involved? GREAT question!! If you are a business that targets female customers, know that we have 72 female decision makers who you can interact with directly on the course. There is a wide variety of sponsorship opportunities available, and we are happy to customize a sponsorship for your business too, but the deadline to be part of Wine & Nine is Monday, May 22nd. The unfortunate side of things, is if you're a female golfer wanting to learn to play, we are almost completely sold out, with a single player and one foursome left at the time of this writing! You are welcome to contact Jasmine Hansen at jhansen@smrchamber.com or by calling 269-932-4605 and asking to be placed on the waitlist - she can also share with you sponsorship opportunities and how you can get more involved!

Currently, we have an amazing group of sponsors that I'd like to thank: Lake Michigan College, Schroeder Furniture, Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Clark Insurance Agency, and Roggow Construction Company.

Our next outing is our 63rd Annual Chamber Golf Outing on Monday, July 17th at Lake Michigan Hills Golf Club presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Indiana Michigan Power an AEP Company, Sturgis Bank - St. Joseph Banking Center, and the Southwest Michigan Tourist Council. This event is a best ball scramble with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m., the 19th Hole After Party presented by Honor Credit Union and is always a huge favorite for players and sponsors alike!

This is a great opportunity to showcase your business as a sponsor, treat your staff and/or clients to a day on the course, network with some of the area's senior level executives, and support your Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber.

Prizes will be awarded for the top foursome of the day, plus chances to win at game holes include the Fastest Hole with the South Bend International Airport, Longest Drives, Closest to the Pin, and a Putting Contest with United Federal Credit Union!

Again, we couldn't host such a successful event without our sponsors, which include: **Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Indiana Michigan Power an AEP Company, Sturgis Bank - St. Joseph Banking Center, Southwest Michigan Tourist Council, Honor Credit Union, Corewell Health, Lakeland Care Network, The Northern Indiana Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), The Inn at Harbor Shores, South Bend International Airport, Edgewater Automation, US Army Recruiters, BOSS Services, Meridian Title, United Federal Credit Union, Berrien Dental, and Clark Insurance Agency.** 

You can find all the details on both golf events and more by visiting <u>smrchamber.com</u> or emailing me at <u>sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com</u>. Looking forward to seeing you around Southwest Michigan!









Ramsey Financial Expert

#### **Dave Says** Is the Threat of **De-Dollarization Real?**

Dear Dave.

I'm hearing more and more about "de-dollarization" and how several countries are moving away from the U.S. dollar as their basis of international trade. Will this affect the strength of the dollar, and should I be concerned about how I'm saving and investing because of this?

#### **Zack** Dear Zack,

First and foremost, I care enough about you to say you may be spending way too much time on the internet, buddy. You're drifting into the realm of conspiracy theories here, so let's slow down and take a look at some facts.

China, Brazil and Russia are the three main players in all this. They already don't use the U.S. dollar as their basis of international trade-all three have their own currency, and there's a conversion rate between all those currencies and the U.S. dollar. Those three countries, along with some of the oil-producing countries from the Middle East they're trying to get on board with the idea, are talking about developing one currency they all use. In international trade, that currency would be

converted back and forth to dollars-much like what Europe did with the euro. Which, by the way, really hasn't worked out so well.

Are those countries going to be able to devalue the dollar by doing that? No. Why? Because while those countries take up a lot of land mass, they don't take up a lot of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the world. The United States still represents the vast majority of the world's GDP. Sure, China's big in that regard. But Russia doesn't bring much to the table, and Brazil is barely scraping by in a failed economy. Plus, they're tiny as far as economics are concerned. I mean. Texas probably has a larger GDP than Brazil.

In other words, they just don't have the muscle to take down the dollar mathematically speaking. Now, if they do manage to put this idea together, it still won't end in "de-dollarization." The dollar will not be done away with. Even if they create their own currency, they're still going to have to trade with the 800-pound gorilla, which is America. And they're going to have to trade with us in dollars.

Am I worried about this, Zack? Not one bit. And you shouldn't be either. – Dave

\* Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show." He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth, and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO of Ramsey Solutions.



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#### **Moody** Continued from cover

The new half moon-shaped booths seat tables of up to six or seven, according to Heidi and Joel, and were custom built in Detroit.

" I've never actually sat in a more comfortable booth in my life," Joel said. "So, we're really happy with that."

There is also a new private dining room featuring a 10 foot long live edge Red Oak table that seats up to 12 people.

"It's definitely a showstopper," Joel said. "It took six grown men to lift this piece of wood into the restaurant."



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During summer months, it will used as private dining for groups, and in the offseason, Chef Joel will be creating intimate cooking experiences.

"A three-course meal with a drink to match every course," Joel said. "We haven't hashed out all the details yet, but I'm thinking about running a menu for a whole month and doing it maybe two to four times."

In addition to the physical changes, Joel said there are a couple of menu changes, including a seafood dip with shrimp, crab, lobster and cream cheese served with toasted pita. They've also added a new "seafood Rangoon" sushi roll. Both items are already a hit, according to loel.

Some other changes include the ability for patrons to be able to make reservations through the restaurant's website, tastesouthhaven.com. The Gesiakowskis said they also plan to celebrate their 10-year anniversary with a special deal for their customers. For updates, or to see current hours as the summer season approaches, follow the restaurant's Facebook page.

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#### Lory's Place Run & Walk' May 20

On Saturday, May 20, Lory's Place, the grief and healing center of Caring Circle and part of Corewell Health, will host its 19th annual Run Walk Rock 5K. Runners, walkers, and other supporters can still register. The event will take place in St. Joseph and is presented by the McLoughlin Family Foundation.

Since the opening of Lory's Place bereavement programs in 2004, the organization has supported 54,873 children and adults after the death of a significant person in Allegan, Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. Donations and participation in the event make it possible for Lory's Place to continue offering programs and services

to all who are grieving, regardless of their financial circumstances.

"This event is a wonderful fundraiser, but also a 'friendraiser', bringing the importance of grief support front and center. Without our community these services would not be possible," said Stephanie Kohler-Pagan, Director of Bereavement and Lory's Place, Corewell Health in Southwest Michigan.

The overall winner of the 5K will be presented with a signature rocking chair. And a \$500 check will be awarded to the school with the most participants registered for the event.

Participants start off from Lory's Place, located in the Edgewater Plaza at 445 Upton Drive, St. Joseph at 8:30 a.m., running or walking along the marina of the St. Joseph River, past the shoreline of Lake

Michigan, and down the historical brick streets of Ridgeway. Those looking for a slower pace can enjoy all the fun in a restful rocking chair near the start or finish line. All events are timed and begin and end at Lory's Place.

Registration is now open with discounted rates available for early sign-ups:

\$35 if registered from May 1 to 18 \$40 if registered on May 19 to 20 Groups of four or more will receive a \$5 discount per registration. For more information and to register, visit lorysplace.org/rwr or call 269.983.2707.

> Pat Moody Publisher, MoodyOnTheMarket.com moody@wsjm.com (269) 925-1111

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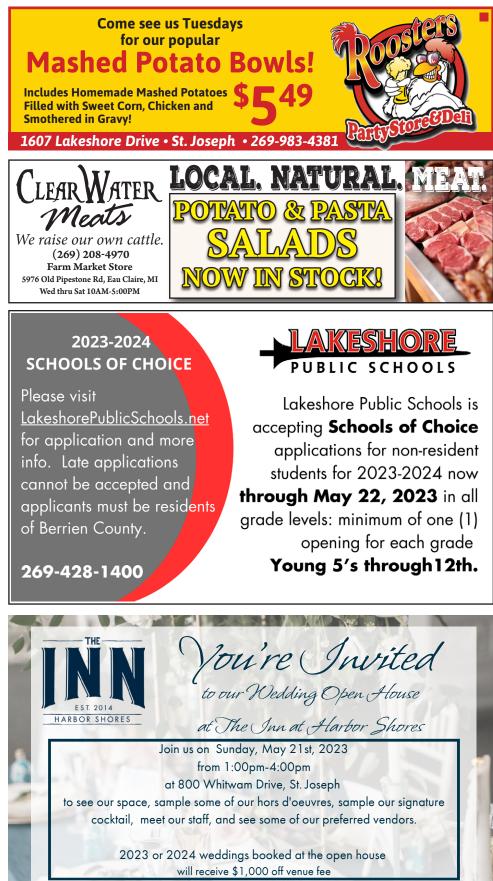
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### Glenn Rosenbaum Pastor

A Sense of Worth

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ~ 1 Peter 1:18,19

"You like me! Right now, you like me!" gasped Sally Fields at the Oscars in 1985. She longed to know she was worth something. You and I long for the same, a sense of worth.

But as we see our selfish behavior, our broken relationships, our failed goals and dreams, how do we often feel? Perhaps worthless, or worth little?

God says, "you were redeemed. .. with the precious blood of Christ." How much does God think you're worth? God thinks you're worth the blood of Jesus!

Think about it. Something's value is always determined by what someone is willing to pay for it. Take, for example, a 1909 Honus Wagner baseball card. Though it's really just a piece of cardboard, in July 2000, it became worth a million dollars! Why? Because that's what someone paid for it.

So, what did God pay for you? He paid the blood of Jesus for you. Proving what? Proving that God thinks you're priceless! Proving that God likes you! Yes, right now! And that he'll keep on liking you, forever!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I marvel that you were willing to pay the price for my sins, even though it cost you your precious blood. Thank you. Amen.



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#### **Doggin' Picasso**

As a globally famous artiste, I enjoy checking out the work of other somewhat well-known creators; in the last couple years, I've partaken of a virtual Van Gogh exhibition, a display of works by street artist Banksy, a show featuring pieces by Andy Warhol, and last week, a collection of landscapes by a fellow named Picasso.

Now even though I'm just a palooka from a small town in Indiana, I don't shy away from trying to broaden my horizons and seeking to "connect" and appreciate art that is universally renowned as "great." But try as I might, I just can't warm up to a lot of Picasso's art. There, I said it. If you've always suspected I was uncool I have now verified it for you.

But there were still things I really liked about the Picasso show. Mostly the photos and video clips that were staged around the paintings, which attracted me for the glimpses into the ordinariness that Picasso lived – almost like he was a palooka from a small town in Indiana!

For example, I didn't know that Picasso liked pets. One of his mistresses, Francoise Gilot, said animals "were exempt from the suspicion with which he regarded people."

Picasso owned a LOT of dogs throughout his life. One dog in particular got a small shout-out in the exhibition. He's shown in home movies taken in the 1930s (back when Picasso worked his hair into a major-league combover. See? An ordinary thing, right?). The pooch is said to be a Pyrenean Mountain Dog (which, while I'm reluctant to sound like a palooka from a small town in Indiana, just looks like a St. Bernard to me. I know, I'm a Philistine!).

What I like best about the dog is its name: Bob. Of course, that may be a diminutive of some other more exotic name, but no matter, history remembers him as Bob – quite an ordinary choice by a guy who strove to appear extraordinary! (No offense to you Bobs out there!)

When I got to googling Picasso and his dogs, I learned the most famous was a dachshund, named Lump. That's German for "rascal," and it's pronounced "Loomp." I suppose if you mispronounced it in front of Picasso, he might give you a thoomp on the head.

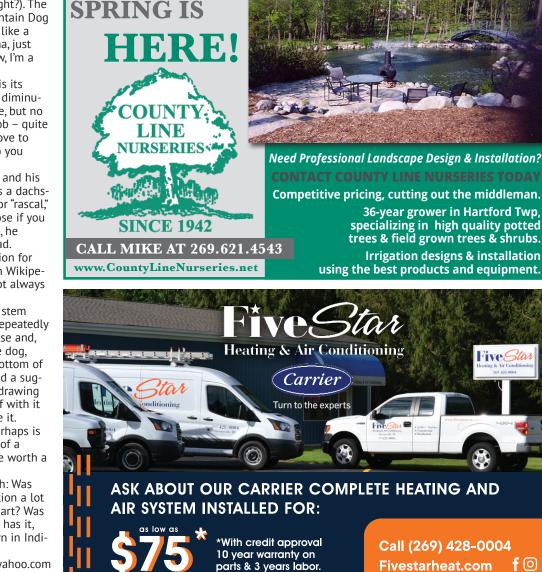
The intensity of Picasso's affection for Lump is such that Lump has his own Wikipedia page. Showing once again, it's not always what you know, but who you know.

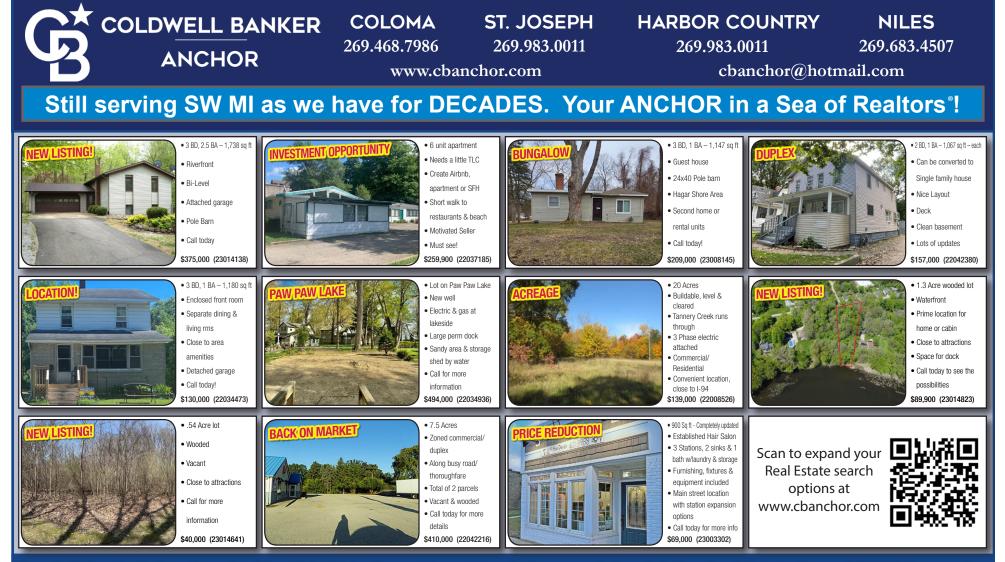
Then again, Lump's fame might stem from this anecdote, which pops up repeatedly when googling him: Seeking to amuse and, yes, let's call it what it was, **spoil** the dog, Picasso once drew a rabbit on the bottom of an old box which had once contained a sugar-frosted cake. Picasso cut out the drawing and gave it to Lump. Who dashed off with it to a quiet corner in the yard. And ate it.

So, some of Lump's notoriety perhaps is due to his consumption – literally – of a Picasso drawing that today would be worth a great honkin' boodle of money.

It does make me wonder though: Was Lump merely expressing the frustration a lot of us have in trying to like Picasso's art? Was he, as a long-unsubstantiated rumor has it, just a pooch-looka from a small town in Indiana?

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