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<u>March 21, 2020</u>

Moody on The Market



Moody

Caught in the maelstrom of executive order mandates, your favorite bartender may have been re-purposed into a

delivery driver. Your favorite server has stepped up in many cases to become the one to deliver your take-out order directly to your car window for curbside pick-up. These are tense times for Michigan's Great Southwest bar and restaurant owners and their myriad staff members who suddenly find themselves in a sort of limbo while the coronavirus environment forces them to the sidelines. Fortunately for avid patrons, hundreds of local bars and restaurants are re-inventing themselves to adapt to the "new normal" during this critical time. Encouraged by many customers to keep options open, food service workers are doing everything in their power to keep you satisfied while also working diligently to keep their jobs and their livelihoods. The re-invention has seen a grand array of adaptations with restaurant owners and employees doing everything in their power to keep the pipeline open and the business flowing

Social media posts have soared with offerings from seemingly everyone willing to bend the curve and find new ways to get you your favorite menu items from delivery to take-out, from curbside pick-up options to...whatever it takes. By way of example, Bobby & Stacy at The Mark III at the Scottdale Crossroads say, "If you're craving the Mark, we've got you covered. You can place your order with Door Dash and request 'no-contact' delivery, or call your order ahead, let us know when you arrive, we will happily bring your order to your car!" Santaniello's Restaurant in Stevensville says, "Yes we are open for To Go orders and are now offering delivery! We can even offer bottles of wine and six packs of beer. We are taking precautions above and beyond what is required to make sure that all of you are safe!" Soulard's Cafe in Coloma says, "Soulards' still open! Please make note of our hours and phone number. Call ahead ordering available. Carryout and curbside orders only, no dine in! Delivery available: city of Coloma free, 7-mile radius for \$3 charge. Please continue to support your local, small businesses that are fighting through this rough time." Timothy's of Union Pier tells us, "In accordance with the state mandate we are closing our dine in service for the time being, however Timothy's is committed to doing everything possible to serve our community during this troubling time. We will be readying a satellite kitchen on the south side of Timothy's Restaurant



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Continued on page 8

Your Chamber Update



Sarah Spoonholtz, Regional Director, SMR Chamber As we continue to navigate through social distancing and the reality of what will be our world for the next few weeks, our small business community continues to find unique ways to support one another. These are our family, friends, and neighbors who have taken on the distinct role of becoming

As we continue to navigate through business owners and now face tough decial distancing and the reality of what will sions ahead.

> Due to the proactive restrictions that have been put in place, many are having to completely restructure how they operate. Some restaurants, breweries, and wineries

> > Continued on page 2

Inserts & Promotions

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remain open for carry-out, drive thru and delivery, while others have decided to close. Smaller retail stores are holding sales online via their website, ETSY, or Facebook, while spas and other entertainment-based businesses have been forced to close for the foreseeable future. Gyms are being forced to switch to online free classes instead of face to face interactions.

So, where do we go from here? Now more than ever, we as a community need to support these businesses. Purchase a gift card to use at a later date for products or services to your favorite small business. Sign up for an online gym class to clear your head, or take a walk outside. Nature, sunshine, and fresh air are all still good things! Support your favorite restaurant by placing a carry-out or delivery order, and when given the opportunity to tip - do so generously! Don't cancel your gym or organizational memberships, for many that income is the only thing that will sustain them through all of this. Check on senior citizens and offer to run errands for them, this way they stay safe and protected.

If you have not had the chance yet, visit our website www.smrchamber.com where we've compiled a list full of helpful information and resources for employers and employees as this situation continues to develop. Our staff will be updating this as we are able with the most current informa-

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tion to help both our businesses and community in general.

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Additionally, if you have a Facebook page join the Buy Local Berrien! Group that encourages ALL Southwest Michigan businesses to share information about how we, the public, can continue to support them. Businesses do not need to be a member of the Chamber to be spotlighted in the group or have their information posted, this is for EVERYONE. Inside the group, we will also be providing updates on school breakfast and lunch programs, senior services, aid for small businesses, and general information on what's happening in the community.

Don't forget to be kind to one another. None of us know how long any of this will last, or what the ultimate impact that our small businesses or community in general will be facing as we attempt to learn our new normal

Just remember, we are all in this togeth-#buylocalberrien #SWMIDelivers er #SWMIStrong

See a list of local restaurants offering carry out and/or delivery on page 4.



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Leila went missing this morning (2/1) around 7 AM off of Paw Paw Ave, across from Whirlpool, in Benton Twp. She is a 13 year old black lab with a purple/lavender biothane collar. The collar has a gold engraved name plate with both owners phone numbers. She likely won't come to you if you call her, so please if you see her call -484-5756 or 269-625-4869. DO NOT CHASE!



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out & delivery)



out & delivery) pq.9

Broad Street Cafe (Carry out)



MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest What Remains

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom . . . but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ~ 1 Corinthians 2:6

55. You are standing in front of one of the seven wonders of

the ancient world. It is the Temple of Artemis, Goddess of Fertility. Everything about it is extravagant and massive. It dwarfs the Parthenon of Athens in terms of size. And it's much more beautiful. Double rows of columns surround it—127 columns in all. Each column is sixty feet high and six feet thick, with intricate carvings and precious metals covering every single one. Pilgrims and tourists pour in from around the civilized world to see it. The famous and the powerful come to pay homage. Perhaps more than any other structure, the Temple of Artemis symbolizes the dominant culture and wisdom of the age.

Several blocks away a man is composing a letter. His name is Paul. He's in the middle of a three-year stay in the area as he shares with others the good news of Jesus. As Paul writes, the sights and sounds and platitudes and presumptions that flow from the Temple are all around him. None of it seems to bother

The year is A.D. Paul, however. He understands that, while cultures and worldly wisdom will come and go, the message about Jesus Christ will remain. Sure, it might seem like foolishness to the rest of the world. But the good news about Jesus is the very wisdom of God. As such, it slices through the temporary and fleeting. It speaks to the heart of humanity's problem. The message of God becoming a human being to carry the world's sin to the cross is the only thing that will heal a world of broken souls. Paul knows this.

> It is the present day. You are standing where the great Temple of Artemis once stood. It is now a swamp. Frogs croak in the background. A bird's nest sits on top of the temple's one remaining column. The wisdom of Artemis is gone. But the wisdom of God remains.

> Prayer: Lord Jesus, in the shifting shadows of this world, you are the answer. You are my answer. Amen.

> > Submitted by:Pastor Glenn T. Rosenbaum Administrative Pastor Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Joseph Originated by: www.What AboutJesus.com

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Ramseı

Dave

Do we still owe? Dear Dave, Should you still pay debts that are in collec-

tions, even if they have

been dropped from your credit report? The one in question is from 2011, and I assume it isn't showing on the credit report anymore because it's nine years old.

Sam Dear Sam,

There are two good reasons to go back and deal with this debt. One, even if it's off your credit report, you may still legally owe the money. Even if the statute of limitations has run its course, things like this have a habit of popping up and causing problems at the worst possible times. About the time you decide to buy a home, this is liable to raise its head again and mess things up. So, the fact that something doesn't appear on a credit report doesn't mean you're not legally liable, or that they won't bother you about

it later. The second thing to think about is a simple matter of fact-you owe the money. Regardless of what the legal system or credit report says, you morally owe the money. I'd contact the creditor, and begins negotiations to settle the debt. You might be able to reach an agreement where they'd accept less than the original amount owed. Regardless, get any type of settlement offer in writing. That way, you're truly cleaning up your life and getting rid of any financial skeletons in your closet!

-Dave

Dave Says The simple thing is the right thing Dear Dave

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I recently found out my former employer never stopped contributing to my health savings account (HSA). Apparently, this has been going on for about nine months, and they just sent me a form to sign so they can get the overpayment back. The amount totals a little over \$1,000, so should I sign the papers or is there another way to handle this?

Ellie Dear Ellie,

You know, if I were as incompetent as your former employer. I'd be too embarrassed to ask for the money back. But hey, the point is it's not your money. Sign the forms, and let them take the money out. Keep an eye on your HSA balance, though, and make sure they take out only amount they overpaid-not one penny more or less.

Keep it simple, Ellie. You didn't earn this money, and it wasn't expected or agreed upon. It was a mistake, so just do the right thing. Control the scenario, and stay on top of this situation until everything is resolved correctly.

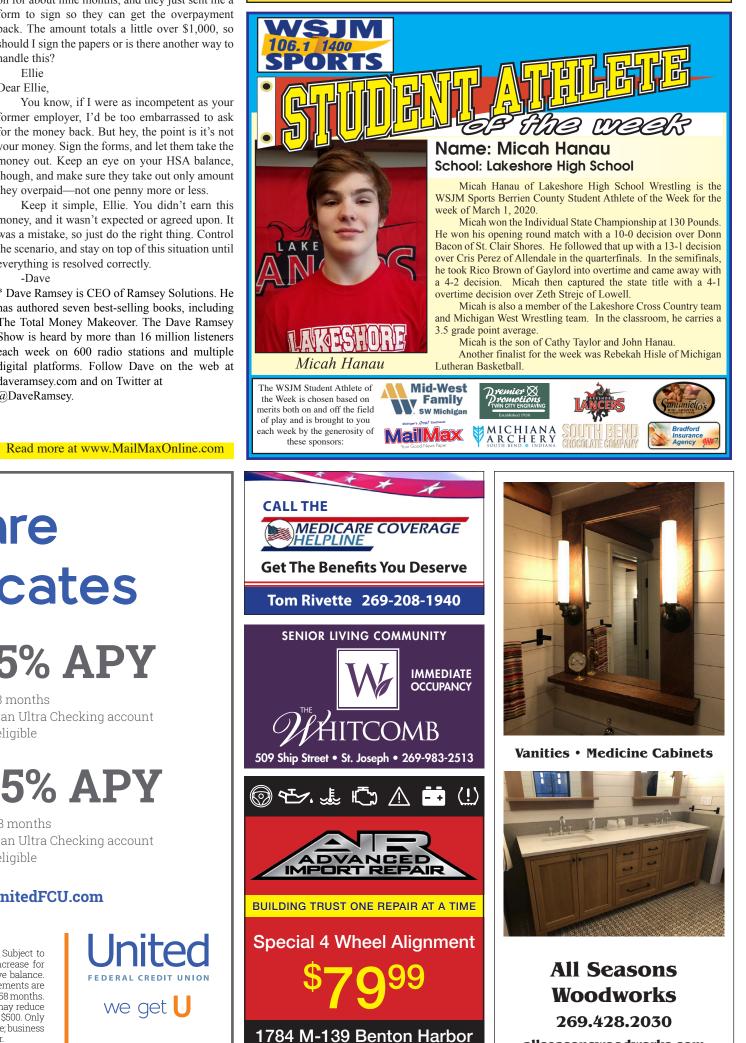
-Dave

* Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

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MOODY Continued from Cover

beside the Wine Seller for drive up To Go orders and we are pairing with the Wine Sellers for a quick and safe, one-stop shop. The drive thru kitchen will be serving Wednesday through Sunday from 4pm until 8pm. We will continue our popular Wednesday Rib Night special: Full Rack of Ribs with fries and house slaw for \$9.99, we have also released a brand new Timothy's To Go menu with the options available from our satellite kitchen." Schu's Grill & Bar in downtown St. Joe says, "We at Schu's Grill & Bar are thankful for our community and will be offering free delivery. We will prepare and deliver your meal." Hoopla Frozen Yogurt of St. Joe says, "Hoopla will now be offering Carry Out on a daily basis 12-9 pm each day. In order to receive Carry Out Orders, our customers will have two options. Option 1 is calling Hoopla with your pre-order at 269-281-7969. Pay over the phone. Stop by for pickup at the time of your choice. Option 2 is stopping by Hoopla,



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pay at counter, and our staff will safely prepare your order, and you can take your order TO GO. Although we can no longer offer a Dine-In option, we want our wonderful Hoopla customers to have the opportunity to purchase our products! In this unsettling time, we all need a treat once in awhile! The current situation of our world puts local, small businesses at risk, and we want to sincerely thank all of customers for showing us such amazing support. We have felt your love over the last three years, and we are looking forward to seeing you for many, many more!" Coach's Bar & Grill says, "Now offering delivery! We do the running, so you don't have to. We are now offering delivery service to most of the Stevensville and St. Joseph area, with no delivery fee, for both call-in and online orders. \$25-minimum purchase. Deliveries will need to be paid for via credit card prior to delivery as our drivers will not be carrying any cash. In order to maintain the quality of Coach's food that you have come to know and love, we must stay within our delivery parameter - simply enter your address on our online ordering platform or call us at the restaurant to find out if you are within our deliverv zone. If you are outside of our delivery zone, no problem, we will now be offering our Sideline Pick-Up Service All Day. Simply choose Sideline Pick-Up when you order online, or let us know over the phone." Full Circle Cafe & Espresso Bar in Stevensville says, "And with that, we temporarily switch to takeout and delivery only – until further notice. We truly appreciate the support of our loval guests, and intend to do all we can - to the point of driving you all crazy on social media with pictures of delicious food and drinks - in order to keep our Full Circle family working, and able to function as normally as possible. Don't forget to ask for curbside pick up so we can process your touch-free payment, and deliver your order to your vehicle if you prefer."

The Mason Jar Cafe in Benton Harbor says, "As of today, with word from Governor Whitmer, we are required to close our doors to dine-in customers. However, we will still be open to carry out orders. If

you prefer to do curbside, that's not a problem, we can even swipe your credit card at your car. We will also be offering delivery to local businesses. Don't forget, we also have coffee and espresso drinks! We appreciate all of our amazing customers and staff."

And...the list goes on and on. In fact...Arthur Havlicek, President of the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber of Commerce has undertaken the Herculean task of assembling all of them in one spot for everyone to check out in a new Facebook Group we told you about called Buy Local Berrien. Keep tabs on the entire list at any time at this link:

facebook.com/groups/Buylocalberrien. In less than 24 hours, that Facebook Group had acquired nearly 1,400 members and counting, and Havlicek reminds everyone, "This page is for every business in our region. You do not have to be a member of the Chamber to take advantage of this opportunity to share your offerings." The community of Michigan's Great Southwest is doing a remarkable job of keeping these businesses in mind, but everybody needs to continue to step up in the days ahead as well in order to assure that these folks will be around when this is all over. On a side note...I know that there are many who have argued for years that tipping someone who "simply" delivers your pick-up or curbside order to you is not necessary. Nothing could be further from the truth. I've personally seen many people work to assemble such orders, get them ready for me and cash me out. While it may not be as labor intensive as the work of a regular server, they are certainly worthy of your gratuity, which you (hopefully) would have paid had you dined-in. Keep in mind, the person bringing your order to you at your car window may be out of a job completely if the business had to close completely during this tough time. Please tip generously. Be kind in this mixed up world.

Elsewhere in the restaurant world, **The Texas Corral Grill & Saloon Restaurant** on the periphery of **The Orchards Mall in Benton Harbor** is now closed permanently, largely due to failure by the tenant to maintain the property as mandated by the lease agree-



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ment they were operating under. They have been evicted. The restaurant abruptly announced to staff overnight last Sunday night that they would be closing immediately and that they needed to turn in any keys. They were under a court order to vacate the premises completely by the end of the day on Monday, March 16th, 2020. The closure stems from a long-running dispute with the building owner/landlord who repeatedly called for the property to be maintained in accordance with the lease documents, but failed to do so. Having no other recourse, the owner filed suit against the restaurant operator and on Friday. March 6th, the court sided with the owner/landlord and signed eviction papers throwing Texas Corral out for good. The lease also did not allow the building's owner to search for a replacement until the lease ended or was terminated, and so that owner can now begin the search for a new operator to establish a restaurant in that space located at 1830 Pipestone Road. Stav tuned.

The sprawling banquet hall and reception center we have come to know over the past dozen years as simply The Vineland Center will cease to exist so that the property where it has been housed can be sold on the open market. Renowned local business owner Chef Don Damron who has owned and operated the catering business and reception hall in the leased space at 1155 Vineland Road in St. Joseph recently shared his fate on the Facebook page he created to showcase the myriad events that have been hosted there from Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours events and Dueling Piano shows to hundreds of wedding receptions, birthday parties, retirement events and more. He called it, "A post that no business owner looks forward to writing." Here's what he had to say: "Today is our last day at the Vineland Center. The property owners notified us a couple months ago that they would like to sell the property and since our lease was expiring, this is the perfect time for a transition. It will be easier for them to sell the property if there isn't a long-term lease. To be sure, we can still do food catering for you. Call me. So we are transitioning from a venue to catering services. You can still have the food and meals that you have raved about the past 12 years delivered to your event. Just call and I'll be happy help you. My contact information will remain the same. You can call 269-556-9901 or email me at sales@vinelandcenter.com. I was just going to shut down this page quietly, but there are so many people that I want to publicly thank that have helped make us successful the past 12 years. Thank you to my wife and kids that had to put up with the sacrifices and the emotional roller coaster that is attached to small business ownership. Thank you to the rest of my family that

has had my back no matter the situations and keeping me sane. Thank you to all the employees that worked so hard to make our customer's events perfect. I know it's hard to work and stay focused when everyone around you is partying and having a great time. It's because of you that they have terrific memories that they will cherish a lifetime. To all the customers that trusted us to host your event, thank you! Whether it was a social event, wedding, office meeting or holiday party, you have no idea how fulfilling it is to work an event from start to finish and help you achieve your dream event. Helping you has been a lifelong blessing. And I want to send a big thank you to my friends Joe and Karla Giannola (property owners) for all their support over the past 12 years. I am so grateful to know you. While this is a difficult post to write, I have big plans that are in the works. As soon as I am ready for them to be public, I will let you know. Again to everyone, my deepest heartfelt thank you...stay tuned. Chef Don. P.S. Don't forget, we can still do food catering for you. Call me."

Late Tuesday, the PGA of America revealed that the PGA Championship at Harding Park in San Francisco has been postponed. That event was slated for just days ahead of the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor. As you might expect, the move leaves the fate of the KitchenAid sponsored event in limbo for the moment. Here is what the PGA of America shared that evening: STATEMENT FROM THE PGA OF AMERICA ON THE KITCHENAID SENIOR PGA CHAMPIONSHIP. Late today the PGA of America announced the postponement of the PGA Championship at Harding Park, which had been scheduled for May 11-17 at TPC Harding Park in San Francisco. We are working closely with the PGA TOUR in hopes of finding an alternate date later in the summer at TPC Harding Park when it is safe and responsible to hold the PGA Championship. In our conversations with the PGA TOUR, we are also discussing the best options for the KitchenAid Sr. PGA Championship, set for May 19-24. We hope to have an update in the near future and sincerely appreciate the





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That's it for this week folks. Keep supporting your local businesses and we'll see you Saturday right here in MailMax!

Pat Moody Morning Radio Personality WSJM Radio moody@wsjm.com (269) 925-1111 Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com



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2020 Upcon

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Amarillo By Evening Today we continue metaphorically "passing the mile markers" on a cross-country drive to move No. 2 son and his family from Ann Arbor, Michigan,

to Santa Cruz, California.

While preparing to leave on Day Two, I was forced to reveal to No. 2 son another of my couple-three dozen travel idiosyncrasies.

He noticed I kept running back and forth, my panic rising, from our hotel room to his Hyundai, which I was driving. And I had to tell him – I couldn't find my tea cup!

See, when I travel, I brew some tea in a single-use, disposable cup at the first gas station or hotel we visit. Then, I keep and re-use that same cup. For the entire trip. I've had cups last up to two weeks. If the cup is particularly sturdy, or seems possessed of especially good luck/juju/ karma, I'll save it and use it during my next trip!

Anyway, I managed to find the cup – which I'd picked up when we made a quick pit stop in Stevensville!! – and I de-escalated from code-red freakout to my normal state of mere high anxiety. Then, at our first stop that morning, I accidently sat on the darn cup (thankfully it was empty), and was forced to get a new one at our second stop. (But that one lasted the whole rest of the way, and made it back home to Nawth Cayliney with me, and was used later in February when I visited Indiana to see my mom. Next up: me and that cup, oh, and my wife and No. 5 son, head to Nashville to visit No. 3 son!)

Our Day Two destination was Amarillo, Texas. Crossing from Oklahoma into Texas, nothing really changes, scenery-wise. However, I had a transcendent moment at the crossing: The Oklahoma sky immediately was cloudy and overcast to -- over Texas it was bright blue and clear! I could see the sun! For the first time since I'd left North Carolina, seven days earlier!

No. 2 and I used walkie-talkies to stay in communication during the drive, and I excitedly, uhhhh, walkie-talked him about this. He said that was great, he was happy for me, and since I was so full of pep at seeing the sun, at the next stop he'd "let me" walk the dog and poop-scoop.

When we reached our Day's Inn hotel in Amarillo I was able to make a joke that even brought a smile to my plumb tuckered-out son. I told him we must be in the German part of Amarillo, then pointed to the sign. The light bulbs for the "y" were out, so it read "Das Inn."

Approaching Amarillo, one sees scads of signs promoting a restaurant called The Big Texan, a place with one of those crazy gut-busting food challenges: Eat a 72-ounce steak - plus shrimp cocktail, salad, roll, and a baked potato in one hour or less, and it's free (otherwise, it's

The restaurant's website has a "Hall of Fame" listing folks who've achieved this feat. I was surprised at how many people have done it. But the all-time champ-een has to be a woman named Molly Schuyler, who ate THREE of the full dinners.....IN JUST 20 MINUTES!

Imagine that?!?!? And then, imagine being assigned to walk her and poop-scoop! TakefiveT5@yahoo.com

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