

Moody on **The Market**



oodu As many may have learned during the state mandated shelter-in-place orders, not everyone

is cut out for working from home, yet not everyone has the type of business that provides them with a flexible and productive work environment either. That's why three local entrepreneurs are advancing their plans to open up ThinkBar, a new co-working space in South Haven for whoever needs that opportunity. Despite the economic uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, or maybe because of the need it has clearly shown, the three women are moving forward with ThinkBar in the central business district of downtown South Haven. As a new co-working space, ThinkBar will provide an office-equipped option for remote-working professionals, solo entrepreneurs, start-ups and freelancers who seek out a flexible and productive work environment. The space will offer daily, weekly, monthly or longer term private, semi-private and openwork spaces. ThinkBar plans to open in the coming weeks and will be located downtown at 610 Phoenix Street, Suzanne Sutherland Loafman, a public relations and marketing professional and Lynzee Krohne and Kayla Weich, founders of online marketing agency LEO & LAINE, are the women behind ThinkBar. After working remotely themselves and working with many clients who were looking for professional work space, the three recognized the demand in the area for a co-working space. Krohne says, "So many people work from home in South Haven and the surrounding areas. We'd often work or host meetings in cafes and coffee shops to get away from the home office distractions and notice the room was full of people working." She adds, "A lot of our clients are small businesses frequently looking for additional office space, and we knew if we found the right space we could offer a much needed service to the South Haven community." After finding the right space, the three committed to the co-working idea with plans to open in May of 2020. Though the current pandemic and resulting public quarantine shut down the nation and delayed ThinkBar's operational plans, it also helped to reshape the current work environment. As Loafman explains, "The COVID quarantine has shown the traditional office is no longer a necessity in some industries. We expect more people will now have the opportunity to work from home." She adds, "Although the convenience and flexibility of a home office is great, working from home is not a great solution for everyone. ThinkBar will provide a productive get-away from the Continued on page 11

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ers! Every land has its Michigan. Come experience their craftsmanship. Rewards will be sent through the mail by the end makers. Carvers of wood. Taste our liquid masterpieces.

While still with restrictions there are plenty of earth. Ours are mas- of fun places to visit along the Makers Trail. Due there are four reward levels within the Flight ters of wine, beer and to COVID-19 we have extended the deadline to Crew Passport. The first level you visit 10 differspirits. More and more of July 15, 2020, and you have until July 26, 2020 these skillful artisans are to mail in your passport or put them in the

Welcome adventur- putting down stakes along our shore of Lake Makers Trail drop box outside of our front door. of August.

> For those of you who may not be familiar, ent locations and get your passport stamped for a Continued on page 2

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Page 2 July 4, 2020 TOURISM Continued from cover

Makers Trail t-shirt. The second level you visit 10 more different locations and get your passport stamped for a Makers Trail hoodie. The third level visit 10 more locations and get your passport stamped to receive two tickets to the 2021 Makers Trail Festival. For the fourth level spend the night in one of the hotels in Benton Harbor, St. Joseph, or Stevensville and get a really cool Makers Trail Yeti.

This year's Makers include: Chill Hill Winery, Dablon Vineyards, Baroda Founders Wine Cellar, Free Run Cellars, Berrien Springs Tasting Room, Lake Michigan Vintners, Gravity, Red Top Winery, Haymarket Brewing, Tabor Hill Champagne Cellar, Ghost Isle Brewery, Niles Brewing Company, Round Barn Public House, Transient Artisan Ales, Journeyman Distillery, Iron She Distillery, Lemon Creek Winery, Round Barn Estate, Lazy Ballerina Bridgman Tasting Room, St. Julian Union Pier Tasting Room, Lehman's Orchard Farmhouse. Domaine Berrien Cellars, Tabor Hill Winerv & Restaurant, Hickory Creek Winery, Tapistry Brewing, Round Barn Union Pier Tasting Room, Lehman's Orchard, Arclight Brewing Company, Round Barn Filling Station, 12 Corners Vineyards, Silver Harbor Brewing Company, Baroda Founders St. Joseph Tasting Room, Moonrise Winery, Contessa Wine Cellars, North Pier Brewing Company, Lazy Ballerina Winery, Grande Mere Inn, Karma Vista Vineyards, Vineyard 2121, The Livery, White Pine Winery and Watermark Brewing Company.

To earn your Yeti spending the night at any one of these participating hotels located in Benton Harbor, St. Joseph and Stevensville: Baymont Inn & Suites, Best Western, The Boulevard Inn, Candlewood Suites, Comfort Suites Benton Harbor, Comfort Suites Stevensville, Courtyard, Econo Lodge, Fairfield Inn, Hampton Inn, Hilton Garden Inn, Holiday Inn Express Benton Harbor, Holiday Inn Express St. Joseph, Howard Johnson, The Inn at Harbor Shores, Mark III Inn, Quality Inn, Red Roof Inn, Silver Beach Hotel, Springhill Suites, Staybridge Suites, Super 8 and Travelodge.

The best time to tour the Makers Trail is right now in time to earn rewards by July 15, 2020! For transportation services contact Fantasy Carriage Limousine Services, Fruitful Vine Tours, Grape & Grain Tours, or Hops Noggin Tours.

For all of the details and contact information visit <u>www.swmichigan.org/makerstrail</u> or ask one of the Makers for a Makers Trail map. As everything has changed with COVID-19 be sure to call the Makers you would like to visit for their current status and hours of operation.

Many of the Makers have outdoor patios and/or beer gardens. Some have musical entertainment. Others offer down right great food and unique dining experiences. Have a happy time traveling along the Makers Trail.

We'll be back in a couple of weeks to talk about more fun and interesting things to do this summer!

Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com



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Home State Photo by Christine Loose-Randal

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



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Networking is one of the four core areas that the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber focuses on. While we were successful in transitioning to online platforms to allow our members to continue networking together, we also understand the value that being able to connect face-to-face brings. We are beyond excited to announce the return of in-person networking events starting this month, but also that we will continue to offer virtual networking opportunities!

In-person events officially return with Business After Hours at Schroeder Furniture on Thursday, July 16^{th} from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. We are looking forward to not only celebrating Schroeder Furniture's 45th anniversary, but also physically seeing everyone without the use of a computer! Schroeder Furniture has an amazing history in our community not only for being a multi-generational business, but also for the longevity of their staff which we plan to celebrate that night as well. Classic Catering & Events will be catering, and there will be an option for individuals to gather outdoors if that is preferred. If you haven't had the chance to explore Schroeder Furniture's showroom recently or ever, this is a great opportunity to do so! We do ask that if you're interested in joining us that you pre-register through our website www.smrchamber.com.

Looking ahead to August, we are bringing back one of our key yearly events with the 60th Annual Chamber Golf Outing & Steak Fry on

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Your Chamber Update

Monday, August 31st at Harbor Shores Golf! Limited sponsorship opportunities, golf teams and steak fry tickets are available. Deadline to register is July 31st. This is a great opportunity for you to spend a day on the links as either a sponsor on a hole or a golfer, plus connect after during the Steak Fry. We are working to fully utilize ALL of the indoor and outdoor area that Harbor Shores has to offer for our Steak Fry.

With the safety of our members, volunteers, and host locations being top of mind, for those of you who attend any of our upcoming events you'll notice a series of procedures that will be in place. You can expect your temperature to be taken, as well as a request for masks to be worn, hand sanitizer will be available in multiple locations, and outdoor options for those who feel more comfortable there rather than inside.

Additionally, you can expect some of the same things to continue from the pre-COVID world such as our Staff & Ambassadors greeting you with smiling faces! Yes, even under the masks there will be smiles!

As always, you can find a listing of all upcoming virtual and in-person events on our website www.smrchamber.com. If you have questions about attending, please don't hesitate to reach out - sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com. Have a safe and happy July $4^{th}!$





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served during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991) and since used burn pits for disposal of waste products in Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi

Arabia and Bahrain. Burn pits were used throughout various military operations in Afghanistan, Djibouti and again in Iraq since the early 2000's. For a comprehensive discussion on this topic, please visit the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) website at www.day.org/wp-content/uploads/ Burn-Pit-Exposure-2019.pdf. The burn pits in the Middle East were used to burn waste products which included, but are not limited to, plastics, metal/aluminum cans, rubber, various chemicals, petroleum, lubricants, munitions, unexploded ordnances, wood, medical and human waste. The burning produced toxic airborne contaminants that were breathing hazards for anyone who inhaled these byproducts. The unintended consequences resulted in numerous conditions and diseases for military service members. The VA is still researching the consequences of inhaling toxic airborne contaminants. As of yet there is no presumptive list like there currently is for Agent Orange, Atomic Veterans and Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water claims. However, the DAV in the same Issue Brief indicated that between 2007 to 2018 the VA received more than 11,000 claims based on burn pit exposure and denied 80 percent of those claims. The VA has acknowledged that there is a correlation between the burn pit toxins and the resulting airborne hazards. Please visit www. publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry. asp to learn more and to register on the Burn Pit Registry. Registries were established by the VA to let veterans who signed up on them to learn more about any new developments in VA research

who or any new developments in the filing of claims. Although there is no presumptive list "yet" the VA research and the number of claims that have been filed by veterans will definitely help current and future veterans. You can visit www.military.com/ daily-news/2019/09/04/lawmakers-va-providehealth-care-all-veterans-made-sick-burn-pits.html

www.military.com/daily-news/2019/08/23/ and after-mandate-congress-va-opens-research-centerburn-pit-related-illnesses.html. Veterans (and in some instances the surviving spouse or child of a veteran who died from some of these related issues) have filed claims for asthma, brain cancer, chronic and/or constrictive bronchitis, chronic coughing, breathing difficulties, migraine headaches, heart conditions, leukemia, lung cancer, pulmonary ailments, pancreatic cancer, liver conditions, kidney conditions, skin cancer, skin lesions, stomach cancer and throat infections. The list of cancers, conditions, diseases and illnesses was by no means a comprehensive list but a list of the most common types of claims that have been filed with the VA. Two bills currently in Congress to follow and support are Senate Bill 2950 and House Resolution 4137. The DAV Issue Brief on Burn Pit Exposure concluded that Congress should enact this legislation and concede burn pit exposure for veterans currently eligible to join the VA Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry. Although the current measures would not establish presumptive service connection, it would remove the requirement of veterans having to prove their individual exposure to burn pits and the chemicals and toxins they emitted and enable them to file VA disability claims for direct service connection.

Lee Lull is the Veterans Affairs Administrator for Berrien County. He has served in that position since May 2012. You can contact Berrien County Veterans Services at (269) 983-7111 Ext. 8224, via e-mail at veterans@berriencounty.org or visit their website at www.berriencounty.org/veterans.

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Page 6 July 4, 2020 Pastor

Promise of Salvation

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 1 Timothy 1:15

Several ago, a man donated his kidney to save his

wife. His wife needed a kidney transplant in order to live. Not wanting to wait for her tion God demands of us, we always fall far name to come up on the list, and not wanting his wife to die, he decided to donate his. The transplant was a success. This man saved his to be unfaithful to our Creator. How does wife's life.

Rosenba

18 months later, the wife began a longterm affair with another man. She cheated on And we will not die in our sin, because her husband. After several years, her unfaithfulness was discovered, and the man eventually filed the paperwork for a divorce, in which was included a demand that she return the kidney he had donated to save her life. He wanted his kidney back, knowing she might be, whatever damage it has already would die if that were to happen.

Those who have been the victim of an affair might understand that man's anger and pain. It's why what God did for the Apostle Paul is so noteworthy.

Paul called himself "the worst" of sinners. Prior to meeting Jesus, he had made a career of persecuting Christians. But he wasn't referring to his previous life of unbe-

years lief when he called himself "the worst" of sinners. It was when he was a Christian that he said, "I am the worst."

> He knew that compared to the perfecshort as we carry on our long-term relationship with sin and regularly prove ourselves God respond to such sinners?

> He does not want us to die in our sin. Christ Jesus already came into the world to save sinners. He gave not just his kidney, but his entire perfect life as a substitutionary payment to save even the worst of sinners.

> Whatever your sin is, however great it done cannot change the truth that Christ Jesus has already saved you.

> Prayer: Father in heaven, strengthen my faith in you by keeping me focused on your faithfulness to me in Jesus. Amen.

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



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When it comes to Veterans Benefits, many veterans and dependents don't know what they don't know. Nationwide, less than 10% of those eligible apply. Let us help to educate and navigate you thru the maze of what is available from discharge to death. Here are some of the many benefits:

★ Disability Compensation benefits for prior conditions, diseases or injuries that occurred in service or many years later as a result of service (e.g. Agent Orange Exposure, Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – combat or personal trauma) to name a few.

 \star PTSD Counselors from the South Bend Vet Center that comes to Berrien County twice a week.

★ Non-Service Connected Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefits (House Bound as well as Aid and Attendance) for low income veterans over age 65 or prior to age 65 that are disabled and have at least one day of wartime service (additional means tested restrictions apply).

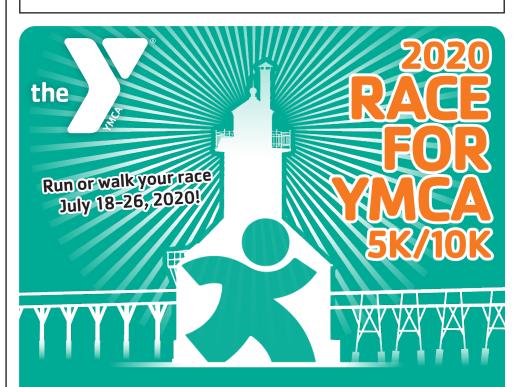
★ Free transportation at designated stops for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Benefits Program to the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek and the VA Health Care Center in Mishawaka.

★ Financial assistance thru the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for wartime veterans or peacetime veterans who earned an expeditionary medal (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free financial coaching from an Accredited Financial Counselor and Financial Fitness Coach Counselor as well as ongoing Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Military Edition classes.

★ Please read our weekly "The Veterans Voice" article in MailMax Newspaper to learn more about additional benefits for veterans and dependents. Let us be of service to you for your service.





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Evaluating insurance needs Dear Dave,

Last year I got a divorce. I'm 32, a teacher and a single mom. I'm on Baby

Step 2 right now, and I was wondering about life insurance. My son is only two, and if something happened to me, he would go to his father. His dad is in good shape financially and responsible with money, so how much life insurance should I have? Christian

Dear Christian.

Well, you probably don't need the full 10 to 12 times your income like I recommend for most people. The only dependent you have is also dependent upon his dad. And from what you said, his father seems perfectly able to take care of him.

I'd get a good term life policy equal to the amount that you'd like to supplement your son's care. The good news is you can get a couple hundred thousand in life insurance at your age for practically nothing.

If you get life insurance, make sure his dadyour ex-is not the beneficiary. The beneficiary should be a family trust, formed upon your death, and the money would go into that trust for the benefit of your child. You set the terms of the trust. It should not be controlled by your ex. In a divorce situation, I would never name someone I'm not willing to be married to the trustee of my money on behalf of my child.

I'm so glad you're thinking about these things, Christian. It shows you're an intentional lady, a fine mom, and a good planner. Those traits will serve you and your son well!

-Dave

Dave Says Are utilities included? Dear Dave,

I just received a formal job offer in law enforcement. I'm debt-free, single, and I'd like to move out of a roommate situation and into my own apartment. I'll be starting out at \$34,000 a year, then moving up to \$38,000 after my probationary period. You have a rule that says to make sure rent or house payments are 25% or less of your take home pay. If I can find a place where utilities are included, do they figure into that amount? Josh

Dear Josh,

-Dave

It's really more of a guideline than a rule. The point of not letting your housing cost eat up more than 25% of your take home pay is to make sure you have money left over for other important things. It's hard to save and invest for the future when a huge chunk of your money is eaten up by rent or a mortgage payment each month. But no, utilities are not part of the one-fourth of your take home pay guideline.

At this point, it doesn't sound like you need anything fancy. Try to find a safe, quiet place to call home-somewhere you can relax and decompress when you're off duty. And thanks for entering law enforcement. A lot of folks are leaving your line of work, and we need good men and women in that profession right now.

* 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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MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest MOODY Continued from Cover

home, and a long-term solution for professionals who thrive in an office environment, need to meet with clients or are seeking less isolation." The space is already generating buzz from area residents, according to **Katie Kean**, who is **Director of Strategic Consulting at Advisors Plus**. She admits, "As a professional woman that works remote from South Haven when I am not traveling, I'm really looking forward to having a local, professional space that accommodates whatever my day throws at me, whether that is a virtual **Webex** meeting with clients or a quiet and clean space to brainstorm and tackle everyday tasks." Kean also teaches at **Western Michigan University** where she facilitates online courses and plans to conduct the courses from her space at ThinkBar.

The 2,000 square foot co-working space will feature a variety of work spaces to accommodate those looking for a casual "café-style" environment, a more traditional environment, as well as those looking for a collaborative group space. Amenities will include a conference room, private call rooms, video conferencing capabilities, Wi-Fi access and print/scan/fax. Conveniently located downtown, the space is just steps away from restaurants, public parking and retail. In addition to work space, ThinkBar will also host networking events and small business marketing workshops. Weich says, "South Haven is a community of small businesses which happens to be where we specialize as marketers. Our goal is not only to offer work space but also to be a partner to the community. We are excited to offer support to the small business community and help grow business in South Haven." For more information about ThinkBar, www.thinkbarcoworking.com.

A long-time, multi-generational fruit farm that is a historical goldmine also featuring the oldest surviving log cabin in the state of **Michigan** will debut next summer as a new wedding venue in **Michigan's** *Great* **Southwest** bearing the name of **Sunrise Farms of Benton Harbor**. The property steeped in rich local history and anchored on a beautiful farmland setting

known for decades as the Culby Farms, will reopen in June of 2021 as the latest offering in event venues, featuring a three-story barn from the late 1800's, the oldest surviving log cabin in the state, and a 1928 original farm house built by the House of David. The Sunrise Farms of Benton Harbor venue is the latest venture from the South Cliff Inn owners, Brandy and Wilfredo Jaquez. Both have a keen understanding of customer service, hospitality and event planning, and they will be joined by Tara Kelley who will operate the venue. Tara has a passion for helping couples make their day special and has a calm spirit to master any challenge. Her motto is Prior Planning Prevents Poor Performance. Brandy & Wilfredo took the time off during the pandemic to work on their latest venture, and say, "We would be honored to host any couple's big day and are motivated by making each moment special and unique to them." Brandy adds, "We know Sunrise Farms can bring the magic to any wedding day and offers a timeless charm." Sunrise Farms is situated on 13 acres of farmland with neighboring farms as far as the eve can see. It is lush with greenery and historic character. The well-groomed property offers a charming vintage flair and many natural backdrops. The large barn where the receptions will take place has a rustic interior that is polished with whimsical details and lighting to suit any couple's needs. It is wood and beam style with huge barn doors and a front porch to welcome guests. Wedding ceremonies can take place in two outdoor locations that each offer a special historical landmark to say "I do." The Jakway log cabin built around 1835 makes for a truly one-of-a-kind ceremony setting backdrop. Or the deck of the brick farmhouse showcasing beautiful details of the unique craftsmanship of the House of David is a solid alternative. In addition to the natural beauty of the property, there is a landscaped pond and picturesque water wheel, along with the family windmill that towers over the farmland. The Jaquez tell us that the land "nurtured special relationships in its early days between the natives and the settlers. Its heritage shared kindness, cooperation and

respect for those that reached out to help each other, no matter their differences." They add, "There is no better place to start your new life as a couple than one rooted in sharing joy with all who have visited it." Sunrise Farms is conveniently located less than 2 hours from Chicago in Benton Charter Township and less than 15 minutes away from St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. The wedding venue is located at 1310 Hillandale Road in Benton Harbor. An open house will take plan on Sunday, July 26th, and everyone is welcome to head over to check out the new venue. To learn more about the venue, visit : www.sunrisefarmsvenue.com. You can also follow along on Facebook or Instagram at Sunrise Farms Venue. Wedding vendors who are interested in working with the venue can email: info@sunrisefarmsvenue.com. Those interested in scheduling a tour of the property, are invited to make contact at info@

sunrisefarmsvenue.com or by phone to 269.769.4821.

To the delight of some, and the chagrin of others, this weekend will likely be punctuated with neighborhood fireworks shows hosted by amateurs looking to brighten the night sky with fireworks displays, especial-

ly in a year when professional community shows have

been terminated by the pandemic. The state of Michigan

is urging extreme caution for those who elect to take the

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Our guests safety is important to us! During this time, our staff wears gloves, masks, and safety shields during your session. There is also extra cleaning and sanitizing between clients.







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show upon themselves. The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs in Lansing says those who plan on celebrating Independence Day by setting off fireworks need to be aware of the dangers and risks involved, especially when dealing with powerful, consumer-grade devices such as firecrackers, bottle rockets and Roman candles in order to avoid tragedy. Orlene Hawks, the Director of the Dept. of

AMBURGERS

Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), in which the Bureau of Fire Services (BFS) is housed, says, "The Independence Day holiday allows us time to spend with friends and family, celebrating the freedom that we have here in the United States," adding, "If you do plan to shoot your own fireworks, please remember that these are explosives and if they are used incorrectly, can cause irreparable injury and harm. It is vital that

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ourselves and our loved ones." State Fire Marshal Kevin Sehlmever notes, "The Bureau of Fire Services is aware that many community fireworks shows have been canceled due to COVID-19," and adds, "We also anticipate that many people will purchase consumer fireworks and provide their own fireworks show over the Fourth of July holiday weekend. BFS is asking consumers to understand basic fireworks safety before using consumer fireworks." In Michigan, consumer fireworks must meet Consumer Product Safety Commission standards. Licensed facilities will only sell fireworks to people 18 years of age or older. Low impact fireworks (ground-based items such as sparklers, toy snakes, snaps, and poppers) are also legal for sale and use. State law requires that consumer-grade fireworks only be ignited from personal property. It is illegal to ignite fireworks on public property (including streets and sidewalks), school property, church property, or another person's property without their express permission. State law makes it illegal to discharge fireworks when intoxicated or under the influence of drugs. When fire-related incidents involve consumer, low impact, or illegal fireworks resulting in property damage, injury or death of another person, individuals are subject to a misdemeanor or felony punishable by imprisonment of not more than five years and fines of up to \$10,000 or both. BFS inspectors are issuing citations to sellers who are non-compliant with the Fireworks Safety Act to ensure that fireworks retailers operate their businesses safely to protect the public. Consumers should always buy from state-certified fireworks retailers - whether in a permanent building or a tent - and can verify a license using the directions provided here. Consider the following safety tips to protect lives and property: ALWAYS: Follow the manufacturer's directions...Have an adult supervise fireworks activities, including sparklers...Light fireworks one at a time, then immediately back away to a safe distance... Ensure people and pets are out of range before lighting fireworks...Light fireworks outdoors on a driveway or

we all take every safety precaution possible to protect other paved surface at least 25 feet away from houses and flammable materials such as dry grass or mulch... Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap...Douse spent fireworks in a bucket of water before discarding them in a trash can. NEVER: Buy fireworks packaged in brown paper or use unlabeled fireworks - they are for professional use only...Experiment with or make your own fireworks... Allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks... Place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse... Try to re-light "duds" or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully. (Rather, wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.)...Point or throw fireworks at other people... Carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers. Additionally, sparklers should not be considered harmless for kids. More than 50-percent of sparkler-related injuries happen to kids under age 14 across the country. Sparklers can reach 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit and have the potential to cause significant burn injuries and quickly ignite clothing and can cause grass fires if thrown on the ground. Always keep a bucket of water close by to dispose of used sparklers promptly. The Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a warning about the risk fireworks present. In 2019, twelve people died and over 10,000 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents:

That's if for this week, folks. Happy 4th of July. Be safe. See you next Saturday right here in MailMax, and 24/7 at www.MoodyOnTheMarket.com.

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While social dis-IL tancing, are you reguart larly skirting the edges of this issue?: How to avoid going insane with boredom.

> In my house, this conundrum especially

strikes No. 5 son (age 19), who's prone to randomly bark, "Let's DO SOMETHING today!!"

I usually reply with an idea for a very useful chore he could do. Thus ends the random barking.

However, occasionally, when I'm afraid the wife will overhear the chore idea, and then start telling me that *I* should do it, I suggest we play games.

So, have you been gaming? Been dragging out games, perhaps unused for long years, trying to bring cheer and diversion to the family while looking for lost pieces, arguing about rules, and trying to subject each other to the agony of defeat?

Fill me in on your gaming strategies during this Pandemic Season! I'd especially like to hear from you if you have some secret, perhaps even "extralegal," methods for winning some of the games that I keep losing. And losing. And losing.

We have a core quartet (a core-tet!) of games we've been playing.

First there's Blokus, which I always lose. I don't like it – too much thinking and strategy, not enough luck.

Then there's Rummikub (pronounced "Rummy-cube"), which I always lose. I don't like it - too much luck, not enough thinking and strategy. (Plus, I've lost it so many times that No. 5 has started referring to me as "Crummikub.")

Next is Azul, a game that involves "decorating" a wall (actually a piece of cardboard on the table) with a variety of colorful tiles (actually

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chunks of plastic in five different colors). I don't like it - too much luck and thinking and strategy involved. I've lost it so many times No. 5 has started referring to me as "Luza." (Get it? - Azul backwards? Oh har-de-har-har.)

Bored Games

Our favorite game is called Catan. The object is to settle an island named Catan, which is chock-a-block with natural resources that you try to accumulate to build roads, towns, and cities. These are worth various "victory points"; the first one to 10 victory points gets to put the whole mess of game pieces and parts away as a penalty for winning

No. 1 son introduced us to the game a couple years ago, darn him. He, and his wife, and No. 3 son, No. 4 son and my wife, are crazy about this game, and they've sucked me into that vortex too. We're all Catan-iacs now

This spring, No. 1 showed us all how to play Catan online. We play against each other, or strangers floating out in the ether, or against AI (Artificial Intelligence) opponents. I play the AIs a lot, mainly the two pretty ones, Jean and Lin. Losing to them sucks, but at least their pulchritude provides a pleasant distraction while they're crushing me.

Here's what Catan-iacs we've become: No. son paid a weekend visit recently, and we played tabletop Catan six times. Victory totals were: No. 3 son, three wins; the wife, three wins; me, six wins. Yes, you read that right. I'm totally a big-time winner, even if it the record book doesn't show it! After all, it takes a consummate level of skill and artistry to disguise intentionally losing six times so that my child and my spouse feel better about themselves!

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Page 14 July 4, 2020

AUCTIONS

Auction Personal Property and Real Estate Saturday, July 11th @ 10:00 am Located: 50902 Magician Lake Rd, Dowagiac, MI (Sister Lakes) **Real Estate:** 3 bed, 2.5 bath, home on 2.4 acre lot with large pole building * **Shop Tools:** Wood Shop Tools* Specialty Woodworking Items* Lawn & Garden Tools* Collectibles * Household * Antiques* Misc* Wood Stove and more * **Note:** Bring your mask, Spread-out and enjoy this outdoor sale* BigBearAuctionCompany. Com * Jerry & Aimee Glassman * 269-461-6686.

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Live Estate Auction Sat., July 11, 2020, 10:00 A. M. 1790 West Chippewa River Rd. Midland, MI. Home with 10 Acres! Ranger; Keystone 5th Wheel; Yanmar tractor; More! Details & Photos at www. FurloAuction.com.

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PUBLIC AUCTION FRIDAY --- JULY 10 @ 10:30 A.M. Located at 1825 Colfax Ave. Benton Harbor, MI 49022 -Real Estate: 3 Bedroom, 1-1/2 Bath Home,

Attached Garage, Tool and Storage Shed, Basement, Large Trees, Corner Lot. Open House July 9 (11 am-12:30).

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LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE. The contents of the following storage units at Dunes Self Storage 11087 Red Arrow Hwy., Bridgman MI 49106. 269-465-5555. Described as furniture, clothing, household items, etc. will be disposed of unless certified total payment is received prior to July 20, 2020. #37 New Haven Construction/Walter Kissel.



SYNOPSIS OF LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

LEGALS

June 16, 2020 Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m. Present: Gast, Clark, Payne, Wilk, Heyn Stine and Mensinger. Agenda stands as presented.

Motion to approve minutes of May 19, 2020. All ayes, motion carried. Motion to approve May 2020 bills in the amount of

\$294,258.30. All ayes, motion carried. Motion to approve 2019 Lake Charter Township Audit, performed by Hungerford Nichols. All ayes,

motion carried. Motion to approve Michigan Township Association 2020 dues in the amount of \$6,974.17. All ayes,

motion carried. Motion to approve quote from Simplex Grinnell, Johnson Controls, in the amount of \$8,358.00 to install the Simplex 4007ES hybred panel for the Lake Charter Township Water Plant. All ayes,

motion carried. Motion to adopt the Covid-19 Return to Work Police for Lake Charter Township Hall. All ayes,

motion carried. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan. Lake Charter Township Planning Commission is scheduled for July 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan. Lake Charter Township Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled for July 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., Lake Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan

Charter Township Hall, Bridgman, Michigan. Lake Charter Township Hall Offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2020 in observance of Fourth of July.

Meeting adjourned 7:48 p.m. Lake Charter Township website: www.lake-township.org

A complete set of minutes may be obtained from the Lake Charter Township Clerk Lake Charter Township Hall Offices are open to the public. Please be prepared to be masked

when conducting business. You may continue to use the red drop box outside

the Ambulance bay. Call the office for an appointment. Conduct what business you can online.



LEGALS

NOTICE OF LAST DAY TO FILE NOMINATING PETITION FORMS TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY

OF BRIDGMAN: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the last day to file nominating petition forms will be on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. Forms are available

at the City Clerk's office, located at 9765 Maple St., Bridgman, MI 49106 during regular business hours Monday ñ Thursday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.



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