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December 4, 2021

Moody on **The Market**



 M_{oody}^{Pat}

Smooth Sailing on the St. Joseph River

If you wanted to learn how to sail in the beautiful waters of St. Joseph, Michigan, where would you go? What would you look for? You'd want the organization to be progressive and community-oriented, where Water Safety was a focal point in your education, and passion and generosity helped lay the foundation for the mission statement of the program. A place that is open to anyone, no membership required, where they 'grow their own', and offer classes to all ages of students. The St. Joseph Junior Foundation, nestled between the St. Joseph River Yacht Club and the West Basin Marina, has been providing all of this and more, for the past 68 years.

"There's something about sailing and the special students it attracts," says board member Eric Mallen, who has been active with the foundation since 1988. "It takes brains to sail, involving math and science, and we provide a safe setting for girls and boys to learn together." The St. Joseph Junior Foundation is a non-profit organization founded in 1952, and began as a passion project and memorial to Phil Upton, a champion sailboat skipper who lost his life in the merciless waters of the Hudson River.

Phil and father Louis Upton, co-founder of Whirlpool Corporation, spent many years sharing the excitement of sailing with friends and colleagues, including Bill Campbell, the program's very first director. Bill is forever named an honorary board member, and through the generous contribution and support from Bill's daughter Ann Campbell, the William Campbell Memorial Education And Training Pavilion construction has begun. The outdoor Continued on page 18

Sarah

Spoonholtz,

Regional

Director.

SMR Chamber



Your Chamber Update

asking me, "aren't you tired of planning events"? The honest answer is no! While some events look the same on the outside each one is different and unique enough that they mange to keep my attention and excitement pretty high. Last week, I shared with you details on Holiday Village, happening in Bridgman on December 11th. Today,

Usually at this point in the year, people start I thought we'd highlight a few more events that are coming up!

Renovations, expansions, and upgrades have been the theme for the last two years at the Berrien County Historical Association in Berrien Springs. With the latest project wrapping up just in time for holiday shopping, the Continued on page 2

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official ribbon cutting and re-opening celebration of the Berrien County Historical Association's On the Docket Books and Gifts will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7th.

Since September, the staff has worked to complete phase 2 of the gift shop's upgrade, which began in November of 2019. Continuing with the physical renovation, the staff installed new displays and other shopper friendly touches to create a new, inviting atmosphere for guests. As an important source of operational revenue for the museum, the gift shop is also an opportunity for the Berrien County Historical Association to help visitors further connect with the history they've explored on the museum grounds.

This upgrade brought with it a substantial investment in the form of the largest expansion of merchandise in several years. It brings over 70 new book titles covering a wide range of subjects, new gifts and toys for children, exciting new home and kitchen goods for adults, and new Michigan-themed items for lovers of the mitten state! We invite history lovers, and those curious about the history of Berrien County, to attend or plan a visit for another day. Admission to the History Center at Courthouse Square is free, but a \$5 donation is suggested and always welcomed.

The Berrien County Historical Association operates the History Center at Courthouse Square and collects, preserves, and interprets the history of Berrien County through exhibits, tours, publications, research, educational, and community outreach programs. The History Center at Courthouse Square is located in Berrien Spring, MI and is home to the 1839 county courthouse, the oldest of its kind in Michigan. Additional facilities on site include Bennett's Forge, Murdock (Murdoch) Log Cabin, the Records Building, and Sheriff's Residence & Jail Plaza.

For more information about the Berrien County Historical Association, the History Center at Courthouse Square, On the Docket Books and Gifts, or any of the other on-site properties, including hours of operations and upcoming events, visit berrienhistory.org/, call 269-471-1202, or like and follow

facebook.com/BerrienCountyHistoricalAssociation.

The ribbon cutting and re-opening celebration will take place just in time for the return of Berrien Springs Kindle Your Christmas Spirit on Thursday, December 9th from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. In addition to serving hot cocoa, they will be offering stories by the tree, blacksmith demos, pioneer living demos, and a scavenger hunt for both children and adults. It doesn't stop there though! Downtown Berrien Springs will be transformed into a winter wonderland featuring downtown merchants staying open late for shopping and special treats, decorated window displays, horse drawn and tractor wagon rides, ice sculptures, a live nativity, the Christmas tree lighting ceremony, caroling, crafts, face painting, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and so much more! Downtown streets will be closed to traffic but there will be a shuttle to transport you from the Berrien Springs Community Library to downtown and back. The full list of all the happenings for Kindle Your Christmas Spirit can be found at the Village of Berrien Springs website villageofberriensprings.com/.

As of this moment, our events for 2021 officially wrap up on December 16th with our Young Professionals group gathering together for a few rounds of bowling, some cider, and plenty of holiday cheer at Peat's Cider Social! Those attending can sip, bowl, or simply hang out with your favorite fellow YP's and reconnect before 2022 arrives. Traditionally, this event would serve as our Ugly Sweater Party, while it's not required it is encouraged. If you're not familiar with Peat's Cider Social on Red Arrow Hwy in Stevensville, they offer a one-of-a-kind hard cider drinking experience featuring a newly remodeled taproom and party room. You can stop in for a delicious Michigan-made hard cider and stick around to socialize over the family-friendly bowling and arcade games!

If you'd like more information about these or other upcoming Chamber or Member events, visit our website at smrchamber.com/. As always, if you'd like to connect with me directly, feel free to email sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com or call 269-932-4040. Hope to see you around Southwest Michigan!

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Low Rider Photo by Jim Fisher

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This column may well be hailed as a final tour through my cellphone photo library. Or it may well not be so hailed, because what if I later find something too goofy not to write about?

Photo: I keep a screen shot of the first texts that No. 5 son ever sent me when we got him his own cellphone.

The first reads: "Dad u don't hav 2 pick me up anymore sams mom said she could pick us all 3 up."

The next day, his second-ever text reads: "Where r u." Which suggests that I *did* hav 2 pick him up but forgot. Ooops.

Photo: As a die-hard Chicago Cubs fan, I save some photos relevant to the team. One is the

www.MailMaxOnline.com Phinally, the Phunny Photo Phinish Line (?)

cover of the April, 1959 <u>Baseball Digest</u>, featuring a photo of the immortal Ernie Banks starting his mighty swing. Why save this? – because Ernie Banks! Also, the crowd in the background shows women in dresses and bonnets, and men in suits, ties and fedoras. Dressing up to go to a ballgame – can you imagine?

Another is of a Cub rounding third base and heading home to score. Why save this? – because the runner is Albert Almora, and he's about to score the go-ahead run in game 7 of the 2016 World Series, WHICH THE CUBS WON!!, sending die-hard fans like myself into paroxysms of championship ecstasy!!

Photo: I was in a shop in Cape Cod and had to use the restroom. Wait, don't stop reading! The photo isn't from inside that room!! Just outside that room, there's a bulletin board with some old true crime news clippings tacked on it.

One told the story of a man being charged with assault by wasabi sauce. He'd read a text his girlfriend received from another guy, got jealous, and proceeded to douse a pair of her \$200 jeans (!) in wasabi. And for good/bad measure, also poured some in her car.

Next, a mom called the police from her daughter's high school to report that the girl's cigarettes and lighter had been stolen. Unfortunately for the girl and her mother, the police questioned or searched no one. But they did go home with a copy of the school's student handbook with a bookmark at the page explaining that cigarettes aren't allowed on school property.

Photo: I keep a screenshot of a chart explaining "How to Speak to Your Partner During Quarantine." For a half-dozen situations, suggested comments are sorted into "Dangerous," "Safer," "Safest," and "Ultra Safe." Here's an example: Dangerous – What did you DO all day?; Safer – I hope you didn't overdo it today; Safest – I've always loved you in that robe; Ultra Safe – Here, have some wine!

(It should be noted that in each and every scenario, the Ultra Safe thing to say is "Here, have some wine!")

Photo: I should get rid of this one I suppose, since it's from some of the darker days of the Covid-19 pandemic, but it's a collection of "Social Distancing Pickup Lines" – stuff like, "You can't spell virus without U and I," and "Since all the libraries are closed, I'm checking you out instead."

Note to wife! – I of course never used these! Please, put down that wasabi sauce!! Here, have some wine!!

TakeFiveT5@yahoo.com

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www.MailMaxOnline.com He Knows What It is Like

We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way,

just as we are—yet he did not sin. ~ Hebrews 4:15

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The classic TV series M*A*S*H tells the story of an army field hospital located mere miles from the front

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lines during the Korean War. In one episode, the army chaplain, Father Mulcahy, cannot comfort a wounded soldier because he's admitted that he's never experienced what it's like to be in battle. After some introspection, the chaplain makes a decision. He secretly stows himself away in a truck headed for the front. Upon his arrival he

finds himself in the middle of a full-fledged firefight. When it's finally over, he returns to the hospital where word of what he's done has already spread through the ranks. The final scene of that episode is Father Mulcahy sitting down once again with the same soldier. The chaplain looks him in the eye and says, "Now, let's talk."

When you talk to your Savior in prayer, you are not talking to someone who's sitting back on his distant throne in detached serenity. Rather, you are talking to someone who has been exactly where you are. Jesus did not merely get a small

Instead, Jesus fully felt the very worst that this world can launch against us.

But remember, Jesus did this not only so he could feel what we feel. He did it to be our perfect substitute. He willingly took the punishment for our failures and paid for them completely at the cross

Every day through his Word, Jesus sits down with you. Every day Jesus says, "Let's talk." When he does, think about where he's been. Think about what he's done for you. He

taste of what the battles of the world are like. knows what the battle is like. He's the one to carry you through.

> Prayer: Lord Jesus, you know exactly what it's like to do battle in this fallen world. Thank you for coming here to be my perfect substitute. When you sit down with me every day and speak to me through your Word, empower me to open up my heart to you in prayer. 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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Keep things as pleasant as possible

Dear Dave, I don't really see

eye-to-eye with my dad and older brother on many things. This is not a new realization on my part, but over the last few years it has led to hard feelings and various arguments at family gatherings about religion, finances and other things. With Christmas coming up, I would like to avoid conflict and try to handle things a little better with them. Do you have any advice?

Cam Dear Cam,

It takes a strong, level-headed person with a good heart to want to approach a situation like this with maturity and love. I'm proud of you for trying to create better relationships within your family.

My initial advice would be don't take discussions too deep, and make a conscious



Dave Says effort to stay away from any hot button topics you know already exist. I'm no family counselor, but the chances of you changing a lifetime of differences and toxic behaviors, or bringing them around to your way of thinking, in one brief interaction are probably pretty small.

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Don't tell them you think what they're doing is wrong or that you feel they're bad people if things get a little tense. My best advice is to be a model of sanity and reason if you feel a confrontation brewing. Situations like this are hard to deal with, especially when the conflict is between a father and son or two brothers. It's hard on you and them, plus it has a negative impact on the rest of the family during what is supposed to be a joyful and loving time of year.

These are people you love and care about, even if they are hard to get along with or understand sometimes. Pray for them, Cam. And ask God to give you guidance, patience and understanding in this situation, too. - Dave

* Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.

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MOODY *Continued from Cover*

structure will serve as a visual reminder of Bill's dedication to the program, as well as offer a space to teach outdoors. The pavilion is scheduled for completion sometime in the Spring of 2022. The need to expand the SJJF facilities has grown each year with increasing class sizes, and this year was no different, even amidst the pandemic. They were pleasantly surprised with record enrollment numbers in the summer of 2021, due to the efforts of Dr. Katherine Andries, who worked closely with the Health Department to change protocols and safety procedures in order to keep the foundation open. MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest

"We are an adult and youth sailing school, but what we do goes far beyond just sailing," says board member Ken Zimmerman. Since 1953, over 7,000 students have completed the program, learning the importance of community involvement and leadership, with some even choosing careers that were inspired by the foundation in some way. In the past, they have offered scholarships for the Boys and Girls Club of Benton Harbor, worked with Boy Scouts to help them earn badges, and have built up quite an endowment fund. "We make sailing affordable for those who don't have their own boats," adds Ken, "Anyone in the area can take classes."



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The foundation prides itself on "growing their own" instructors, a motto that supports the camaraderie and one of a kind experiences this group offers. Instructors are certified in CPR, First Aid, and US Sailing. Dr. Gary Sisson, for instance, began as a student, became an instructor in 1955, served as director, and now sits on the board. Board members remain active in the community, and students who have gone through the S.J.J.F. continue to support the program throughout their lives.

There are two main fundraisers the foundation uses to keep the community involved in what they do. Timothy's restaurant in Union Pier hosts an annual dinner in which 100% of the evening's proceeds go to the St. Joseph

Junior Foundation. Owner Chef Tim Sizer went through the sailing school as a student, and he and his wife continue to contribute and support SJJF. At the end of the sailing season, the foundation holds their Chili Regatta, where people pay to vote for the best bowl, raising funds that cover operational costs. They are still accepting donations to fund the completion of their new floating dock, and you can follow the construction updates on their Facebook page

The St. Joseph Junior Foundation offers classes during the week to all ages and runs through the summer, and is modeled after the U.S. Sailing training system. Youth classes are available for ages 8 to 18, and adult classes for

and 18 and up, with a Women Only class that fills up every single year. There is the option to enroll in a morning class or an afternoon class, and racing competitions against other sailing schools occur on Fridays. A high school program is offered twice a year, in Spring and Fall, meeting on Sunday afternoons for students between 6th grade and 12th grade. Enrollment opens on their website at the end of winter, and classes begin after school lets out for the summer. Visit SJJF.org to donate, and find out more information about the 2022 season.

Benton Harbor Based Author Writes Children's Christmas **Book, Hoping to Resume Stage Adaptation**

A writer who lives in Benton Harbor is working to spread the word about her book, Eleanor's Very Merry Christmas Wish, this holiday season. Denise McGowan Tracy is originally from Chicago and spent her summers as a child southwest Michigan. She told us a bit about her experiences in the area.

"Our family had a summer home on Paw By Jocelyne Tuszynski Paw Lake that was built by my grandfather in

Continued on page 20



the 1930s," McGowan Tracy said. "So, we'd spend our summers there from the time I was born in - let's just call it a long time ago - but I spent all of my summers there. Literally the day after school let out until the day that school let back in, we were in beautiful Watervliet on Paw Paw Lake, sail boating and skiing and swimming and enjoying all of the great things that Watervliet had to offer back then."

McGowan Tracy moved to the Fairplain area of Benton Harbor area earlier this year.

"We are in Benton Harbor, and gosh, it's just been really fun discovering all the great restaurants and theaters and shopping here. We're really enjoying our time here."

McGowan Tracy published Eleanor's Very Merry Christmas Wish, a 44-page paperback for kids, with Koehler Books in 2020. It tells a unique and heartwarming story that takes place at the North Pole.

"It tells the story of Eleanor, who's a ragdoll who has been at the North Pole for a very long time and she can't quite understand why she is the only toy there who isn't wished for every holiday season," McGowan Tracy said. So, she and Sparkle have a conversation, and he says, 'Eleanor, if your wish is to leave the North Pole and to find a best friend and home of your own, you need to do more than wish. You need to work for that wish."

Eleanor decides to write a letter to Santa asking for a child to wish for her.

"So, essentially, it's the toy wishing for the child, rather than the child wishing for the toy, and it sets off a series of things in motion, and of course it has a happy ending because it's a holiday family story," McGowan Tracy said. "So, we're set at the North Pole and we've got Sprinkle and Sparkle the elves and we've got Twinkle, and we've got Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. It's a really lovely story with some little life lessons in there for kids of all ages."

McGowan Tracy says a heartwarming aspect of the story is that Eleanor is a part of a loving North Pole family. She's just seeking a little more.

"At the onset there, she's very happy, but she has this thing in her mind that as a toy, her





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BUILD YOUR OWN

place in the world, the place where she belongs, is with a child, not at the North Pole. The North Pole is home for Santa and the elves, but as a toy, she belongs with a child."

Something that might set Eleanor's Very Merry Christmas Wish a bit apart from many other children's books is there is a stage adaptation. Or, at least, there was.

"We were fortunate enough to be able to bring it to life on the stage at the Greenhouse Theater in Chicago in 2019," McGowan Tracy said. "We were sidetracked a bit in 2020 and 2021 with, of course, the pandemic, but our hope is to find some great supporters and sponsors and bring it back to the stage here in southwest Michigan and also possibly back in Chicago, and then who knows? Pixar, if you're listening, we think it would be a great holiday film!"

Perhaps the robust theater community in southwest Michigan would be interested in exploring such an idea. In the meantime, Eleanor's Very Merry Christmas Wish is available at The Christmas Tree in Benton Harbor, along with bookstores in Dowagiac, Three Rivers, and Niles. McGowan Tracy is hoping to get it into more. You can also find it on Amazon. Anyone interested in seeing some clips from the 2019 show in Chicago or learning more about the book, with illustrations by John Michael Downs, can do so at EleanorsWish.com.

Pat Moody Publisher, MoodyOnTheMarket.com **moody@wsjm.com** (269) 925-1111 Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com





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www.MailMaxOnline.com New Community Center Will Bring Essential **Services to Benton Harbor**

a Community Resource Center in the heart of Benton Heights that aims to increase the overall well-being for neighborhood residents. The new building, which will include a laundromat, and host human and social services, such as financial coaching, career services, and health consultations, will be open to anyone who wants to access services available.

"Right now there is no access to these types of resources in Benton Heights," says Chris Britton Executive Director of New Heights Christian Community Development Association (CCDA). "This will be a beacon of hope for people who live there "

New Heights CCDA, operators of the center, believe the center will help increase the quality of life in a community just northeast of Benton Harbor. "Benton Heights is a vibrant community of hard-working residents who unfortunately face significant barriers such as income inequality, high unemployment, and the lowest life expectancy in Berrien County."

Joselyn Pedroza, Benton Heights resident says "The Laundry Hub will be a great asset to our community. Not only will our neighbors have a clean and safe place to take care of their laundry needs, but it will also allow a significant opportunity to come together to build community by bringing resources in collective action to address some of the challenges our community faces."

A key to the community center's impact is the partnerships that New Heights has developed with local human service agencies, such as Kinexus, Summit For Financial Wellness, and Life Plan, that plan to engage in outreach efforts and deliver their services from the facility.

"We're excited to partner with New Heights on the "Laundry Hub." It's a unique opportunity for us to work with several community-based and -minded partners to deliver services to people where they're at. Status quo, pre-COVID service delivery constructs are obsolete. New Heights has thoughtfully created an important, systemic changing service collaborative partnership. The winners will be people in need and the community at large," proclaimed Todd Gustafson, President and CEO of Kinexus Group.

The new center is made possible by several community partners including The Whirlpool Foundation, First Church of God, the Frederick S. Upton Foundation, Spectrum Health Lakeland Foundation, and private donors.

"We first became involved with New Heights several years ago when we provided a \$150,000 grant to New Heights Auto Services that helped countless working families get access to affordable and reliable transportation," said Whirlpool Corporation VP of Communications and Public Affairs Jeff Noel. "Our grant to the Community Resource Center helps to fulfill our vision of improving life at home, by combining a place to care for families through clean laundry, while creating a sense of community and mutual support to access other much-needed life development programs."

"The Frederick S Upton foundation board is pleased to support this project," said Jeff Upton, chair of the Frederick S. Upton Foundation. "Our grant committee was very impressed with not

Construction will begin in spring of 2022 on only the needs being met, but the collaboration of all the agencies working together to bring this project to our community."

> Currently New Heights needs to raise \$70,000 to completely fund the project. Ground breaking at the community center, which hasn't been named yet, will take place in Spring of 2022, with an estimated grand opening in 2023. About New Heights CCDA

> New Heights CCDA is meeting human and social needs of the under-resourced in Benton Heights, Michigan and the surrounding communities of Berrien County by utilizing Christian principles.

Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com

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CITY OF BRIDGMAN BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN A PUBLIC HEARING is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on January 3, 2022 at a regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council to be held in the Council Chambers, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, MI 49106 to afford all interested parties the opportunity to be heard before the City Council votes to approve the Corridor Improvement Authority Tax Increment Financing Plan 2021 ñ 2031. The draft plan is available for viewing online at the city website www.bridgman.org.

This notice is posted in compliance with Open Meeting Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, MCL 15.261, et seq., and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids should contact the City Clerk by writing or calling the following: Allyson Holm, City Clerk (269) 465-5144, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, MI 49106.

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