



February 5, 2022

## Moody on **The Market**



Local Ace Hardware Stores Expand to Watervliet

Pat

The Borre family, longtime owner and operator of Ace Hardware stores in St. Joseph and Stevensville, is growing their company. They are purchasing Watervliet Hardware, an independent store in downtown Watervliet, and will add the Ace flag and its multitude of brands and products to the store's offerings.

General Manager Matthew Borre told us the transition will be gradual, so as not to disrupt existing customers in Watervliet. Borre said he'll make the Watervliet store a "fully-branded Ace" by May and plans a Grand Opening then. The store will remain open and fully operational throughout the transition period.

The store is being acquired from longtime owner Brian Conrad, who will continue to assist in the transition for a couple of months, according to Borre. About six people are currently employed. Borre expects most of them will continue and he may add a couple of workers in the Spring. A store manager position is planned, most likely from the ranks of present department managers at the other two stores.

Borre told us they plan to maintain the "local hometown hardware store feel" in Watervliet, not totally mirroring the layout of the other two Ace locations. However, he sees expansion in key customer service areas like online shopping, in-store pickup and available delivery, which have not been part of the Watervliet store in the past.

Borre predicted customers will be especially pleased that the Ace Rewards program will be added as soon as their Point-of-Sale system can be properly linked with the other two stores and nationwide Ace loyalty operation.

He also sees a bigger emphasis on Lawn and Garden and Outdoor products this Spring, in line with his St. Joseph and Stevensville stores

The Borre's operate Ace stores at 2360 Niles Road in St. Joseph Township and at 1545 West John Beers Road in Stevensville.

#### SMSO Director Sue Kellogg To Retire

The Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra will be looking for a new Executive Director, at the same time it prepares to usher in a new Music Director (Conductor) later this year.

Continued on page 14



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#### Over the last two years, many of us have had to adjust on the fly and think outside of the box on how we do many of our daily activities. This is especially true for our Berrien County teachers and school staff. Last week Berrien RESA announced a new campaign to highlight and celebrate the dedication and work of our local public school leaders and educators called "Learn By Heart"

#### Learn By Heart Campaign

The campaign was designed specifically to increase the awareness of the tireless efforts of our Berrien County educators through storytelling and by highlighting the relationship between educators, students, parents, and the community as a whole for the remainder of the 2022 school year. Schools will share special interactions and

Continued on page 2

#### **Inserts & Promotions**

Volume 23, Ver.6

- Ace Hardware ALDI
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Page 2 February 5, 2022 **Sarah** Continued from cover

spotlight and illustrate the difference educators make in the lives of those whom they serve, our students. You'll start seeing these stories pop up on social media, as well in school publications inside your school district, and through local media outlets.

"Our goal with the Learn by Heart campaign is to support local educators and remind area residents of the profound impact they have on the students we serve," said Eric Hoppstock, Berrien RESA Superintendent. "The past two years have been tough on all of us, educators especially. We hope that through this campaign we can tell the story of the importance of each of our education personnel – teachers, bus drivers, school lunch staff, paraprofessionals, custodians, coaches, librarians, administrative assistants and so many others. They all play a big part in supporting the education of our youth. They deserve our appreciation."

In many instances we tend to forget or overlook the impact that a coach, teacher, bus driver, and other school staff make on our lives. As I'm typing this, I can think of multiple individuals from my time at Boynton Montessori, Lybrook Elementary, and Eau Claire Jr/Sr High School that directly impacted me and subsequently altered parts of my life in one way or another. With the Learn By Heart campaign, this is a perfect opportunity for all of us to reflect on all that the educators and school staff have done pre, during, and post pandemic to help us and the next generation of leaders succeed.

In Bridgman, our affiliate the Greater Bridgman Area Chamber and Growth Alliance (Bridgman CGA) has partnered with Bridgman Public Schools to give away 5 \$100 Buy Local Bridgman Gift Cards to their staff. It doesn't end there though, in addition to a gift of thanks to those at the school, the Bridgman CGA will also be giving away an additional 5 \$100 gift cards to Bridgman and Lake Township first responders - Police, Fire, and EMS. It's a small and simple way for us to say thank you to the people who likely, never get to hear those words from those who they have helped. Additionally, they also challenge all of you to take a few moments and write a letter of Thanks to school staff in Berrien County. Perhaps thank the bus drivers for keeping the children safe on the winter roads, the cafeteria staff for making breakfast and lunch, the janitorial staff for keeping the buildings clean, or anyone else you'd like to say a special thank you to. I'd be willing to bet that many of them don't hear thank you from the public very much, this is a great opportunity to do so!

Do you have a story to share? Simply send your story background, participant names, relevant pictures and any pertinent information including quotes and specific story elements to Kristin Bivens at Kristin.Bivens@berrienresa.org. You are invited to share your stories about how educators in your school district have shown their support and dedication to students! School districts are looking for stories about all education personnel - teachers, bus drivers, school lunch staff, paraprofessionals, custodians, coaches, librarians, administrative assistants and anyone who has played an important role in a student's educational success. Through these stories, schools will show educators how much they are appreciated and supported by their communities. To submit a story about an educator in your district who has made a lasting impact on a student, please visit your school district's website to learn how to submit your experience.

If you'd like to chat more about the Learn By Heart program, or simply want more information about the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber and upcoming events or programming - feel free to reach out! sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com or 269-932-4040. Stay safe, and warm out there! I hope to see you around Southwest Michigan soon!

Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com

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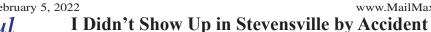
**Snow Masterpiece** Photo by David Eisenhart

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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Since this is an introduction about myself and what this column will look like, there will be many references to

me. Please forgive me for that and know this will be the only time I do so.

Last June, I had an occasion to be in Stevensville. My reason for being here would take four days, and I would soon be back home in Shelby Twp. A few days into my trip, I knew for certain the drive back to Shelby Twp would be to collect some belongings and return to Stevensville. That's exactly what happened.

You can only imagine the confusion this caused in the minds of those close to me. You're contract, I was just two months removed from doing what? You're going where? Hurry up someone, call Dr. Graves! The answer I gave them was the same answer I gave to those who began seeing me more and more in town... the same answer I gave my mom the time I put bubble gum in my hair...I just said I don't know why. I do, however, know that I am supposed to be here.

My name is Paul Wedding. I am a published author, public speaker, and a peer counselor. I was the host of the Paul Wedding Show, a weeknight radio talk show

My functions have a common thread, and that is service. This is the exact reason I am on this earth. This is the purpose God Almighty breathed into my life, and I wouldn't want it any other way. I wouldn't change one experience I have been through for something easier or something lighter.

"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." - Mark Twain I once heard a Pastor say that if you refuse piece the purpose and gifts that God gives you, He

will give them to someone else. Let me tell you something...no He does not. The gifts and talents I have been given are different from those you have been given; they're exclusive to who we are. When I signed my first contract with my

publishing house, I couldn't believe it was happening. When I found myself leading seminars or key-noting conferences, I was amazed this was happening to me. When I was given my own weeknight talk show on the radio, I just said, "God, you are the amazing one." Each function I serve is for His glory, because in service, you are working for Him.

For the record, when I signed my first book a dumpster I was living and eating from in Westminster, California. That's a fact, so don't tell me what God can and cannot do!

I am so excited to be writing this column now. Please be sure you stop by on Saturdays and give it a read. Let others know about it. My hope is after reading this someone will say to themselves, 'I needed to read that today."

I want to say thank you to a few people for helping this transition happen smoothly. Glen Head, owner and publisher of MailMax, thank you for the platform. Paul Gautam at the BP station, you are priceless. Thank you Thom Rabbers for your unwavering friendship and trust.

Until next time, keep moving forward and do good. You can reach me by email at lifestrategies639@gmail.com.

Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com



#### **Berrien County Veterans Services** 701 Main Street St. Joseph, MI 49085

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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 who come 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).

 $\star$  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

 $\star$  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.



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Jesus and his work. Some people don't like his morality. Others are offended by his gracious offer of unearned forgiveness. People who simply say what the Bible says encounter skepticism and hostility. Many would prefer that Chris-

But God does not remain silent. His wants you to, you are ministering to peosupport in the world word remains powerful. And he gives a couple of titles to people who speak and tell others about him.

And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God.

Isaiah 61:6

Old Testament were honored members of society. They served God at the Temple in Jerusalem by making the animal sacrifices that were a foreshadowing of what Jesus would do-sacrificing him-

ple, that is, taking care of them and their needs. They need to hear that God loves and forgives them. You can tell them He calls them priests. Priests in the that, and you will be named ministers of our God.

> There will be pressure for you to be silent. But you can speak confidently because you know that God's message is powerful.

> Prayer: Lord God, open my lips, 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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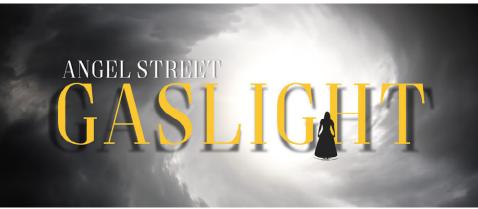
#### MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest www.MailMaxOnline.com Angel Street / Gaslight Auditions Scheduled at Twin City Players

Twin City Players will hold auditions for the Victorian thriller, Angel Street / Gaslight by Patrick Hamilton.

Auditions are scheduled for Sunday, February 13 at 6 pm and Monday, February 14 at 7 pm. The auditions will be held in the Studio at Twin City Players, 600 West Glenlord Road, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085. Peggy Harrington directs the production.

Angel Street, made into the classic movie Gaslight starring Ingrid Bergman, tells the dark story of a suavely handsome man, Mr. Manningham, who is slowly driving his wife to the brink of insanity by sowing in her the seeds of self-doubt and memory loss and playing on her fear of going mad like her mother, who died in an institution for the mentally ill. The play takes place in a house on Angel Street, London in 1880, a time when few women had the ability to free themselves of the Mr. Manninghams of the world. The playwright has built and sustained some of the most brilliant, suspenseful sequences in modern theatre. A surprisingly timely play.

A list of cast/characters needed and additional information to prepare for auditions is available on the TCP audition page at www.twincityplayers.org. All are encouraged to audition. For questions, please contact the director at peggyharri@ vahoo.com. Masks are required at Twin City Players. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required for cast and crew.



Angel Street / Gaslight show dates are Gaslight is presented by arrangement with April 22 - May 8, 2022, Friday & Saturday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 2 pm. Tickets available March 22, 2022. Angel Street/

Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com. The Twin City Players' 2021-2022





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#### About Twin City Players:

Ph.D., Licensed Psychologist.

Formed in 1932, Twin City Players is a volunteer based nonprofit organization that strives to engage the community in quality theatre that changes lives and to be recognized for organizational excellence producing quality performances in southwest Michigan. The TCP Playhouse is located at 600 West Glenlord Road, St. Joseph, MI. For more information about TCP, call 269-429-0400 or visit us at twincityplayers.org.

Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com

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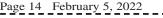






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MOODY Continued from Cover Sue Kellogg, who has been with the symphony for more than 22 years, including the last 16 years as its executive director, will step down, effective May 31, 2022. Kellogg said she feels the timing is right as it coincides with the selec-

tion of a new music director for the SMSO.

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#### Entrées:

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"The year I became the executive director was the same year that Robin Fountain became the music director." she said. "We worked harmoniously side by side to advance the mission of the SMSO for 14 years. I could not have asked for a better colleague to work with and I wish the same for the next team." "I truly believe I am leaving the SMSO better than I found it for the next music director and executive director to be able to take it to new levels of excellence together," Kellogg continued.

Having worked with Kellogg for over a decade, former Music Director Robin Fountain said he felt privileged to work with her. "Over time we developed the ability to proceed truly "in concert:" Deeply shared goals enabled us to solidify the triumphs and weather the failures as one," he said. "This is not the experience of every music director. I was and remain profoundly grateful."

MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest

As past SMSO board president, Dr. Norma Tirado said that having partnered with Kellogg, she felt Kellogg was innovative, tenacious and highly dedicated to the success of SMSO as well as being an exceptional Executive Director and collaborator. "She believes in our mission of Transforming Lives Through Music, and respects and cares deeply for the musicians, as well as for the community we served," Tirado said.

During her tenure, Kellogg has spent countless hours working to ensure that the symphony will remain a viable part of the arts community within Southwest Michigan. As a result of Kellogg's leadership during the uncertain time of the pandemic and all of the restrictions, the symphony was able to pivot and provide music to the community by offering pop-up outside concerts that patrons could attend free of charge.



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In addition, Kellogg said that during the summers of 2020 and 2021, the symphony took part in an Arts Challenge through the Berrien Community Foundation. The SMSO, along with nine other arts organizations, were challenged to raise \$75,000 that would be matched and would then benefit all 10 organizations.

The challenge exceeded expectations, raising \$216,048 in 2020 and \$155,000 in 2021 to benefit the organizations that participated. "Working together, we exceeded our goal," she said. "It is evident that this community loves and supports the arts."

Tirado said that under Kellogg's leadership, the SMSO developed its Summer Series and started the Music Makers program with the Boys and Girls Program. "Sue will be greatly missed, but she leaves the organization in a great position

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as we survived some very difficult years during this pandemic," Tirado said.

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Current board president, Bill Downey, agrees. "Sue's energetic leadership over the years has been a constant, regardless of what the external economic conditions have been," he said. "The ship has been extremely steady. Now as we also look to bring on a new music director, she's setting us up for a really bright future for some great new musical opportunities. All of us on the board are looking forward to what more we'll be able to accomplish thanks to the foundation that Sue has built." Because of her passion for the symphony, Kellogg said that while she will be retiring, she will not step away entirely, and is planning to help as a volunteer with the SMSO, possibly helping to lead small fundraisers. "The association has a dedicated board, and I am honored to have been a part of it for so many years," she said. "I am extremely excited to see what the new chapter has in store for the organization and

new executive director, Kellogg said she will do her best to provide a smooth transition and will be available for consultation for both the new executive director as well as the new music director once they are on board and have settled in "I have established many wonderful relationships through the years and want to make sure they are being taken care of in the transition, as well as help those coming in to become acclimated to the

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



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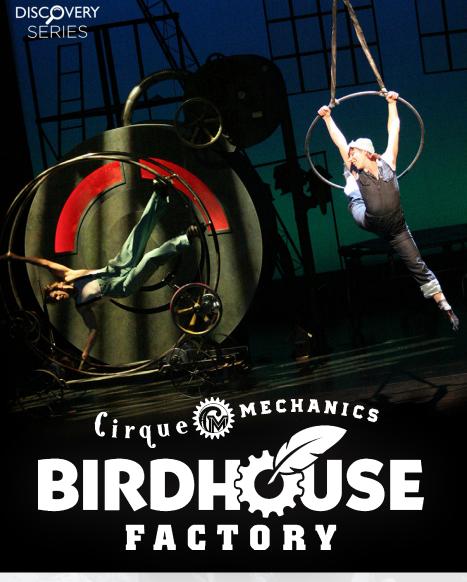
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OLLEGE





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### Saturday, Febuary 19, 2022, 8 pm

"the greatest contribution to the American circus since Cirque de Soleil," - Spectacle Magazine

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#### MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest **Dave Says**

and get out of debt. He could get a second job for a while nights or weekends, and then you'd be able to pay off your debt faster and avoid those stupid loans thanks to the cash you set aside. Plus, there are millions of dollars in scholarships forget about out there for traditional and non-traditional stu-

> dents. Sometimes when people feel stuck in a job, they automatically default to the idea they need a degree. What your husband really needs right now is a clear idea and direction. Then, you determine if a degree is necessary to get there. Don't misunderstand me. I'm not against social work. But I've talked to so many people who went six-figures into debt, only to wind up making \$38,000 as a social worker for the state. That's crazy!

> You two need to sit down together, and talk all this out. Tell him why you're worried, and point out that borrowing a bunch of money isn't the only way-and definitely isn't the smart way-to make this happen. If you really want to support him, Britney, you need to help him see there are steps he can take to pursue his dream without it turning into a financial nightmare for both of you.

— 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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and Caroline were over for dinner recently, and somehow the topic of conversation veered into my proclivity to save stuff. Charlie tried, helpfully, to suggest that I'm

a sort of archivist. The wife countered, pointedly, that I'm a sort of packrat. The worst sort.

I've decided that maybe I'm a sort of preservationist, and right now I'm particularly enmeshed in the knotty question of how to preserve a couple things: my mountainous collection of National Geographic magazines, and my wife's sanity, as she never passes up a chance to say that my "preservationist" tendencies drive her batty.

The big question is whether to continue holding on to decades of complete issues of Nat Geo; or perhaps to tear out and save only the most interesting articles and exemplary, perhaps even frame-able, images; or to let the three- and four-year old's that my friend Caroline supervises at a preschool tear them to bits for pictures of way gnarly-looking animals.

Seeking guidance in the pages of the magazines themselves, I randomly decided to peruse a decade-old Nat Geo - the February 2012 issue. What kind of knowledge might it contain, and would

Our friends Charlie it be valuable enough to warrant keeping the whole mag? Well, here's some of what I learned:

> Item: The cover story is about research into the DNA of domesticated dogs, and how it combines to make such a wide range of wildly different-looking breeds. The cover photo does not qualify, for me personally, as an exemplary or frame-able image: it's of a ridiculously coiffed poodle, gray-bodied but with Carrot Top-red "mane and cuffs.

> (Turns out the dog is one of famed photographer William Wegman's Weimaraner's, wearing faux fur to look like a pseudo-poodle. For me, this knowledge did not increase the pic's exemplariness or frame-ability.)

> Item: An entire article examines whether a small chalk-and-ink portrait of a young woman was in fact a "lost" picture made by the immortal Leonardo da Vinci. The article had to end on a "Who knows?" note, because back in 2012, the definitive call had yet to be made. However, a check

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quelure also relates to the reason so many people love my columns - all the goofy comments I make result in (wise)crack-allure!).

Item: A short and sweet bit of content offers up a collection of endearing terms people around the world speak to their main squeezes. They chose "Honey" for the U.S., but you might want to try on some of these others for size: in French - Mon Chou, meaning "My Cabbage"; in Persian - Jigar, meaning "Liver"; in Swedish - Sötnos, meaning "Sweet Snout"; in Thai - Jum-Mum, meaning "Rolv-Polv."

I tried each of these on the wife and she said she was open to the idea of me saying them to her. As long as she could start calling me Craquelure (definition above.)

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