



March 5, 2022



Sarah **Spoonholtz,**

Regional Director, SMR Chamber

2022 Business Recognition Awards

Over 200 guests joined us for breakfast, networking, and our 2022 Business Recognition Breakfast on Thursday, February 24th at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center's Grand Upton Hall, presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Honor Credit Union.

Michigan Chamber President & CEO Jim Holcomb provided a keynote that included an economic update for the upcoming year. Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber President & CEO Arthur Havlicek recapped 2021 and shared part of the 2022 vision for the Chamber. Additionally, I was able to recognize and celebrate all 37 of our ribbon cuttings, and 2 groundbreakings that we held in 2021. You might be wondering who our winners were, well I'm happy to share them all with you!

Best New Business Award: Founded by Richard Molitor and Deb Sailor, The Market is a 9,000 square foot indoor farmers market at 301 Main St. in downtown St. Joseph. Once inside you can shop at The Cheese Lady, Dad's Farm & Dad's Café, Infusco Coffee Roasters, St. Joe Community Taproom, St. Joe Wine Shoppe, The Tea Annex, and Wild Ginger Flowers & Gifts. Coming soon The Culinary Cottage!

Non-Profit Excellence: Citizens Mediation Services brings peace to the community through the training of volunteers and the implementation of services designed to reduce conflict, resolve disputes, and increase our sense of community. This free or low-cost resolution dispute service reduces stress associated with conflict, court appearances, and ensures that all voices are heard and have an equal place at the table. www.MailMaxOnline.com

Volume 23, Ver.10



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Continued on page 2





Moody on The Market

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Lake Michigan Catholic Becomes 'Our Lady of the Lake'

It's the beginning of a new era at what was formerly known as Lake Michigan Catholic Schools. The district announced Tuesday during an assembly with students its new name is Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School. The school's Father John Fleckenstein told students the name reflects the school's intent to always remain a Catholic school while looking to the future. He told WSJM News what the name means for Our Lady of the Lake. "Our lady, our blessed mother, is who it is that

we dedicate ourselves to, and of course, by keeping the lake in there, it's our nod to Lake Michigan," Fleckenstein said. "So, we're kind of putting it all together. Our mission, who we are, as well as where we are too."



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Page 2 March 5, 2022 **Sarah** Continued from cover

Small Business of the Year: LEO + LAINE develops, implements, and manages digital brand strategies for their clients and offers a suite of branding services including logo design, content creation, websites, graphic design, photography, social media management and more. As partners, LEO + LAINE prioritizes its client relationships, acting as an extension of their internal teams. The LEO + LAINE team is made up of passionate creatives and content marketers who are ready to build partnerships and friendships, while having fun along the way.

Economic Impact: B&L Information Systems is the global leader in cloud-based Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software for foundries, die casters and investment casters. Since 1976, B&L has implemented their unique ERP solutions at over 500 metal casting operations, making their cloud-based Odyssey ERP match how metal casters operate. With Odyssey, metal casters maximize their resources, minimize costs, and make better decisions faster. Founded by local businessperson Dick Laney and currently under 2nd generation ownership of Philip Laney, as CEO and President.

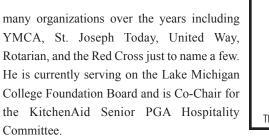
Rising Star Award: Nick Shelton is a Southwest Michigan and Niles native and is the City of Niles Mayor. After graduating from Brandywine High School and getting his BA in Economics and Management from Albion College, Nick returned home to work for the family business, Shelton's Farm Market. When asked what professional accomplishment that he's most proud of, he quickly responded with how the Niles community handles and bounces back from adversity, including a tornado (2017), flood (2018), polar vortex (2019), and the current COVID pandemic.

The Pat Moody Award: Bob Burch, **SVP, Berrien County Community President** at Sturgis Bank where he represents the bank in the community, services major depository relationships, manages a significant commercial loan portfolio, and serves as a private banker to his clients. Bob has been involved in

VOLUNTEER TO DRIVE!



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to drive the Disabled American Veterans van for veterans with morning medical appointments from designated stops to the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek and the VA Medical Clinic in Mishawaka. You only need a driver's license, pass a physical and make a one day a month commitment. For additional information, please contact Berrien County Veterans Services at (269) 983-7111 Ext. 8224. Thank you! Paid for by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency



Ambassador of the Year: Sandi Kopach Branch Manager at the Royalton location of United Federal Credit Union. She has been with United since the merger with Edgewater Bank in May of 2021. Sandi has over 20 years' banking experience, all within the St. Joseph/ Berrien County market area. Prior to joining United, Sandi was a Branch Banking Officer with Edgewater Bank for six years and had previously worked at both Flagstar Bank and Fifth Third Bank. She values building relationships, offering exceptional customer service, connecting on a personal level, and helping members achieve their financial goals.

A huge thank you to our Business **Recognition Annual Meeting & Awards** Ceremony Sponsors: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Honor Credit Union, Comcast Business, Sturgis Bank & Trust St. Joseph Banking Center, Mid-West Family Southwest Michigan, MoodyontheMarket.com, 1st Source Bank, Kruggel Lawton CPAs, Horizon Bank, Waterfront Framing & Design, Lake Michigan College Mendel Center, and United Federal Credit Union.

The full list of this year's Chamber nominees and award winners is available at www.smrchamber.com. Connect with me directly: <u>sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com</u> or 269-932-4040.

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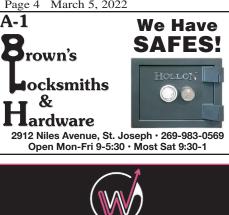
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As I mentioned in my first column, the original visit to Stevensville was brief, just a few days. In those few days I met a man named, Paul Gautam. Paul and I quickly became friends, something we both noticed taking place. The day I left to go home, I stopped at his BP station to fuel up. "Paul, I'm coming back to stay. I love it here. I am supposed to be here, just don't know why." Now I am not certain Paul took me serious or not, but he did say I will see you when you get back. So, he and I are very good friends today. I do love the guy. Here is the reason I introduced Paul.

One afternoon he walked me through a tour of his business property, this also included a space on the other side the gas station. We stopped in front of the ice machine where we started a conversation. I asked him about a framed photograph that hung over the desk. "That's a

MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest What to do when you are hurting

"To secure a solid place in society, one must secure their place in hearts."

Paul Gautam picture of my son. He died a few months back," Mr. Gautam explained.

What do you say to this? You say nothing ... just listen. Paul spoke to me of his son's death, but also the manner. A healthy 19-year-old kid with his entire life in front of him, plans for what he was going to do, just taken away. Law enforcement came to Paul's home with the news and offered their theory of what happened which was quickly dismissed as non-sense. Late one afternoon we drove over to the spot this took place. I could feel the pain dripping from my friend and all I could do was stand there. The last thing Paul said before we left was "My son's blood is fertilizing this farm, Paul." Pretty heavy stuff.

Now, here is why I have told you what I have told you. Listen up, this is important. There are so many ideas floating around about how you best manage hurt. Psychology tells us we will go through five stages. Denial, anger, negotiate, depression, and finally acceptance. I don't know about all of that, but I am certain of this- The best way to manage the pain you are experiencing is to pour yourself into the pain another is experiencing. This is something I have the privilege of watching Paul do daily. Paul Gautam is a living example of this principal. We show God, we love him by loving each other. We honor God by honoring each other. People are always asking how do I get blessed? How do I get what I want? How do I get what I need? The best place to start is by helping other people.

Until next time, keep moving forward and do good.

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Date night can be inexpensive and fun

Dear Dave

We're trying to get control of our finances by living on a budget. We also have about \$18,000 in debt we are trying to pay off. My husband brings home \$3,400 a month, and I am currently taking care of our eight-month-old baby. We would like to have a date night once a month, and he thinks we should set aside \$200 for this. Under the current circumstances, I feel like this is too much. What do you think?

Carolyne

Dear Carolyne,

If you'd told me you guys make \$150,000 a year, I'd say go have a great time. But with your income, and a lot of debt on top, I'd put the brakes on that amount. It sounds like he's looking for an outlet to unwind and have a little fun, without giving a lot of thought to the big picture. The good thing, though, is you're working together and beginning to take this personal finance thing seriously.

Dave Says

My advice would be to lower the date night amount to about \$50 right now. That's plenty for a reasonable dinner and a babysitter for a couple of hours. You might not have to figure babysitting expenses into the equation at all if you have family or friends nearby.

Going out on a date doesn't have to mean spending a lot of money. Years ago, when my wife and I were broke, we did tons of stuff that didn't cost a dime. Things like hiking and picnics are great ways to spend quality time together, while keeping your pocketbook in your pocket. Just be creative, talk about it together and make sure you find ways to have a little us time on a regular basis.

I think you're right on this one, Carolyne!

- 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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gonna be a lot about one of them. For today we travel to Zaqistan, a micronation located within the borders of Utah, U.S.A. More specifically, remote northwestern Utah,

exploring our planet's

wealth of unrecognized

micronations, I figured

I'd wind up sharing a

little about a lot of

them. But today, it's

U.S.A. Zaqistan was created by its President, Zac Landsberg, a sculptor who lives in Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A.

In July 2005, the then 20-year-old Landsberg found himself bidding on eBay for a plot of ground in northwester----wait, make that remote northwestern Utah. Landsberg landed the land for \$610. Apparently, no one else was too interested in it – it was the minimum bid.

This may have something to do with the pertinent factoids about the property, which include: It's flat, featureless, and two acres in size. Unless it's four. Accounts differ. The journey there concludes with 15 miles of unpaved "road," and THEN, a two-mile hike. Into the Great Salt Lake Desert. It's so difficult to find that Landsberg prefers not to reveal the exact location - he's worried people will get lost trying to find it.

At the time of the acquisition, Landsberg was a young man frustrated with the state of the world. So, he thought, why not bring a new state into the world? Thus, Zaqistan.

There are profound questions and challenges to the notion of "nationhood" that Landsberg hoped - and still hopes, I suppose - to explore through the development of Zaqistan. But please tell me you don't expect me to dwell on those?!

MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest

A Lot about a Little Little-known Nation

When I started For me, it's all about Zaqistan's dryly humorous and offbeat characteristics, which we shall call Zaqtoids.

Zaqtoid: Zaqistan's flag is meant to convey the nation's "mystery and might": In a place with zero sources of water, it consists of a bright red banner emblazoned with . . . a golden giant squid.

Zaqtoid: When Landsberg visits the place (once or twice year I read somewhere), he raises that flag on the country's highest spot - described by one visitor as "a slight bump, maybe five feet tall." It's called Mount Insurmountable. (I've found no documentation that anyone has ever reached the very top.)

Zagtoid: On the economic front Zagistan reports the following -- Main Imports: Water; Main Exports: Conceptual art; Natural Resources: Desert brush, and Cryptobiotic Soil. (That last is a real thing: soils made of microscopic plant and bacterial matter. Fragile and, I daresay, precious.)

Zaqtoid: Landsberg and his friends, also mostly artists, have built many sculptures on display throughout the country. My fave is the Victory Arch: "A Monument to an Unspecified Victory." How's that for mystery and might?

Zaqtoid: Zaqistan will issue passports, said to be extremely authentic in their details. One Zaqistani, a writer named Mike Abu, savs he's used his quite a bit: "To my surprise, not a single person has ever questioned my passport's validity. The bodega, the bar, the airport-not once has anyone stopped me."

Zaqtoid: The country has an Etsy site; however, nothing was currently for sale when I checked today. There are photos of items that have been purchased in the past, including miniflags, lapel pins, and postcards. Plus! -- today's hottest investment must-have! - precious crypto! Okay, they're containers of Zaqistani cryptobiotic soil. but still.

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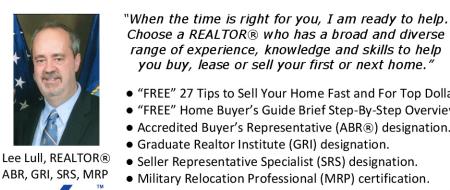
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On hand for the announcement was Bishop Paul Bradley, who consecrated the new Our Lady of the Lake Catholic School.

"History is being made here today, and what we do here today here today and tomorrow will become the history that people in the future will come to know," Bradley said.

Fleckenstein said the district is seeking to grow and make its stamp known in the community. He told students the team will always remain the Lakers. This year's seniors will still graduate from Lake Michigan Catholic, but otherwise, the name is effective immediately. A transition period has now begun.

Seeking Nominations for New

'Bold Women of Business' Award Every March, Women's History Month provides an opportunity to honor the generations of trailblazing women and girls who have built our nation, shaped our progress, and strengthened our character as a people. helpin

Thanks to a new award from our prestigious heritage series, Moody on the Market is launching the opportunity to recognize 20 of the most outstanding Bold Women of Business in Michigan's *Great* Southwest today.

Made possible by the underwriting sponsorship of the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, McGhee's Heating & Air Conditioning, Honor Credit Union and the Inn at Harbor Shores, with support from United Way of Southwest Michigan and The Mason Jar Cafe, the campaign to find the best and brightest of our local Bold Women of Business is now underway.

Simply click the link below to nominate a woman in Berrien, Cass or Van Buren County from the business sector, those who volunteer, or from the non-profit world who you feel is making a major

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difference in our region. Tell us about the unique traits and characteristics they bring to the table every day helping to grow their organization, bring impact to the region, and create positive change on an every day basis so that our selection committee can honor them for their inspiring efforts. The inaugural Bold Women of Business Award

will go to the top 20 nominees as sorted by the independent selection committee, after which they will be honored in ceremonies recognizing their influence at the Inn at Harbor Shores.

The survey form online will pave the way for your nomination, all you have to do is provide the information and answer key questions regarding the Bold Women of Business that you are nominating. www.moodyonthemarket.com/boldwomenofbusiness/

Makers Trail 19th Hole Lineup Announced

As a steady rain fell, further erasing the latest traces of winter snow piles on the Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course at Harbor Shores, there was a festive spirit in the clubhouse overlooking the practice green and the first tee there with dreams of warm spring sunshine and ice cold cocktails to come at the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship for 2022 over the upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

New Championship Director Brandon Haney was excited, looking across the makeshift work stations for half a dozen members of the Makers Trail, as they showcased some of their concoctions proposed for the Makers Trail 19th Hole feature at the

prestigious championship on the PGA of America's Champions Tour. Standing just feet from the renowned Alfred S.

Bourne trophy, Haney reported ongoing progress in the planning for the revered event from May 25th to 29th at Harbor Shores, telling me, "The Championship will be here before we know it. We just wrapped up some vendor meetings today which is a big milestone in our planning process which means construction is right around the corner, and we're actually now within 100 days of Championship Week, so it won't be long now."

Haney noted, "There's a little rain out there today, but the weather is starting to warm up so hopefully that's a good sign. We're very excited to be back. It's been a long four years since we last hosted here at Harbor Shores, but we're bringing a lot of cool new elements for the event. There will be a lot of things coming. You'll see some shakeups in our main entrance courtyard area. We'll still have our foundation pieces of the KitchenAid Fairway Club and the Community Showcase, and we'll be bringing back the Kid Zone to Jean Klock Park on Saturday and Sunday, so we're very excited about that, but here we're doing a little media tasting today for the Makers Trail 19th Hole. We're super excited about that facility. We've moved it down towards the 17th green, so the view of golf is going to be fantastic. We're adding a few other elements, like a beer garden and the food trucks, so it'll be really an all-encompassing facility for all of our guests that we welcome."



Regarding the field for the event, Haney says, "Well, after the four-year gap, there are a lot of new names coming up, so we're hoping to see both of our past Ryder Cup Captain's Paddraig Harrington and Steve Stricker, and guys like Ernie Els, KJ Choi, names like that, that haven't played out here at Harbor Shores, so we're very, very excited."

Millicent Huminsky, the arbiter of the Makers Trail which was first formed about five years ago under the flag at her Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council, says, "We're up to more than 45 breweries, wineries, cideries and distilleries in Berrien County alone along the Makers Trail." She adds, "We always have a Community Showcase tent at the Senior PGA Championship when it's in Benton Harbor, designed to get people to come back here and vacation when there isn't a championship going on. In 2018 with the PGA of America, the Makers Trail 19th Hole started, which is a separate venue on the golf course being set up along hole number 17. It will feature multiple products from six of our Makers Trail locations in Berrien County."

Haney and his colleagues at the PGA of America announced the final roster of the local breweries, wineries, cideries and distilleries set to be showcased at the Makers Trail 19th Hole throughout the Championship.

That venue is an upgraded ticket option offering a fan experience like no other, providing attendees special access to a covered pavilion with comfortable seating, views of live play, TV's to keep an eye on the action, and a relaxed atmosphere to enjoy specially crafted beverages from local artisans.

The 2022 Makers represents some of the finest in Michigan's Great Southwest, and they include: · North Pier Brewing of Benton Harbor

- Watermark Brewing of Stevensville
- Dablon Winery & Vineyard from Baroda
- · Round Barn Winer from Baroda
- · Journeyman Distillery of Three Oaks
- Peat's Cider Social from Stevensville

Championship Director Haney says, "The list of Makers is one of our best yet, and we cannot wait to showcase what they have to offer."

A limited number of daily tickets are available and have sold out in the past. Weekly Makers Trail 19th Hole tickets are on sale now for a limited time, and include one daily ticket to each Championship Round from Thursday through Sunday. To obtain tickets, click the link below: www.srpgachampionship.com/tickets

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



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MARCH AT **F**2021 - 2022 SEASON THE MENDEL CENTER



CEOGRAPHIC LIVE

MO ROCCA

CBS News Correspondent, Podcaster, and TV Personality

Tues., Mar. 15 7:30 pm

Humorist, journalist, and actor Mo Rocca is best known for his off-beat news reports and satirical comtentary. During this moderated conversation, Rocca will provide an inside look at how his long love of obituaries spawned the Mobituaries podcast.

VING ROOM

MAY **ERLEWINE Tiny Beautiful Things**

Album Release Tour

Fri., Mar. 18 7 pm

Join us for an evening of love, all kinds of love as May Erlewine debuts songs from her new album. Tiny Beautiful Things is a collection of love songs, named after the awardwinning book by author Cheryl Strayed, that offers a look at how love deepens with time.

STARS OF THE SIXTIES Thurs., Mar. 31 7:30 pm

Jay & The Americans will take the stage singing all their hits including "This Magic Moment" and "Cara Mia." They will be joined by The Cyrkle ("Red Rubber Ball," "Turn Down Day") and one of the hottest young singers on the scene today Chris Ruggiero, who will sing some of the greatest hits of the '60s.

Scan with your smartphone to learn more & order tickets



TheMendelCenter.com • 269-927-8700, option 1

BUY TICKETS TODAY!

The Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College, 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, MI Box Office hours: Weekdays, 10 am - 6 pm and 1 hour before events, subject to change

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE KARA COONEY: WHEN WOMEN

Thurs., Mar. 24 7 pm

RULED

Dr. Kara Cooney, professor of Egyptology, explores the reigns of powerful ancient queens to illuminate a time when women ruled the world. Often neglected in the history books, these strong female leaders were considered exceptions to the rule, but their power and

THE WORLD

influence is undeniable.

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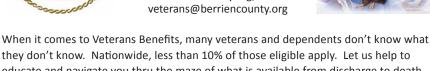


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Berrien County Veterans Services

701 Main Street St. Joseph, MI 49085 (269) 983-7111 Ext. 8224 www.berriencounty.org/veterans



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:

 \star 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.

★ 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.

★ 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.



Paid for by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency





MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest The Source

[Jesus said] "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that . . . Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.' Luke 6:32-33,36

Cornelia.

called her "Corrie." And Corrie was in a moment of shock.

It was several years after World War II. Corrie and her Christian family had hidden Jews from Nazi authorities during the war. The authorities had discovered what her family was doing and sent Corrie, her father, and her sister to a concentration camp. Corrie was the only one to survive.

Back to Corrie's moment of shock: She was sharing her wartime experiences with others, including the message of God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ. As she did, a man walked up to her. She recognized him right away, although he apparently did not recognize her. He had been a guard at Ravensbruck-the very concentration camp where Corrie had suffered and her family had died. The man had taken part in terrible, terrible things. And now, there he stood. There he stood, seeking God's forgiveness in Christ.

He offered to shake hands. But in that moment, Corrie couldn't do it. She just couldn't. For all her talk in that room about

Her name was forgiving others as God has forgiven us in Everyone Jesus, she didn't have the strength. There was just too much horror. Too many memories. Too many scars.

> Then, by God's grace, Corrie received a lesson about the power of God's forgiveness. She turned to her Lord with a repentant heart, seeking forgiveness for her failure to forgive this man. Before she knew what was happening, her arm was up. She was shaking the man's hand. She realized, as she had never realized before, that the power to forgive others does not come from your own strength. Rather, it is God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ that carries all of us.

> Prayer: There are times, Lord Jesus, when I struggle to forgive others. The hurt is so great. The memories are so strong. Wash me clean. Cleanse me in your blood. And let your forgiveness flow through me to others. 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

The rain, the fog, the March winds......

it is the lake effect......don't you need a haircut?

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The Michiana Annual Art Competition, MAAC, is a local juried fine art exhibition intended to recognize, foster, and reward excellence of artists in Southwest Michigan & Northern Indiana held annually at the Box Factory for the Arts in St. Joseph, Michigan. The exhibition runs May 13 through July 3.







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