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### Moody on **The Market**



[**VI** oody

**St. Joe Favorite** Chalk the Block' **This Weekend** 

For nearly a decade artists from near and far have turned a downtown St. Joseph street into their own personal canvas-and thousands of spectators have marveled at their creations.

Chalk the Block returns to downtown St. Joseph this weekend, with 35 artists set to captivate locals and visitors alike with their artistry on Broad Street.

The long-held event is one of the most popular in the city, evolving from a mostly local and regional event to one with professional chalk artists from over 1,000 miles away.

"Over the last eight years we've built this relationship with some traveling professional artists," said St. Joseph Today Events & Operations Manager Daniele Crevier. "It's been great to have them in [to] step up the chalk event and also be kind of like a mentor and teaching some different things to some amateur local artists that come up to the event."

This year, 15 artists from Berrien and Van Buren counties will participate, with seven additional Michigan artists and 13 from out of state, including as far as West Palm Beach, Florida and Fort Worth, Texas.

Crevier also explained why Chalk the Block remains so endearing to locals and tourists alike through the years. To see the list of artists and browse their work, visit stjoetoday.com/meet-the-artists.

"I think people really respond to it because they can watch the artists right there – essentially over the course of two days - create these awesome masterpieces on the ground," she said. "Many of them are returning artists - whether they are professional or amateur artists - and its really cool to see what they bring year after year."

New this year, four artists will showcase their chalk masterpieces at The Market and Silver Harbor Brewing in the days leading up to Chalk the Block

Attendees also can participate in the event by voting for their favorite artists in the People's Choice vote. To vote, purchase tickets at the People's Choice Tent located on Broad St. Tickets cost \$1 per vote. The artist with the most votes by

Continued on page 16



### Arthur Havlicek, President, SMR Chamber

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**Changes to Michigan's Minimum Wage and Paid Medical Leave Laws** 

Last month, Michigan's Court of Claims ruled the Michigan Legislature's 2018 "adopt and amend" strategy employed to find a workable compromise to two ballot initiatives was unconstitutional. This sent shockwaves throughout the state's business community and immediately triggered a vigorous court battle to slow down and/or reverse the ruling. Why? Because the decision would single-handedly alter Michigan's current minimum wage and paid sick leave laws and

impact every employer in the state. Here's what you need to know

Background In 2018, a coalition called One Fair Wage launched a ballot proposal for the 2018 November election. Funded almost entirely by out-of-state interests, this ballot proposal sought to increase Michigan's min-

Continued on page 2

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- Berrien County Youth Fair
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#### Page 2 August 6, 2022 **Arthur** Continued from cover

cover

imum wage to \$12 per hour by 2022 (up from the current \$9.87 per hour), tie annual increases to the rate of inflation, and eliminate the tipped minimum wage "tip-credit" in Michigan by 2024.

That same year, a different coalition called *MI Time* to Care put forth a separate ballot initiative to create the Earned Sick Time Act in Michigan. This proposal, among other things, would have required employers with fewer than 10 employees to accrue 40 hours of paid sick time per year for their employees and employers with 10 or more employees to accrue 72 hours per year.

The initiatives, however, did not see a statewide vote as the Republican-led Legislature adopted them first and then moved after Election Day to amend the laws with a simple majority in an effort to make the proposals more palatable to employers. Had the Legislature allowed the citizens-initiatives to proceed to the 2018 general election ballot, any future amendment would have required a three-fourths vote of the Legislature.

#### **Court of Claims**

Four years later, Judge Douglas B. Shapiro, a 2009 appointee of Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm, ruled against this legislative-maneuver saying they only had three options to address a law proposed through the initiative process – enact it; reject it; or propose an alternative and present it to the People for a vote.

"Once the Legislature adopted the Earned Sick Time Act and the Improved Workforce Opportunity Act, it could not amend the laws within the same legislative session," Shapiro's 25-page opinion reads. "To hold otherwise would effectively thwart the power of the People to initiate laws and then vote on those same laws – a power expressly reserved to the people in the Michigan Constitution."

As a result, the Public Acts under which Michigan's current law is governed are now void and state law effectively reverts back to Public Act 337 and 338 of 2018 - i.e. the unaltered, unamended ballot language initially adopted by the Legislature.

**Potential Impact** 

Because the court's decision holds the ballot initiatives as originally adopted are "in effect," major changes for paid medical leave and the minimum wage are in play.

Michigan's minimum wage would see an immediate \$1.90 increase to \$12 per hour and a further adjustment after 2022 to account for inflation. Reverting to the ballot language also strips several safeguards on future wage increases put in place by the legislature and ties future increases to the annual rate of inflation as well. (Keep in mind, as of July 13, 2022, the Consumer Price Index had increased 9.7 percent over the last 12 months) Additionally, the elimination of the "tip credit" would force Michigan's restaurateurs to directly pay servers and bartenders \$12 an hour, instead of \$3.75, inevitably leading to menu increases and mass layoffs for Michigan's already struggling hospitality industry.

The changes to the paid medical leave law are similarly substantial as the ballot language would remove a key legislative exemption for businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Now, employers with fewer than 10 employees must accrue 40 hours of paid and 32 hours of unpaid sick time per year for their employees and employers with 10 or more employees must accrue 72 hours per year (up from 40). The language would also do away with most rights for employers to require documentation as well as the credit for already-provided vacation or PTO.

As the "Voice for Business" in Southwest Michigan, we are deeply concerned about the negative ramifications these changes would have on employers throughout the region if the decision were to stand. Businesses are already grappling with the economic headwinds of a recession, record inflation, historic labor shortages, and significant supply chain disruptions. Now is not the time to make matters worse.

#### Where it stands

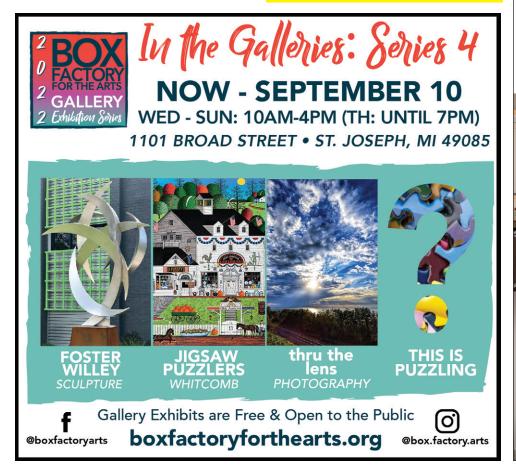
Thankfully, the legislature and the state have appealed the Court of Claims decision to the Michigan Court of Appeals and requested an immediate stay to prevent the original ballot initiatives from going into effect. That stay was granted on July 29, 2022 for a period of 205 days (i.e. through February 19, 2023) due to "justified concerns regarding the ability of employers and the relevant state agencies to immediately accommodate the changes..."

Michigan's Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, which has executive oversight over minimum wage and paid medical leave laws, has also indicated it will not enforce the Court of Claims ruling until the appeals process plays out. This means employers, at least for now, do not have to make any immediate changes.

#### What's Next

A battle will ensue in the courts that could potentially take years to reach a final resolution. We will continue to monitor the situation and notify our region's employers of any notable developments so that they remain in compliance. In the meantime, if you have questions about these new changes and their potential effects, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com







Hop To It Photo by Don Ashley

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Dave



Ramse A different kind of creditor? Dear Dave, My wife and I have plans to enter the mission

field as soon as we have paid off our debt and get a full emergency fund in place. We only have about \$12,000 in credit card debt left, and we don't own a home, but my father does not want this debt to stand in our way. He has offered to pay off the credit cards, and make it a loan where we would pay him back over time. It is a tempting offer, but we both feel strange about

accepting it. What do you think we should do? Brandon Dear Brandon,

Your dad sounds like a generous, good-hearted man. But considering the goal you and your wife have. I want you to think for a minute about the spiritual implications of a situation like this.

Proverbs 22:7 says the borrower is slave to the lender. Now, the Bible doesn't say debt is a sin, but it definitely discourages debt, and it teaches us to live our lives differently than the rest of the world. That's the case when it comes to handling money, too.

If you do this, you'd be turning your dad into your creditor in a very real sense. That's going to make family dinners taste different, because you'll



be eating with your lender instead of just good old dad. Money has a way of changing the family dynamic, and it's almost never for the good. Suddenly, you're getting raised eyebrows if you buy something for yourself, because even the nicest,

most generous folks have opinions. If it were me, I'd say thanks, but no thanks. There's no way I'd be in financial debt to my dad.

Now, if he were to offer to make paying off your debt a gift-one that was given with no strings attached to help you two get into the mission field quicker-I'd be okay with that and I'd be deeply grateful and honored.

But I would never tell you to go into debt to a parent. Your dad is probably thinking it's better for you to be in debt to him rather than some uncaring bank or credit card company. But I just wouldn't want to do anything that might jeopardize your relationship.

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-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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Today we journey further toward the wedding of the son of good friends, and reach the environs of the nuptials, Jamestown, New York

It doesn't take long to notice there's something funny about Jamestown. I speak, of course, of her famous native daughter, Lucille Ball.

Jamestown works hard to capitalize on this happy accident of birth: There's a museum dedicated to Ball and her husband/co-star, Desi Arnaz; the ultra-modern, highly interactive National Comedy Center; an annual National Comedy Festival every August; and more.

I must pause to confess, which might startle you, that I like to laugh. So, it was a treat to tour the aforementioned attractions. (Though we missed the Comedy Festival; to compensate, I peppered the wife with some of my best quips while we walked around. The reviews aren't in yet, but she says her people will be in touch with me.)

You can imagine the overwhelming wealth of fascinating factoids one gleans from the Lucy-Desi Museum. I've sorted through my trip notes and herewith share some observations that I'm certain will be amusing enough to get the attention of the National Comedy Center and spur them to build a new wing devoted exclusively to showcasing my work.

Item: For younger readers who may not know, Lucille Ball is considered a giant of televised comedy, beginning with her still-in-reruns show "I Love Lucy." She also starred in a precursor to that show (clarification: it wasn't foulmouthed or anything; this was pre-cursing).

The blueprint for "I Love Lucy" was a radio program called "My Favorite Husband." It was based on the Cugats, married folks featured in a

MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest **Lucy Factoids!** 

### (Caution: May Cause Desi-ness)

couple of books from the 1940s by a woman named Isabel Rorick (please remember this name). Lucy starred as Liz Cooper ("Cugat" was changed to "Cooper" to avoid confusion with the then-quite-famous bandleader Xavier Cugat), and her husband, George, was played by Richard Denning. (Denning was born in Poughkeepsie, New York; there does not appear to be a Richard Denning Museum there.)

Item: Before "Lucy" launched, Desi spent the first months of 1951 hosting a combination music-and-game show called "Your Tropical Trip." He performed with his orchestra, and contestants tried to answer questions to earn trips to various exotic South and Central American locales. What's the point of telling you this? Well, a significant branch of the comedy "family tree" sprouted from this show: When "Tropical Trip" ended a new variation popped up, called "Earn Your Vacation." It marked the first national television gig for its host, a guy named Johnny Carson.

Item: As a famous musician and bandleader in the pre-"Lucy" days, Desi produced many hit records. One of them, called "Babalú," became his signature song. Among the artists who have performed it or name-checked it are Johnny Mathis and Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine. It's said that the burro/loyal friend of the Hanna-Barbera cartoon character Quick Draw McGraw was a tip of the Stetson to the song: He was named "Baba Looey."

Item: Bringing this column to a Rorick-ing conclusion, and again demonstrating the way the entertainment "family tree" grows: "Babalú," first gained renown in the 1940s thanks to singer Miguelito Valdes, who performed it with the Waldorf-Astoria Orchestra led by. . .Xavier Cooper! Wait wait! ---make that Cugat!

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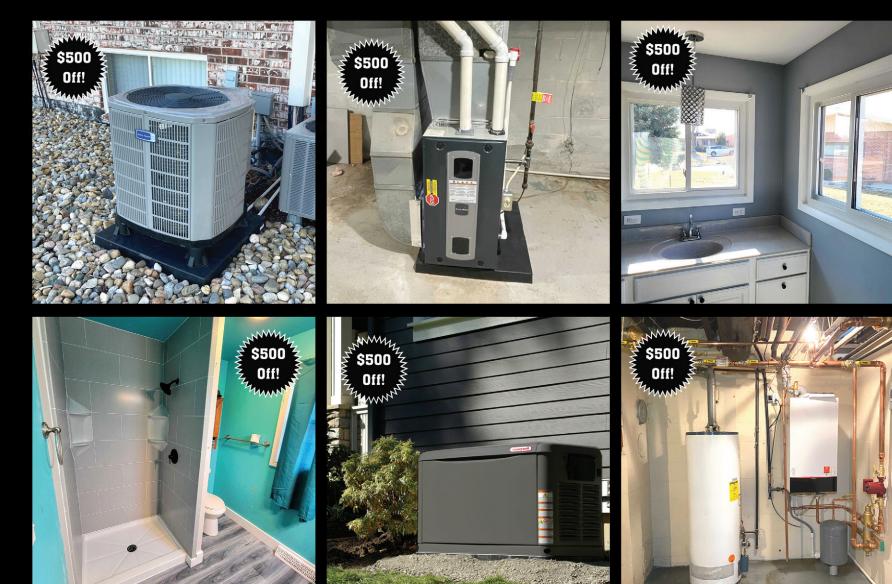
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#### The Opposite

The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre... ~ Genesis 18:1

You are part of a team working beneath an ancient temple in the Far East. You are about to break into several cham-

bers that have not been open for centuries. When you do, you can hardly believe what you find. You see diamonds-bags upon bags of diamonds. You see jewelry-more than you can describe or count. And you see gold coins-ton after ton. It will take time to inventory all that is here, but an initial estimate puts what you've found at over twenty billion dollars.

In addition, research has identified the treasure's origins. Hundreds of years earlier, the temple sat on a popular travel route. As people trav-

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The year is 2011. eled, they would regularly bring generous offerings to curry favor with the temple's deity. The mountain of treasure standing before you is a powerful picture of how many view their relationship with a higher power. They ask themselves, "What can I give to God to persuade God to do something good for me?"

We discover that the opposite is true when we read the Bible. The eighteenth chapter of the book of Genesis reports that The LORD appeared to Abraham. Although Abraham welcomes him warmly, it's clear that the LORD is not there so that Abraham can purchase his favor. His very name, the LORD, emphasizes that he is the one who makes unconditional promises and then does what he must do to carry them out.

This falls right in line with how God reveals himself to us throughout the Bible. He knows we are fallen creatures. He knows that, since our first parents severed their relationship with him, sin has soiled everything-including you and me. For this reason, the very idea that my soiled, sinful hands could somehow curry favor from a God of perfect goodness-such an option was never possible.

And that's why God sent his Son. On our behalf, Jesus Christ lived the sinless life you and I have failed to live. In our place, Jesus Christ paid for our sin at the cross. The Lord did this not because we had given him some nice jewelry. He did it-because we needed him.

Prayer: Lord, my whole relationship with you rests upon what you have done for me. Thank vou. 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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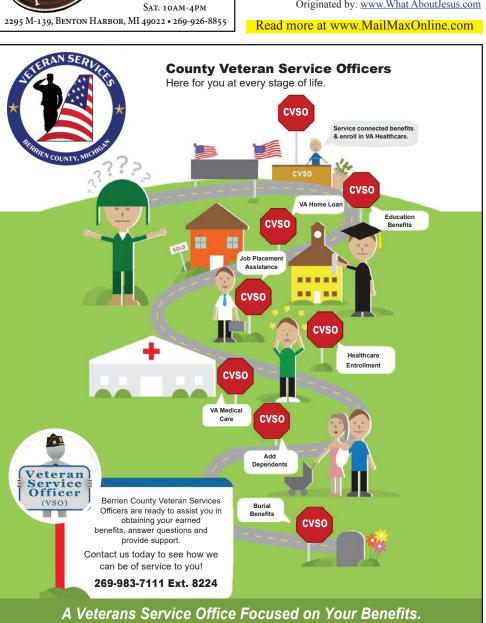
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**MOODY** Continued from Cover

the end of the weekend wins the People's Choice Award.

On Friday, artists begin to grid their layouts and outline their pieces. Then the real artistry begins. The public watches as the drawings take shape and cast their votes for their favorites. The People's Choice winner will be announced Sunday after voting ends at 2 p.m.

#### 'Something for everyone'

St. Joseph Today is also encouraging attendees to explore the area all weekend. On Friday, the Benton Harbor Arts Association hosts Arts in the Park from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Arts District.

The St. Joe Farmers Market will be open Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Lake Bluff Park. Additionally, kids of all ages are invited to showcase their own chalk skills from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday in the Giannola Parking Lot across

The Relay for Life of Berrien County is being hosted from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. in Lake Bluff Park, while "Remember the Titans" plays during the summer movie series at Milton Park. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, more than 50 antique vendors will be at Lake Bluff Park for Antiques on the Bluff.

There's a little something for everyone," said St. Joseph Today Executive Director Amy Zapal. "Sun-filled beach days, a wide variety of shops, breweries, wineries, distilleries, cideries, the Whirlpool Compass Fountain, fantastic restaurants, local events, live music and so much more.'

By Ryan Yuenger, MOTM Contributor

### MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest

The Torch is Passed at St. Julian Winery

After celebrating 100 years of wine-making last year, Michigan's largest and longest-operating winery announced a new milestone on Monday

Apollo Braganini II was named president of the Paw Paw-based St. Julian Winery on Monday, becoming the sixth family member to lead the company. He succeeds his father, John Braganini, who will remain with the company as Board Chairman and a corporate advisor.

"A hundred year family business is extremely rare," Apollo said. "It's extremely exciting, and I'm honored to continue my family's legacy.'

Apollo has been with St. Julian since 2018, working to revitalize the wholesale and distribution channels along with his brother Dario Braganini. Apollo said he remembers growing up around the winery, from hanging out with Dario





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"I was always fascinated with the winery, even as a child," Apollo said. "It's a very memorable place with a lot of special memories that come along with it."

Over the past five years, Apollo and Dario have increased wholesale business throughout the Midwest, and Apollo said he looks forward to continuing that success as president.

"We've been focused on growing the company and improving the infrastructure," said Apollo, adding they have overhauled the storage and adding state-of-the-art wine making equipment. "Our goal here is to continue to grow the business, continue to upgrade and outfit this place and make it one of the top wineries in the world."

#### Legacy

Mariano Meconi founded the company in Canada as the Border City Wine Cellars in 1921. As soon as the 18th Amendment was ratified and prohibition ended, Meconi moved his operations to Detroit and ultimately to Paw Paw in 1936. It was first known as The Italian Wine Company before being christened St. Julian Winery in 1941.

Meconi and his wife, Avelia, had three children – Robert, Julia (along with her husband, Apollo "Paul" Braganini) and Eugene – each who contributed to the winery. Inspired by his grandfather, mother and father, David Braganini joined the family business in 1973, serving until his death in 2016. At that point, John stepped into the leadership role and soon brought his sons, Apollo and Dario, into the fold.

"Working with my sons was always something I wanted to do," John said. "Having the opportunity to do so here at St. Julian has been a gift."

Under Apollo's direction, St. Julian aims to continue to bring the highest quality products – wine, cider and spirits – to consumers while remaining focused on company's commitment to Michigan agriculture and advancements in technology and production innovation.

Apollo said. "I am also extremely honored for the opportunity to help lead St. Julian through its next chapter alongside my brother and business partner. ... It is a blessing to be able to work with my family every day, and hopefully – one day – my children will stand beside me at this truly amazing company."

By Ryan Yuenger, MOTM Contributor Pat Moody Publisher, MoodyOnTheMarket.com moody@wsjm.com

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