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Moody on The Market

Pat. Moody

RIP Mr. St. Joseph **Bob Gerbel**

The pace at which the community of Michigan's Great Southwest is losing foundational leaders is becoming worrisome. The loss this week of Mr. St. Joseph -- Bob Gerbel -- is just the latest in a string of people who have blessed this region for decades in countless ways. Coming in the wake of the departures of people like Steve Upton, Merlin Hanson, Carol Stockman and others, Bob's death leaves a huge void every bit as much as those others who have quietly stepped up for years to make a huge difference in the quality of life for the area.



Bob was a longtime friend and confidant who would ask me repeatedly, "How can we make this region better? What do we need to do to attract businesses and industries to our shores? When will we get things on track for noteworthy change?"

All while he and Upton, Hanson, Stockman and many others were working daily to effect those changes for all of us.

Bob Gerbel was one of the most generous, genuinely good-hearted people I have ever known. If you enjoyed the flowers in the Main Street median in St. Joe, that was Bob who made it happen. If you have seen the huge array of colorful American flags fly along the bluff, that was Bob who made it happen. He was the leader and instigator behind the St. Joseph Public Art Project for years, and simply never stood still.

Bob, Frank Walsh, Jeff Noel and I helped revitalize the downtown district years ago when a huge number of vacancies threatened the district's vibrancy. Through creation of

Continued on page 6

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Pour Me!

Ienna Podjan **Bud Distributing**

Happy Winter 2023!

Greetings friends. Here we are in February, trekking through a wonderful snowy (well at least lately) beautiful Michigan Winter. It has been a fun filled winter with snow and some great events. We topped off last weekend with a great St. Joe Winter Beer Fest, that was an absolute blast. Kudos to St. Joe Today, the distributors, breweries, volunteers, sponsors and all who participated in making it such a smashing success. If you didn't go this year, make sure to mark your calendars for next year.

Continued on page 2

Inserts & Promotions

- Ace Hardware ALDI
 - Family Fare
- Hardings Friendly Market Bridgman
 - Jets Pizza
 - Martin's Super Markets
 - Valentines Day Guide

Inserts may vary by Zip Code

Podian Continued from cover

Stormcloud Brewing Company

If you attended St. Joe Winter Beer Fest, you may have noticed a "new kid" in town. Last Saturday was the official launch of Stormcloud Brewing Company into Southwest Michigan. Stormcloud Brewing Company opened in June of 2013 in the harbor town of Frankfort, Michigan.

Tucked between the soaring sand dunes and stormy shores of northern Lake Michigan, Stormcloud specializes in, but is not limited to, brewing Belgian inspired ales. They also have several other award-winning beers. In 2022, Stormcloud won USA Beer Ratings Brewery of the Year. While also winning USA Beer Ratings Bronze medal for Birdwalker Blonde, Silver for Sunrunnr Ale, and a Gold for Rainmaker Ale.

Let's talk about these Brews.

Here are the beers that you can currently get locally.

Rainmaker Ale: A Belgian-style Pale Ale. It was awarded a gold medal in the 2022 USA Beer Ratings and a bronze medal at the Great American Beer Festival in Denver. It comes in at 5.9% ABV and 20 IBUS.

Birdwalker Blonde: Our traditional Belgian Blonde is light-bodied and lightly hopped, and has light fruity esters from our house Belgian yeast. It comes in at 5.2% and 25 IBUS.

Whiled Away: Brewed with Zeus, Centennial, Cascade, Amarillo, Azacca and Citra hops and fermented at cold temps with our house Belgian yeast. It comes in at 6.7% ABV and 70 IBUS.

Night Swimmer: Our Belgian-style Stout with an appearance as dark as swimming in Lake Michigan on a moonless night. The Nightswimmer Stout reveals a light chocolate and roast aroma intertwined with dark fruit flavors. One of our house yeast strains, sourced from Belgium, adds a slight background fruitiness. Altogether, this is a great beer to drink with rich cheeses, smoked or barbecued food, and chocolate desserts. It comes in at 7% ABV and 34 IBUS. (LTO)

And my favorite (great beer and I love the name)

Cool Cat Kitty Face: A low-bitterness juicy IPA brewed with Norwegian Kveik yeast and a whole bunch of tasty hops. Its flavors showcase tropical notes, ripe stone fruit, peach, mixed berry, and grapefruit marmalade. It comes in at 6.7% ABV and 26 IBUS. (LTO)

Next up in March, will be Sunrunnr and 31 Planes Plane 19. Which are available throughout the summer.

Well, that is it for me. I hope you all are having an enjoyable start to 2023. As always please enjoy responsibly.

Jenna@buddistributing.com





50,314 Weekly Readers!

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Photo of the Week



Ruff Road

Photo by Steven Ruff

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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Don Stuart

Humorist

From One Story to an Ullr More dispatches from a road + ski trip to Colorado:

Dispatch: Each morning on drive out, carefully plan where to stash basic items that I'll readily need. Plenty of options: pants pockets, shirt pockets, coat pockets, vest pockets. Plan fails each day. Learning: A man with one pocket knows where his stuff is; a man with 11 pockets is never sure.

Dispatch: "Relax" each evening in hotels by binge-watching Yellowstone. Harder each episode to suspend disbelief. Surf web - discover plenty of people love it, plenty do not. Won't rehash findings in column, but must say, with all the mayhem and whatnot, it's a variant on a very popular HBO series...start asking wife each night if we're once again going to watch "Game of Yellowthrones."

Dispatch: Finally hit the ski slopes on New Year's Day. In my case, this means hitting them with my entire body.

Dispatch: Sporting brand new coat, gloves, glove liners, thermal socks, etc. Discover that new clothes and gear don't change fact that I'm same old skier.

Dispatch: Exchange texts with friend who doesn't know I'm in Colorado. Reply "I'm on a long ski vacation. . . well, ski vacation for my wife, falling vacation for me." Send text while trying to get up off slope. Again.

Dispatch: Visit "oxygen bar" after first day skiing. Idea is that we'll increase our oxygen

saturation to more quickly adapt to high altitude. Or something like that. Works up to a point, heavy breathing subsides. Then guy handsome enough to be a Formula 1 driver comes in and sits down next to wife. Her heavy breathing

Dispatch: Day two of skiing. Skis not responding to stern verbal commands to keep me upright. Get testy with skis. Quickly learn blaspheming them is huge mistake! - falls come more quickly when I do.

Dispatch: Observe many Formula 1-driver-handsome-type guys on slopes. Mention it to wife. She suddenly begins suggesting every 15 minutes, "You know, I think you should go sign up for a ski lesson. Don't worry about me, I'll be fine skiing on my own!"

Dispatch: Colorado weather cold and often snowy. New ski garments help me keep warm. Determine that yeah, I'm same old skier, but at least I'm warm same old skier.

Dispatch: Colorado roadways often subject to tire chain law. Don't have tire chains. Visit AutoZone to find out what I need. Ask several questions of AutoZone employee. Don't always get concise answers. Employee finally admits, "I don't drive."

Dispatch: Peak 8 base area at Breckenridge ski resort features large, shiny silvery sculpture of Norse god named Ullr. God of snow, god of skiing, something like that. Google him later, learn images often depict him with shield called a "ski board." Could he be the original snowboarder? He definitely has that devil-may-care "rider" mentality – he's bare-chested!

Dispatch: Dive deeper on Ullr. Learn his godly duties may have included bestowing good luck in any kind of winter sport competition. Put another way, he may be "called on for safety in the snow." Realize I've been beseeching him several times a day!: Every time I fall, I inadvertently groan "Ullr!"

Dispatch: Thirteenth ski day. Ullr's luck still not yet bestowed.

TakeFiveT5@yahoo.com

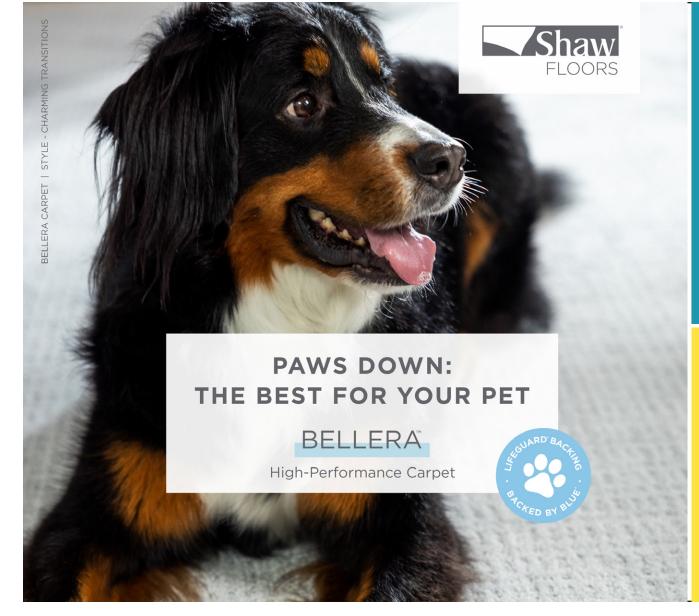


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${f Moody}$ Continued from cover

the \$1-million St. Joseph Development Program, we turned things around for the better in short order.

A cup of coffee, a quick lunch, long discussions and just good spirited fun always punctuated time well spent with Bob Gerbel. I am deeply honored that Bob was selected a few years ago to receive the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber's Pat Moody Award, because he meant so very much to me. I will miss Bob. I'll miss his, "Green-Go White" cheer that few others could match.

I quarantee you that YOU will miss the impact of Bob, even if you have never met him. That's the kind of guy he was. This is a truly sad day, brightened solely by the knowledge that he has once again been reunited with the love of his life, Carol. RIP Bob, your journey here is complete...and we are forever grateful for your role in our success as Michigan's Great Southwest.

Whirlpool Leaders Predict Smoother Financial Waters Ahead After **Bumpy Fourth Quarter**

Marc Bitzer says he's "optimistic" about the second half of 2023 and "bullish" about the demand cycle that will drive Whirlpool's

www.MailMaxOnline.com appliance business in 2024. The Whirlpool Chairman and Chief Executive Officer met with Wall Street writers today for his quarterly conference call, reviewing Fourth Quarter and Annual 2022 operating results.

Putting it another way, Bitzer said "Economic headwinds of 2022 will turn to tailwinds late in the second quarter or early third quarter of 2023." He predicted almost two-thirds of Whirlpool's 2023 profits will be earned in the second half of the year as consumer demand heats up, especially in the appliance replacement and home remodeling segments of the market. He acknowledged that appliance sales for new home construction will continue to be a challenge, driven by currently high mortgage interest rates.

To investors, Bitzer and Whirlpool Chief Financial Officer Jim Peters projected 2023 as a year of relative stability, thanks to their commitment to hold the line on costs, while looking ahead to a brighter 2024 as the demand cycle improves and recessionary pressures, hopefully, decrease. Peters expects Whirlpool's free cash flow to total at least \$800 million dollars in 2023 and Bitzer added that he could see that number increasing by \$300 million or more in 2024.







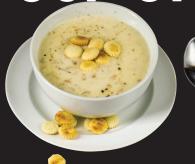








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While Peters acknowledged that Whirlpool sales will be down a percent or two in 2023, based on weak demand, Bitzer was very optimistic about the naturally cyclical consumer demand curve bolstering the company's prospects for 2024. He said a normal, predictable 'replacement cycle' for home appliances should be kicking in as 2023 progresses and be in full swing next year. Bitzer based that on a normal ten year replacement cycle that he said coincides with strong US appliance sales back in the 2012-2014 period.

Bitzer also suggested that currently high mortgage rates on new homes will help drive the kitchen remodeling market over the short term, impacting positively on sales in the second half of 2023 and into 2024. He pointed out that will be an opportunity for growth in Whirlpool's newly acquired InSinkerator division, which dominates the high-end home disposal market, concentrated on kitchen upgrades.

Bitzer predicted InSinkerator will eventually add \$100 million dollars to Whirlpool's free cash flow. He said the brand matches up perfectly with the highly successful KitchenAid brand of high-end small appliances and he expects to see synergy between those brands going forward.

Looking back over 2022, Bitzer and Peters took some credit for moving swiftly to control costs in a recessionary situation exacerbated by supply chain issues with a key supplier. They both said the supply chain issue has been solved as of this month, however it contributed to weak fourth quarter sales for Whirlpool products that affected performance for the full year. Bitzer said Whirlpool's work force is down about four percent from a year ago, contributing to continuing cost savings.

Bitzer offered no comments on the sudden departure, announced Monday, of Whirlpool President and Chief Operating Officer Joseph Liotine. None of the Wall Street analysts raised the issue during a question and answer session after the company's conference call presentation. Liotine is said to have exited his position immediately this week, serving in a consulting role until March 31. Bitzer assumed direct responsibility for all global operations with the departure of his "Number Two" ranking executive.

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



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Dave Ramsey

Financial Expert The Ramsey Show

Dave Says It's not as difficult as you think

Dear Dave,

I'm single, and I make \$35,000 a year. Next year, my salary and bonuses should be around \$50,000. I have a little over \$30,000 in debt right now, including student loans, and I'm not sure how I'll be able to keep up with bills and everything else right now if I have to save \$1,000 for a starter emergency fund like you recommend. Can I get by with a starter emergency fund of \$500?

Ionas

Dear Jonas,

I really think you're making this whole thing sound a lot harder than it really is. They key is making and living on a budget, and that's not rocket science. It's a simple, written planning process where you give a name and a job to every dollar you make before the month begins.

Food, shelter, clothing, transportation and utilities are necessities, so they come first. After that, make sure you're current on your debts. Once all that is out of the way,

put every spare dollar you can into your emergency fund. If you do this with a sense of urgency, and limit spending to necessities, you'll be surprised by how fast it will happen. And you'll love the newfound sense of security.

The truth is, you really need a starter emergency fund of \$1,000 if you're at a point in life where student loans and other debts are in the picture. That may seem like an impossible goal right now, but it should be your first priority. And a written, monthly budget will go a long way toward helping you achieve that goal.

You can do this, Jonas!

Dave

* Dave Ramsey is an eight-time 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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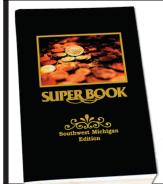
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Glenn

Pastor

Cinderella Story

Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 1 Corinthians 1:26

Harry was a carpenter and a good one. Earlier in life he'd pursued acting, but that had gone nowhere, one filmmaker telling him there was no future in it for him. One **Rosenbaum** day, Harry was doing some work near the home of a young director. He remembered Harry from somewhere, and asked him to read for a part in the director's next movie. The young director was George Lucas. The movie was Star Wars. Harry the carpenter was Harrison Ford.

> Everyone loves a good Cinderella story-the story of someone of ordinary background who experiences a thrilling change in life. You can find Cinderella stories in many places: The small college basketball team that wins the big tournament. The farm girl whose singing voice is discovered on a national talent show. The penniless,

single mom who writes the phenomenal, best-selling book. Or the quiet, unassuming carpenter who goes on to become one of the biggest film stars in Hollywood.

All these stories are child's play, however, in comparison to the story of what Jesus Christ has done for you and me. In 1 Corinthians chapter 1, the apostle Paul reminds the Corinthian Christians, "Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth." Those same words certainly apply to the vast majority of us. In fact, because of our sin, the full picture is far worse. Not only are most of us invisible to the eyes of the world, by nature we are broken, toxic souls, reeking in our spiritual failure, deserving only of God's contempt.

February 4, 2023 MailMax Page 9 But God did not let the story end there. Instead, he sent his Son. On our behalf, Jesus lived the sinless life we have failed to live. In our place, Jesus washed away our every stain of guilt at the cross. Now, through faith in our Savior, the plot has changed. Our story is different. It's not necessarily that we are now best-selling authors or famous athletes; our story is far better. We are forgiven. God is our Heavenly Father. He guides every moment for our good. Heaven is our home.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for changing my story. Thank you for sending your

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

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System, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Oxford White, C22087B







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Balance of Factory Warranty, Crystal Black Pearl, F22039B





















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2.0 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 101K Miles, Navigation, Panoramic Sunroof, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Shadow Black, C22243A



6.2 V8 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Auto, Alum Wheels, 50K Mi, Bedliner, Running Boards, Remo Start, Nav, SYNC 3, Chrome Pkg, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedal Twin Panel Moornoof, Auto Climate Control, Adaptive Steering, Lane Keeping Alert, Blind-Spot Info System, Reverse Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Trailer Brake Controller, Tow Technology Bundle, Remote Keyless Entry System, Shadow Black, F22294A



3.0 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 39K Miles, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2rd Row Heated Seats, Panorami Roof, Auto Climate Control, Front Collision Mitigation, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Glacier White Metallic. C23041A



3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 33K Miles, Blacktop Package, 3rd Row Seating, CD-Player, Touchscreen Display, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Dodge Certified! Pitch Black Clearcoat, C22252A



1.4 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 58K Miles, Remote Start, Power Driver's Seat, Heated Front Seats, Auto Climate Control, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Lane Change Alert, Side Blind Zone Alert, Rear Park Assist, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty, Pacific Blue Metallic, U2300*



2.3 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 17K Miles, Security Cover, Bedliner, Running Boards, SYNC 3, and Touchscreen, Auto Climate Control, Front Collision Mitigation, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Revers Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Carbonized Gray, U2300



5 Ecoboost EPI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Alumirum Wheels, 31K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Ford Co-Pilot360, Memory Power Driver's Seat, Leather Heated Front Seats, Paroramic Roof, Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Front Collision Mitigation, Reverse Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Conflied! Magnetic Metallic, C23029A

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3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 9 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 79K Miles, Remote Start, Power Driver's Seat, Heated Front Seats, 3rd Row Seating, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Summit White, U22193



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Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Billet Silver Metallic, U22182



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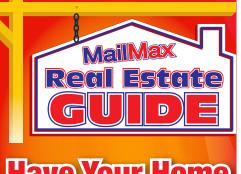












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 - Seared Duck Breast entrée with cherry gastrique
- Feb 11: Valentine's Candlelight Dinner
- Feb 16-19: Arancini appetizer with red pepper coulis
 - Pork Chops entrée with horseradish mash
- Feb 19: Sushi Night - fresh to order prepared by Chef Hooley
- Feb 23-26: Cacio e Pepe appetizer
 - Seared Scallops entrée with chorizo & street corn
- Feb 23: 5-Course Whiskey Dinner... SOLD OUT!
- Feb 26: 1/2 OFF select bottles of wine









4 facts about St. Valentine

Saint Valentine is the patron saint of lovers and engaged and married couples. He also is the name behind the holiday that inspires images of red hearts and rose petals in the middle of February.

Not much is actually known about St. Valentine because records are sparse. However, these facts have emerged.

- St. Valentine could be one of at least three individuals who were martyred. In fact, some believe there were about a dozen St. Valentines.
- Of course St. Valentine is known for presiding over lovers. However, he's also the patron saint of epilepsy, watching over those who experience seizures associated with the disease.
- Visitors to the Basilica of Santa Maria in Rome can find the flower-adorned skull of St. Valentine on display. Other parts of St. Valentine's skeleton are on display in the Czech Republic, England, France, and Ireland.
- Some people think Geoffrey Chaucer may have invented Valentine's Day. In his "Parlement of Foules," he speaks of a tradition of courtly love with the celebration of St. Valentine's Day. This association became more established after Chaucer's poem received widespread attention.



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Accounts vary on Valentine's Day origins

Valentine's Day is a bright light in the middle of the winter. Come February 14, sweethearts celebrate their love and affection for one another on this day devoted to happy

The origin of Valentine's Day has generated much speculation over the years. Most early accounts do not point to heart-shaped boxes filled with chocolates. Rather, a few distinctive tales may paint the picture of early Valentine's Day, and they have nothing to do with stuffed animals or romantic dinners.

Roman festival

One of the earliest records of the term Valentine's Day is traced to the Roman festival of Lupercalia, which was a fertility festival. This annual event held on February 15 included animal sacrifices and priests called the Luperci who would take pieces of animal hide and touch it to the foreheads of women in the hopes it would make them more fertile. Fortunately for the squeamish (and the sacrificial animals), Pope Gelasius I ended Lupercalia and replaced it with St. Valentine's Day by the end of the fifth century.

Two or three St. Valentines?

Most people attribute the origins of Valentine's Day to the holiday's namesake, St. Valentine. But it seems that Valentine was the surname of a few different individuals According to History.com, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus. One Valentine was a priest during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, who decided that single men made better soldiers than those with families or wives. Claudius outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine disagreed with the decree and would perform marriages in secret. Others believe it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop beheaded by Claudius II outside of Rome, who was the true namesake.

Yet another Valentine may have been jailed and fell in love with a jailer's daughter while in prison. He purportedly wrote to her, beginning the first Valentine card or letter tradition. Other stories say the imprisoned Valentine actually was writing to a blind woman he purportedly healed, and signed the note "from your Valentine."

It is hard to know who is who in regard to the name Valentine, as the stories and the people behind them are used interchangeably. Some historians believe they actually are the same person rather than several Valentines, while others insist there were multiple martvred individuals.

However you slice it, the defiant actions of one or more people named "Valentine" set the course for centuries of romance to follow.









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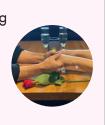
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Arthur Havlicek President, SMR Chamber

Important Amicus Brief Victory

Last September, the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, as part of the Small Business for a Better Michigan coalition, filed an amicus brief with the Michigan Court of Appeals (COA) urging them to reverse a lower court decision that found the 2018 enactment of Michigan's paid sick leave and minimum wage laws unconstitutional. Today, we are pleased to announce the COA upheld our argument and ruled unanimously in our favor.

The decision in question was the Michigan Court of Claims (COC) July ruling on Mothering Justice v Attorney General, which found the Michigan Legislature's 2018 "adopt and amend" strategy to address two ballot initiatives was unconstitutional. This ruling voided the Legislature's amended version of Michigan's paid sick leave and minimum wage laws, 2019, and ordered that the language contained within the original ballot proposals be enacted instead.

Recognizing the significant impact this would have on Michigan's business climate, the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, along with several other business associations in the state, filed an Amicus Brief arguing the Legislature's actions were supported by the plain language of the Michigan Constitution and asked for a reversal of the lower court's decision.

In the 3-0 decision issued Thursday, Jan. 26, the COA unanimously overturned the lower court's ruling, agreeing that, "...the trial court's conclusions are not supported by either [sic] the text or intent of [the constitu-

Now that the lower court's decision was reversed and given immediate effect. Michigan businesses will not be forced to make significant changes to their paid time off (PTO) policies or wage schedules come Feb. 19, 2023.

This effectively means Michigan's minimum wage, which is already indexed to inflation, will not increase further and that Michigan's tipped wage system will remain intact. It also means businesses with fewer

which have been in effect since March 29, than 50 employees will remain exempt from the minimum paid sick leave requirements and that minimum paid sick leave requirements will not be increased, nor extended to contractors as the overturned court decision would have required.

> The Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association estimates roughly 50,000 hospitality jobs were (temporarily) saved because of this COA decision. Imagine the impact on that industry, and the rest of our economy, had our argument not been upheld?

While businesses across the state are understandably breathing a sigh of relief, this fight is not yet over. We fully expect this decision to be appealed to the Supreme Court and will closely monitor the status of that appeal as well as any action by the current Legislature to effectively alter today's decision without first gathering input from the business community.

At the end of the day, input from the business community is truly what we are fighting for. Our chamber actively supports and encourages our region's employers to offer competitive pay and benefits as a means to both retain and recruit talent to our area. We simply believe these decisions should be made by that employer (based on their industry, size, etc.) with limited government interference.

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Now, there will always be those who believe businesses will not offer wage and/or benefit increases unless the government forces them to. To them I say the free market and recent federal data says otherwise:

"Between 2019-21, per capita personal income in Berrien climbed from \$49,735 to \$59,656, a 9.9 percent increase. This was the largest percentage change statewide and puts the county at 10th out of Michigan's 83 counties for per capita personal income - or personal income divided by population. Berrien climbed three places since 2019, overtaking counties like Ottawa, Keweenaw and Kalamazoo for per capita personal income." (Jan. 25, 2023, "Report: Berrien County's average income saw greatest rate increase in state" - The Herald Palladium)

This did not happen because higher compensation floors were foisted upon us from the state level, but because the free market called for it and our region's businesses answered. While there's undoubtedly more work to do, organizations like ours are committed to protecting and strengthening Michigan's business climate so that both employers and employees can prosper.

As you've seen with this Amicus Brief, that's a commitment we intend to keep.



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LEGALS

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HERE BY GIVEN: THE VIL-LAGE OF BARODA PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING is SCHED-ULED FOR Tuesday, February 21st, 2023, at (6:30 P.M.) at Baroda Village Hall, 9091 First Street, Baroda, Michigan 49101.

A request for a Special Land Use for Home Occupation Permit was submitted by Nikki C. Andrews pursuant to the Village of Baroda Zoning Ordinance Article 34-249. Home occupations shall be allowed in principal or accessory uses of single-family dwellings only by Village Council special land use permit. The subject property located at 1643 W. Lemon Creek Rd., Baroda, MI 49101 taking Parcel No. 11-30-0011-0031-13-7 is zoned R-2. The applicant requests a Home Occupation Permit to operate a pet grooming salon.

Citizens wishing to comment on the proposed home occupation permit may do so by attending the meeting and speaking under the public hearing section or by writing a letter of support or objections and mailing it to the Village of Baroda at 9091 First Street, Baroda, MI 49101 or via email at clerk@barodavillage.org.

This meeting is an open meeting. The notice is posted in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, Public Act 267 of 1976 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Individuals requesting accommodations to attend this meeting or with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids should contact the Village Hall by writing or calling the following: Village of Baroda at 9091 First Street, Baroda, MI 49101 or via email at clerk@barodavillage.org or by calling (269)422-1779.

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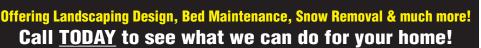


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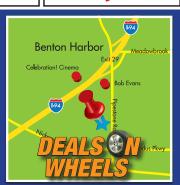
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