





TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION POSTMASTER: Please deliver on May 20, 2023 Printed with soy ink on recycled paper



Moody on The Market



We Honor the 'Best Places to Work' for 2023

Southwest Michigan showed up to nominate over two dozen great local businesses and non-profits in the Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren county region for the chance to be named one of Moody on the Market's Best Places to Work for 2023. The selection committee completed their work, the winners have been notified, and now we're excited to share with you on-air today on WSJM, 98.3 The Coast, and 103.7 COSY-FM all of these deserving winners!

First, thank you to our incredible sponsors that keep the awards series growing each year. They include our Presenting Sponsors the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, Silver Beach Pizza, the Inn at Harbor Shores, and Life Vision Eyecare, with support from United Way of Southwest Michigan, Parrett Company, and Conserva Irrigation of Southwest Michigan.

And, we wouldn't be able to choose these winners without our 2023 independent committee of former Best Places to Work winners. The committee was chaired by Renee Borah of Affinity Salon & Spa (2020 winner), and had the assistance of past winners Jackie Huie of Johnson Rauhoff (2021 winner), Meagan Veldman of Moersch Hospitality (2020 winner), and Susan Matheny of Berrien Community Foundation (2022 winner). We also welcomed the insight of our own Pat Moody to the committee, as Pat is now retired from his work with the Moody on the Market award series.

Zack East, the new Awards Series Director for Moody on the Market, said the winners chosen by the committee represent a diverse range of industries and non-profits, from real estate, to great restaurants, professional services providers, a wedding venue, and more. More than 1,500 workers are represented in the businesses and organizations chosen from this year's nominees, which were taken in April of this year through MoodyontheMarket.com. Fewer risks, more rewards.

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Continued on page 8

Sarah Spoonholtz

Regional Director, SMR Chamber

Well, here we are again, over halfway through the month looking at the end of it which will be here in a blink of an eye. And we're asking ourselves, "what else can we squeeze in before June hits?" That is a fantastic question! Two of the last events the Chamber will be part of happen on Tuesday, May 30th in St. Joseph, and Bridgman/Lake Township respectively.

Final May Happenings

The first one is a special blood drive where the **Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber** and **St. Joseph Today** are partnering with **Versiti Blood Centers of Michigan** for a **Community Blood Drive**. The blood drive happens on **Tuesday the 30th from 1:30 - 6:00 p.m. at Shadowland on Silver Beach**

Continued on page 2

Inserts & Promotions

• ALDI • Dollar General • Family Fare • Harding's Friendly Market • Humane Society of SW Michigan • Martin's Super Markets • Rural King • Save A Lot • SAVE Coupons Inserts may vary by zip code

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Spoonholtz Continued from cover

(333 Broad St. St. Joseph). As we enter the summer months, the need for blood increases dramatically. This is due to multiple reasons, including kids being home from summer, the increase in tourists, additional motor vehicles on the roads, boats in the water... you get the idea! More people means more possibilities for accidents, which means more blood is needed.

To sweeten the deal of donating life-saving blood, Versiti has also partnered with the crew at Silver Beach Pizza, and everyone who donates will receive a special coupon and a \$15 e-gift card for donating. Appointments are strongly encouraged; you can schedule yours by calling 866-642-5663.

Just a few miles down the road at 5:00 p.m. the Greater Bridgman Council for Growth & Advancement (CGA) will be hosting their Annual Meeting at Lake Township Park's Lake Pavilion (10801 Gast Rd. Bridgman). The meeting will be a celebration of accomplishments over the past year and will also share the exciting roadmap the CGA Board has put together for the remainder of 2023 and beyond.

Looking back over the past year, the CGA has made significant strides in advancing the organization's mission. Key achievements in 2022 include researching alternative funding options, attending vital economic development training, gaining a better understanding of available properties in the community, updating the CGA's name and marketing materials to reflect a new focus on economic development, and initiating many community engagement and placemaking initiatives.

More Floors...More Choices

For the balance of 2023, the CGA is committed to further bolstering the economic strength of the Greater Bridgman Area. The organizational goals for the year include establishing the CGA as the go-to economic development resource for the Greater Bridgman Area, strengthening and diversifying the local economy for year-round stability, reinforcing Bridgman as an outstanding place to live, work, and play, and becoming financially resilient through a variety of funding options.

The meeting is open to the public, and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by May 23 at tinyurl.com/CGA23AnnualMeeting or contact me at sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com or 269-932-4040. The CGA looks forward to sharing its work, hearing from the community, and together, shaping a bright and prosperous future for the Greater Bridgman Area.

If you're looking to find something to do sooner or later than the 30th, simply head to our website at smrchamber.com and click on the "Events" tab. From there you'll see a wide variety of events from plays, art competitions and exhibitions, health & wellness classes, sales & specials at local merchants, and so much more that our amazing members are putting on! I promise, there is always something to do here that will fit your interest if you take a few moments to look around.

May is wrapping up strong, and June is poised to start with an equally impressive bang... two things I can say many of us are very happy about!

You can find all the details on these events and more by visiting smrchamber.com or emailing me at sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com. Looking forward to seeing you around Southwest Michigan!



50,314 Weekly Readers!

The views expressed in this publications may not reflect those of the owner or employees.

Photo of the Week



Gorgeous Green Heron Photo by Michael Collins

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.



Monday-Thursday 9:00 - 6:00 Friday 9:00 - 5:00 • Saturday 10:00 - 2:00

(based on

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Ramsey Financial

Dave Says

A Lot of Red Flags Here

I live in Dallas, Texas, and I'm wondering if I should sell my condo in order to pay off debt. I owe \$120,000 on it, and it's worth around \$260,000. Plus, the homeowners association fee used to be \$450 a month and has

gone up \$100 each year for the last two years, so now we're paying \$650. No one has ever told us why the fee went up so much. There haven't been any major improvements to the complex in the last five years, so I don't know what to think. Can you give me some advice? Daniella

Dear Daniella,

As a homeowner, I'd want some answers by the end of day as to why the HOA fees are so high. I mean, for a \$260,000 condo, the fee you mentioned is ridiculous unless the building owners are doing a major renovation, like replacing the parking lot or updating the community's clubhouse. Even then, it's crazy! On top of all that, it devalues your condo. Nobody wants to buy a \$260,000 condo with a \$650 HOA fee every month, especially when the fee has gone up that much for no apparent reason.

There's always the possibility the company is building up a war chest for improvements in the next year or so. But you have a right to know exactly where the money you pay in HOA fees is going. Ask to see a copy of their financials, and if they won't do that-or explain why the fee is so high and where the money's going-you need to sell the place because it's being poorly managed.

You've got to get an explanation. You're owed one. And, if you try to sell the place, you're going to have to tell prospective buyers why the HOA fee is so high. Maybe there's a good reason for it buried somewhere. But without knowing more, as a buyer, there's no way I'd take this thing off your hands.

There are a lot of red flags fluttering around the situation, Daniella. Even in a place like Dallas, this HOA fee is about double what it should be for a \$260,000 condo. I'm not say-

www.MailMaxOnline.com ing this just because I don't like HOAs, which I don't. And that's mainly because I don't like paying money for something, and then being told by someone else what I can or can't do with it. But you need some answers for your own information, peace of mind and to give potential buyers an honest answer when they ask why the fees are insanely high. Lose the headache. Sell it.

Dave

Description automatically generated * Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show." He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," the "Today" show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth, and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO of Ramsey Solutions.



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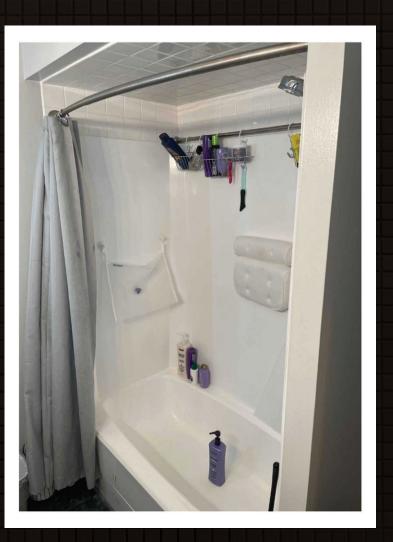
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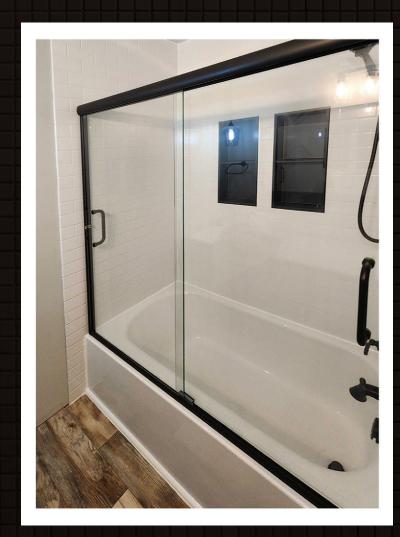


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Miguel has been serving his community since he was 18 years old, and the other day was no different when we caught him volunteering at a mobile food pantry! He dedicates so much of his time to the community. You can find Miguel planning a Juneteenth celebration

or at the Boys & Girls Club. He can be found helping with Coming Home Coming Together and Sisters From Another Mother, or picking up trash during city cleanups.

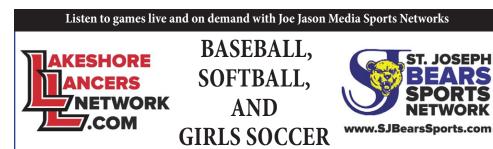
Thanks for being **AWESOME!**





Do you know someone doing good in Berrien County? Help us recognize them! Nominate them for our Gotcha Doin' Good feature to celebrate acts of kindness in our community! Scan the QR code or visit

www.berriencommunity.org/GotchaDoinGood







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EQUAL OPPORTUNIT PROVIDER

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A Column Brought by the Stork!

Saturday, May 20, is World Whisky Day. Except in Ireland and the U.S.A., where it's World Whiskey Day. Yes, one has an "e" and one doesn't, and the reason is really very simple: One thing can quite correctly be spelled two different ways, for example, "toilet" and "loo."

Anyway, this column isn't about consuming whiskey. It's about a place where drams of whiskey were once consumed in significant quantities, even when it was illegal! I recently read about it in a book exploring the decade-plus period of alcohol prohibition in the U.S. (It's by Daniel Okrent, and I found it a good read, as well as an excellent coaster for what my dad used to call his drams of "un-cola.")

The place was the Stork Club, in New York city. It was opened by Sherman Billingsley, a former bootlegger, in 1929, during Prohibition. Before Prohibition was repealed, it survived multiple "closures" by simply relocating to new digs. It stayed in business until 1965.

It was long considered the "most celebrated nightspot in the world," because it was frequented by so many celebrities, socialites, athletes, politicians, and myriad other people famous for being well-known.

Here are some Stork Club anecdotes to tell your friends on World Whiskey Day (but a word of advice! -- don't have so many drams that you start repeating anecdotes!).

• Just how famous were the famous people who visited the club? Hang on, younger readers, it's "Stars From Days Gone By" time!: Lucille Ball, Charlie Chaplin, Bing Crosby, Judy Garland, Ernest Hemingway, Grace Kelly, Marilyn Monroe, Frank Sinatra, and Elizabeth Taylor, just for starters.

• The also super-famous, legendary Hope Diamond deserves mention here. It was owned for more than 30 years by an heiress named Evalyn Walsh McLean. She often wore the thing when she was out and about heiressing people. One evening, she lost it -- under a table at the Stork Club.

• Billingsley had a long relationship with singer and actress Ethel Merman. Ethel had several waiters "assigned" to her; one guy's only job was to light her cigarettes.

• This anecdote features a "Star You've Heard Of" and a guy from the, um, other segment. Comedian and actor Jack Benny once invited his pal Goodman Ace, an actor and writer



himself, to lunch at the Stork. Ace arrived at the club first. Unfortunately, nobody on the staff knew he was a luminary, and he couldn't get a table. When Benny arrived and asked for Ace, he was told that Ace had left.

Well, somebody apparently fussed about this, because Ace began to get mail from the Stork; and being a good sport, he would write back. Once the Stork suggested he come back to experience the club's "wonderful air conditioning." Ace replied that he was "well aware of the climate, having received quite the cold shoulder."

Billingsley kept trying to make amends. He sent Ace some Stork Club bow ties. Ace thanked him, and requested some matching socks, "so I might be in style when I am turned away again."

Boring end to the saga: Ace and his wife eventually became happy regulars at the Stork. Especially after that night when they found the Hope Diamond under their table.

TakeFiveT5@yahoo.com

"It's been through the addition of MAPLE that we have been able to get the kids to talk."



To learn more about Paws With A Cause and to find out how you help, just download this app and watch the story come to life!



Provided as a community service by this civic minded publication in conjunction with the Association of Community Publishers and Community Papers of Michigan

Veterans Day at The Buck Thursday, May 25th 20% of sales for the day support Trolling with the Troops

THURSDAY MAY 25th ALL DAY All You Can Eat Fish Fry - ^{\$}20

Hosted by the Southwest Michigan Steelheaders, Trolling with the Troops provides an opportunity for veterans to renew a sense of camaraderie through a day of fishing with fellow veterans on local charter boats. This year's fishing excursion is June 24th. This at no cost to the veterans.



412 State Street | Saint Joseph, Michigan | Open Thursday-Sunday



Southwest Michigan Steelheaders to host annual Trolling with the Troops June 23rd and 24th, 2023

Each year, the **Southwest Michigan Steelheaders** assembles local charter boat Captains and local veterans for a day of fishing and camaraderie on Lake Michigan. The annual event is called **Trolling with the Troops**. The two-day event is kicked off with a special Veteran's Dinner on June 23rd. It's a fun night filled with prizes, hats, t-shirts, good food and fun. On the 24th they launch in the St. Joseph River and make their way out to Lake Michigan. Each boat is filled with snacks and smiles.

Calling All Captains. Although all the veteran positions are full for this year, the group is still looking for Captains to sign up, which can be done online at www.trollingwiththetroops.com.

Your help. If you're not a charter boat Captain but you love to show support for our veterans, there are a couple ways you can help. The Buck is holding a Give-Back Day this





Thursday, May 26th and donating 20% of the day's sales to the cause.

"This is such an amazing event for local veterans," **Ken Kozminski**, owner of The Buck explained. "This Thursday, we'll have an allyou-can-eat fish fry for only \$20, however we are donating 20% of the entire day's sales, not just the fish fry!"

If would like to donate money or items for the event, please email the Trolling with the Troops Board at twttswmi@gmail.com.

Many people line the piers each year and cheer on our heros as they return from the excursion.

The Southwest Michigan Steelheaders group is this area's chapter of the Michigan Steelheaders & Salmon Fisherman's Association. The association's purpose is to protect and promote the sportfishery of the Great Lakes, tributaries and inland waters.







stjoetoday.com/farmersmarket

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Lake Bluff Park





Breakfast: Monday - Sunday | 7am - 11am Dinner: Wednesday - Thursday | 4pm - 9pm, Friday - Saturday | 4pm - 10pm & Sunday | 4pm - 9pm

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Oxford White, Cloth Seats, 7.3 V8 Engine, Snow Plow Prep Package, Black Aluminum Wheels, LED Box Lighting, Reverse Sensing System, 360 Degree Camera Package, Running Boards, Locking Rear Axle, and Much More! F23109

MSRP......\$56,475 SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....<u>- 480</u>

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2023 FORD E450 14 FOOT BOX TRUCK

Oxford White, Cloth Seats, 7.3 Gas Engine, Cruise Control, Utilimaster 14 Foot Box, and Much More! F23007 MSRP......\$39,470 ADD FOR UTILIMASTER BODY.....<u>+17,630</u> SUBTOTAL.....\$57,100 SIEMANS DISCOUNT....<u>-1,105</u> **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$55,995** 2023 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER EXCLUSIVE CASH* -_____500

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FORD TO FORD TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH** - 2,500 **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$51,495** 2023 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500 **OS LOW AS \$50,9005** PLUS 0.0% FOR 36 MONTHS, 2.9% FOR 48 MONTHS, or 3.9% FOR 60 MONTHS (WITH APPROVED CREDIT) (*MUST QUALIFYING FORD MOTOR CREDIT) (**MUST TRADE-IN QUALIFYING FORD VEHICLE)

Carbonized Gray Metallic, 2.7 V6 Ecoboost Engine, Sport

Appearance Group, Trailer Brake Controller, Locking Rear

Axle, Remote Start, SYNC 4, and Much More! F23080

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SIEMANS DISCOUNT 2,100



2022 FORD F250 SUPERCAS SERVICE DODY Oxford White, Locking Rear Axle, Power Windows and Locks,

Trailer Brake Controller, Rear Axie, Power Windows and Locks Trailer Brake Controller, Rear Camera, Knapheide Service Body, and Much More! F22229

MSRP	\$46,420
ADD FOR SERVICE BODY	<u>+12,295</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$58,715
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	56,995
2023 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER EXCLUSIVE	
AS LOW AS STO	3.495
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2022 FORD F-850 43X4 FLATBED

Oxford White, 6.2 V8 Engine, 3.73 Locking Rear Axle, Upfitter Switches, Trailer Brake Controller, Power Windows and Locks, Running Boards, Back-Up Camera, Knapheide Flatbed, and Much More! F22312

MSRP	.\$49,345
ADD FOR KNAPHEIDE FLATBED	. <u>+ 6,145</u>
SUBTOTAL	.\$55,490
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$	54,495
2023 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER EXCLUSIVE CAS	
AS LOW AS \$55, (*MUST QUALIFY)	,995



2023 FORD F-650 24 FOOT BOX TRUCK Oxford White, 6.7 Power Stroke DIESEL, Remote Keyless En-

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Power Seat, Touchscreen Radio, Power Adjustable Pedals, Rear Power Sliding Windows, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, Navigation, Remote Start, 20 Inch Aluminum Chrome Clad Wheels, and Much More! C22230

MSRP\$57,305 SIEMANS DISCOUNT..... .- 3,010 2022 CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH* - 1,000 BONUS CASH.....<u>- 2,000</u>

SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$51,295 STELLANTIS LEASE LOYALTY BONUS CASH* - 2,000 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500

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PLUS 1.9% FOR 36 MONTHS, 2.9% FOR 48 MONTHS, or 3.9% FOR 60 MONTHS (WITH APPROVED CREDIT) (*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)



2022 RAM(4) **12 FOOT BOX TRUCK**

Bright White, 6.4 V8 Engine, Black Tubular Side Steps, Back-Up Camera, Trailer Brake Controller. Power Windows and Locks, Baybridge 12 Foot Box, and Much More! C22268

MSRP	\$54,095
ADD FOR BAYBRIDGE BOX	<u>+13,408</u>
SUBTOTAL	\$67,503
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	508
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYO	NE \$66,995
2022 ON-THE-JOB SNOW PLOW UF	

MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500





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MONTHS, or 3.9% FOR 60 MONTHS (WITH APPROVED CREDIT) (*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)



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4X4 PLOW-TRUCK
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ry, 6.7 Cummins DIESEL Engine, Touchscreen Radio, Elec-
Shift-On-The-Fly Transfer Case, Western 8.5 MVP3 V-Plow

Bright White, Snow Chief Group, Chrome	e Appearance Group
Trailer Brake Controller, Power Window	s and Locks, Keyless
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and Much More! C222	224
MSRP	\$65,660
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SIEMANS DISCOUNT	6,067
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BONUS CASH	1,000
SELL-DOWN BONUS CASH**	1,000
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2022 ON-THE-JOB SNOW PLOW UPFIT***	- 1,000

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Diamond Black Crystal, 6.4 V8 Engine, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, Electric Shift-On-The-Fly Transfer Case, Chrome Appearance Group, Rear Power Sliding Window, atallita Radio and Much Morel

Salellile Radio, and Much More! CZZZZ	20
MSRP\$5	6,290
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	
GREAT LAKES BC BONUS CASH	1,000
BONUS CASH	
SELL-DOWN BONUS CASH**	
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$50),495
MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH*	- 500
AS LOW AS \$49,9	95
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er, 5.7 HEMI V8 Engine, Heated Front and Rear Seats,

Heated Steering Wheel, Parksense Front and Rear Park Assist, Power Adjustable Pedals, Remote Start,

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.....\$74,150





2022 RAM 2500 TRADESMAN

CREW CAB 4X4

Granite Crystal, 6.7 Cummins DIESEL Engine, Trailer Brake

Controller, Power Trailer Tow Mirrors, Electronic Shift-On-The-

Fly Transfer Case, Chrome Appearance Package, Rear Power

Sliding Window, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, Auxiliary Switches,

...- 1.000

1,000

2022 RAM 2500 POWER WAGON CREW CAB 4X4

Bright White, Leather Seats, Power Sunroof, Heated Front and Rear Seats, Navigation, Heated Steering Wheel, LED Bed Lighting, 17 Speaker Harman Kardon Premium Sound, Remote Tailgate Release, and Much More! C22256

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BONUS CASH	1,000

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MSRP..

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Joe, member

since 2017



Water resources to help **City of Benton Harbor residents.**

Learn what they are and how to access them.

The State of Michigan, City of Benton Harbor and partners are working to help keep you and your family healthy. To support residents, free, easy-to-access resources are being offered, including:

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Free home lead inspections. 2.

Lead inspections can find and help reduce lead exposure at home.

Sign up for an inspection at Michigan.gov/MILeadSafe.





Perishable Things

It was not with perishable things ... that you were redeemed. 1 Peter 1:18

In the corner of a museum in Springfield, Illinois, there is a special room where people enter quietly. In that room is a clear glass case. The case has special lighting. The interior of the case keeps a specific temperature and level of humidity. All of this technology is necessary because of what the case contains. Inside that case is Abraham Lincoln's stovepipe hat.

As you view this hat, there are two features that may jump out at you. One is that, on the hat's brim, you can see wear marks from the first two fingers of Mr. Lincoln's right hand from all the times he tipped his hat in greeting or held it steady in a stiff wind.

The second feature is more sobering. It is the simple fact that the hat looks old. For all the efforts to preserve the hat's condition, the passage of time has still made its impact. With age has come deterioration. As time goes on, the deterioration will continue.

Deterioration does not just strike famous hats of former presidents, of course. Everything in this sinful, fallen world deteriorates. Everything wears out. Everything is perishable.

And so when God chose to buy us back from the curse of our sin, the payment price could not be something perishable. It could not be something of fleeting, temporary value. That's why God sent his Son.



269-466-0123

As a result, God's forgiveness of your sins will not deteriorate. The peace you possess in Christ will not expire. The Lord's promises to you will never perish. Not because of a museum's preservation technology but because of the perfect life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, because of Jesus, your promises to me will never perish. In troubled times, comfort me with this truth. 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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3rd Annual Berrien Springs Pickle Festival Set For July 4th

Berrien Springs, MI – The Village of Berrien Springs, the Berrien County Historical Association (BCHA), and the Berrien Springs Community Library invite you to join them for the 3rd Annual Pickle Festival on Tuesday, July 4th and its auxiliary events in June.

The three weeks of Pickle Festival activities kicks off the weekend of June 17th with the Pickle Fest Preview Weekend beginning with the crowing of the 2023 Pickle Festival Royalty. The coronation ceremony will be held at The History Center at Courthouse Square on Saturday, June 17 at 6:00 p.m. where a new Miss, Princess, and Prince will be crowned. Pageant registration opens May 1st and will be available on the Berrien County Historical Association's website berrienhistory.org. For more information about the pageant, including contestant requirements, please email Rhiannon Cizon at rcizon@berrienhistory.org.

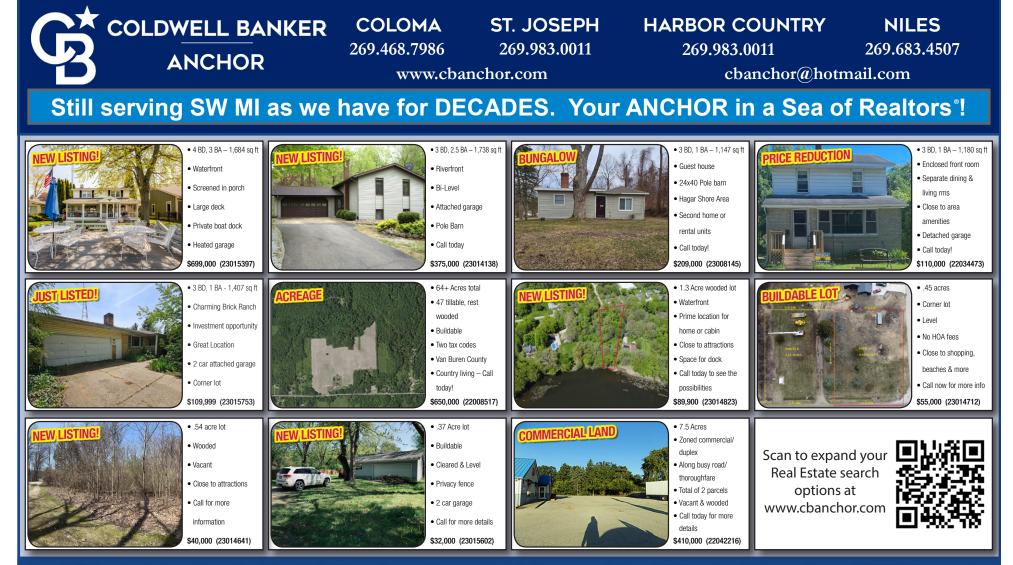
On Sunday, June 18, runners, walkers, and joggers will enjoy the beauty of the Andrews University campus as they head to the finish line for the return of the In a Pickle 5K Run and Walk. Early bird registration is now open at runsignup.com. All registrations receive a t-shirt and a finisher's medal. Questions regarding the 5K should be directed to Kelly Ewalt at the Berrien Springs Village Hall. Early bird pricing ends on May 13th and pre-registration ends on June 16th. Day of registration will be available. Registration can be found directly at: www.runsignup.com/Race/MI/BerrienSprings/InaPickle5K.

Leading up to the 3rd Annual Festival will be the wildly popular Pickle Fest Scavenger Hunt June 26 – July 1st. All week, pickle fans are invited to visit participating businesses to search for a series of hidden pickle logos. Participants can pick up their scavenger hunt sheet at the Berrien Springs Village Hall, the History Center at Courthouse Square, and the Berrien Springs Community Library starting June 20th. Completed forms must be returned to any of those three locations by 4:00 p.m. Saturday, July 1st. All completed and correct forms will be entered to win a special Pickle Festival prize and will be announced during the Pickle Festival.

The 3rd Annual Pickle Festival will once again be held at the History Center at Courthouse Square and the Berrien Springs Community Library in Berrien Springs on July 4th beginning at 11:00 a.m. This year's event will see the return of Vendor Alley, the Pickle Fling, the Big Wheel races, old fashioned pickle games, the pickle decorating contest, and the Pickled Piper Tasting Room. New this year will be a sweet relish eating contest and a dunk tank with proceeds going to Backpacks 4 Berrien. The schedule of events and further details will be made available the beginning of June.

The Pickle Festival committee continues to look for sponsors and vendors for the event. Crafts, food (especially pickles!), and artisan vendors are all welcome to apply. Interested parties should reach out to Kelly Ewalt at the Village of Berrien Springs.

For additional details, including an updated schedule of events visit the Berrien Springs Pickle Festival's Facebook page (@ BerrienSpringsPickleFestival) and the BCHA website (berrienhistory.org).



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The Pet Corner

With spring in full bloom (finally!), it's time to keep a watchful eye out for the many wild babies that may be starting to venture out into the world. From bunnies in the yard, fledglings leaving the nest, to fawns following their moms out of the woods, wild babies will soon begin to make their appearance. Before mowing, maybe take a quick look around your yard to make sure no mama rabbit has decided to raise her young there. If you travel a wooded area where deer are known to cross, slow down and scan the roadside for them, especially early morning and evening when they are most likely to be about. I've learned that where deer are concerned, where you see one you are apt to see more. It is always sad to see a young life cut short when a bit of caution could have given them a chance. Also, it's best to leave young wild animals alone, unless you know for certain the mother has died. Fawns are often left alone in hiding while the mother feeds, and disturbing them can have dire consequences. What should you do if you are certain the mother isn't coming back? The humanesociety.org website has a lot of information on how to handle the situation for different animals and is worth checking out.

How often have you seen on social media a photo of a dog or cat with the caption "Have You Seen Me?" Pets can go missing for a wide variety of reasons, sometimes not of our own making. It's a well-known truth that some cats

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and dogs just like to wander and will do so any chance they are given. The best way to keep that from happening is not to let them start in the first place. Sooner or later, allowing a pet to wander freely without supervision will not end well for them. Besides the danger of getting hit by cars and contracting disease, there are predators that are only happy to bring your smaller pet home for a tasty dinner for their families. Cats are especially at risk and can get caught in live traps set to remove wildlife. And course, pets can become predators themselves. Nobody likes to see a cat stalking birds at a feeder.

I heard a comment recently about dogs not staying in their yards but running out to investigate people who are walking nearby. The problem is you don't know how a dog will react. Will someone be bitten? If the walker has a dog, will a fight ensue? Common courtesy, not to mention most municipal ordinances, require dog owners to have their dogs under control at all times when outside their home, whether by leash, a fence, or your strict attention. Be kind to your neighbors by not allowing your dog to interfere with their walk.

Here are some upcoming events to watch for. Animal Aid will hold a Summer Bash at Babe's Lounge and Restaurant in Benton Harbor, on Saturday, June 10, 6pm-12. Cover charge is \$10 with 100% of that going to Animal Aid. Check their Facebook page for more information. The Humane Society of Southwest

Michigan is having a Black dog Adoption Event from now until June 1. Any black dog may be adopted for \$30, with an added \$25 charge if not yet spayed or neutered. Black dogs make great pets the same as any other color, so not sure why there is hesitancy to adopt one. Check out the website at humanesocietyswm.org and call the shelter 927-3303 to set up a meet and areet.



Proof of Veteran Status and Residency will be Requested. **TO REGISTER:**

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