

Customer

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Moody on The Market

Pat Moody

Storage Lot, No Development Planned at old Holiday Inn Site

Don't look for any significant development on the old Holiday Inn/Holidome site at Exit 28 for at least several years.

Social media has been speculating recently about activity on the site and what might be planned there—with all the 'usual suspects' suggested by those with no accurate information to offer.

Here's the real story from MoodyOnTheMarket.com:

The site has been sold to Kalin Construction of Sodus, a long established and successful road construction contractor. Kalin confirms the purchase and tells us that they will use the property to store road building materials and equipment for at least the next three years of major I-94 reconstruction. The site is approximately in the center of the stretch of I-94 that will be rebuilt between now and 2027.

Those who've been around 30+ years will remember one of the region's largest and most successful hotels on the Exit 28/Southwest Corner site. The Benton Harbor Holiday Inn, later the Holidome, was a mecca for large events, weddings, meetings and celebrations. Before the downtown Boulevard Hotel came on the scene in 1988, the Holiday Inn was often the top choice for the accommodation of visiting dignitaries, politicians and celebrities who visited the Twin Cities. One of the best restaurants in the area was housed at the BH Holiday Inn in the 70s and 80s.

It all changed quickly in the 90s. The hotel lost its Holiday Inn franchise and soon fell into disrepair. After becoming an eyesore and an issue for law enforcement, it was finally bulldozed, and the site has been vacant now for years.

Several years ago, the property was sold to a Kalamazoo auto dealership group. However, their expansion plans never materialized after the Great Recession ended about

Continued on page 6





Sarah **Spoonholtz**

Regional Director, SMR Chamber

Kiteboard 4 Cancer!

If you happen to be by the Lake at any given point this month, you've likely spotted a wide variety of people braving the waves and didn't realize it's all for an amazing cause. All October long Project Koru's Kiteboard 4 Cancer seeks to unite the community in their fight against cancer and raise funds for their survivors' camp.

This unique event can be best described as part water sport festival, part chaos, and all fun. Its core mission is to harness the power of nature's elements and the strength of community to make a positive impact on the lives of those affected by cancer.

Kiteboard 4 Cancer invites everyone to join the festivities, not just kiteboarders, but

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Spoonholtz Continued from cover

those who want to join the fight against cancer during their closing ceremony on October 28th. Attendees can enjoy delicious food refreshing drinks, live music, intimate connect tion, and a fun night of doing good.

The main event of Kiteboard 4 Cancer is a month-long endurance competition, open to kiteboarders, kitefoilers, and wingfoilers alike. Participants will track their miles using their watches or smartphones. This challenge is designed to emulate the daily battles faced by cancer warriors, pushing riders both physically and mentally to ride as many miles as they can.

But Kiteboard 4 Cancer is more than just a thrilling competition; it's also a fundraising challenge.

Fundraisers race against each other to raise funds that go towards helping young adult cancer survivors.

To secure a spot on the podium, competitors were required to raise a minimum of \$250. All funds raised during Kiteboard 4 Cancer will benefit Project Koru, an organization dedicated to helping young adult cancer survivors find healing and renewal beyond their diagnosis.

This was the first year Kiteboard 4 Cancer held an event in Michigan, traditionally it's held in Oregon, but the group decided to add an additional month-long challenge to Southwest Michigan to take advantage of Lake Michigan's ideal conditions. Locally speaking, one of the people behind the challenge is kiteboard guru Tyler Spencer who owns Stoke Riders inside the Box Factory for the Arts. Tyler has been able to harness the waves to launch and grow Stoke Riders include wingboards and e-foils for purchase, water apparel, and lessons for anyone wanting to tap into their adventurous spirit.

If you're not familiar with Kiteboarding, you're likely asking yourself "what is Sarah

DIY in one day to

talking about?" So what is kiteboarding? Simply put, it's a water sport where one uses the power of a large kite, combined with the surface of a board (similar to a surfboard or wakeboard) to glide across the water under pure wind power. Kiteboard 4 Cancer's home location in Oregon on the Columbia Gorge and Hood River just happens to be the birthplace of kiteboarding and a major destination for kiteboarding lessons, travel, and adventures because it is windy from mid-May through mid-September. All. the. time!

Since their launch, Kiteboard 4 Cancer has achieved the following:

Raised over \$1.5 million for cancer programs; Sent over 700 young survivors through Camp Koru young survivorship program; Became North America's largest kiteboarding event.

Launched a new spirit of community and inspiration amongst kiteboarders; Became an entry event for many new kiteboarders to learn and progress in the sport; Inspired collaboration with respected cancer centers such as Stanford Cancer Center, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern, and The Ulman Cancer Fund.

Learn more at www.kb4c.org.

Project Koru is a non-profit organization committed to helping young adult cancer survivors rediscover life after diagnosis. By providing opportunities for personal growth, healing, and the rejuvenation of spirit through outdoor adventures, Project Koru makes a difference in the lives of those impacted by cancer. Learn more at www.projectkoru.org

To get more information on these events, or to learn how the Chamber can help your business and Southwest Michigan grow, visit our website at smrchamber.com or connect with me directly: sspoonholtz@smrchamber. com or 269-932-4040.

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Photo of the Week



Slice of Harvest Moon Photo by Karen W.

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.



Dress up, drive through YMCA Camp Eberhart and trick-or-treat from the safety and convenience of your own car!

If you're interested in hosting a trunk please email campeberhart@ymcaqm.org



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Af Southwestern Michigan Home of The Yeager Family Pet Shelter To put in an application for the pet of the month and others, please visit the Humane Society of Southwestern Michigan 5400 S. Niles Rd. St. Joseph, MI 49085 269-927-3303 | humanesocietyswm.org



The Pet Corner

Most of us who like to celebrate Autumn and Halloween have already put out our favorite decorations, fall flowers, pumpkins, scarecrows, a few black cats, and maybe even a skeleton or two. Something else we need to do ahead of time is to plan how to keep our pets safe when Halloween does roll around, and that is only a little over a week away.

Warm up with several new

mfort food favorites

If you've had pets for a long time, you already know the routine, but perhaps if you're a new pet owner, or have just added a new pet to the household, you might want to have a checklist of what to do to protect them. The American Veterinary Medical Association offers the following tips.

Before the big day make sure all pets have I.D. tags and/or are microchipped for easy identification, if by chance they would escape while the door is opening and closing that night. Check costumes, especially if your pet will dress up for the occasion. Make certain no parts can be chewed off and cause choking. Pet costumes should allow for free movement and for the pet to be able to eliminate if necessary. Make sure decorations are pet safe or kept out of reach. Lit candles and jack-o-lanterns can pose a serious danger if knocked over, so best to also put them out of reach. Very important is to keep all candy away from pets. Chocolate, xylitol (found in sugarless candy and gum), and raisins are all toxic to pets. Plan where you will keep candy ahead of the day and where you'll hand it out that night. I have a cat who likes candy and will happily help himself to it if I leave it out in a candy dish. So no candy dishes are allowed on the table here.

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On the big night, if your dog is accompanying the kids on their trick or treat excursion, make sure to have him/her on a leash and that they can control him. In the case of cats, or dogs that are easily excited, it may be best to put them in a safe room while handing out treats, maybe with music or the TV on to drown out noise and a pet treat of their own to occupy them. When someone is at the door, our pets love to see who has come to visit, so I've opted to hand out treats from our garage while they are safe in the house. Above all, keep pets inside on Halloween unless they are with you. No one wants their pet to become the victim of someone's cruel prank. Put outside animals in a safe enclosure. Planning for Halloween takes a little forethought, but it pays to keep our pets from harm's way.

The Berrien County Animal shelter is sponsoring a Trunk or Treat Spooktacular on Saturday, October 28th, 9:30-noon. Come out to 1400 S. Euclid Ave., Benton Harbor, and bring your kids in costume, but please leave pets at home. Donations of pet food and supplies are thankfully accepted. The staff will supply the fun and treats, and shelter pets will be available for adoption that day. Have safe and Happy Halloween!

but you can't take the Jersey out of the girl!

Allowed on the table here. Have safe and Happy Allowed on the table here. Have safe and Happy She is from New Jersey...... Smart, charming, sincere. She loves her blond hi-lites and great haircut. You can take the girl out of the Jersey......

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Moody Continued from cover

ten years ago. For now, the once bustling site will be the home of parked construction vehicles and bulk materials storage.

United Federal Credit Union Expanding to Battle Creek

Battle Creek will be the home of a new full service branch of St. Joseph based United Federal Credit Union.

UFCU Commercial Lending Manager Tim Dyer tells us the move comes after the credit union developed multiple partnerships in Battle Creek. It has been the senior lender for some development projects in Battle Creek with about \$25 million in commercial loans.

"The relationship has grown enough that we thought it was time to put a full-service branch to better serve not only members we have in the community, but also existing members and potential future members in the community," Dyer said.

Dyer says this will be a significant development for United Federal Credit Union.

"It is going to be on our branches farthest east in the state of Michigan. Any time we expand, it's always a fairly big deal to us. But the idea is just to better serve the membership and be able to offer those products and services to a wider range of individuals and businesses."

United Federal Credit Union will open its first full-service branch in Battle Creek early next year. The location will be in The Milton, which is in Battle Creek's downtown business district. The branch will be 2,900 square feet and have seven full-time staff members.

Dyer says this will affect local customers in that they will have a full service location to visit when they're in Battle Creek. www.MailMaxOnline.com United Federal consists of more than 186,000 Member/owners worldwide and manages assets in excess of \$3.8 billion. Its corporate office is on Hilltop Road and main branch is on State Street in St. Joseph, with additional branches in Arkansas, Indiana, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, and Ohio. For more information visit <u>UnitedFCU.com</u>

South Haven Speaker Series Examines Michigan Cannabis Industry

The cannabis industry in Michigan is four years old and evolving.

The South Haven Speakers Series for its final 2023 event will offer a presentation on its positive and negative implications for communities, including the impact in Southwest Michigan, on Thursday, October 26.

Jennifer Rigterink, the point person on the cannabis issue for the Michigan Municipal League, will explore the economic impact and status of the cannabis industry with the topic, "Cannabis...the Good, the Bad and the Ugly".

The program will be presented at the South Haven campus of Lake Michigan College, 125 Veterans Blvd., beginning at 7 p.m. Complimentary light refreshments will be served beginning half-an-hour before the program begins. Admission is \$10 per person. Students are admitted free.

The Michigan Municipal League advocates for cities, towns, and villages. In her role as Assistant Director of State and Federal Affairs, Rigterink has worked with many communities as they process what to do in their own municipalities. She does not advocate any position on the issue.

Michigan electors voted in 2018 to legalize the recreational use of marijuana by a 56% vote. State-licensed sales of recreational can-



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nabis began in December 2019. It is estimated that monthly sales of marijuana in Michigan is approximately \$60 million, according to the Michigan Cannabis Regulatory Agency. In Van Buren County, six municipalities, including South Haven Township, allow the sale of recreational marijuana.

Rigterink will draw on her experience to explain the history of the cannabis industry, what the law says, what communities are experiencing, the revenue formulas and the current state of the industry, especially as it relates to large and small distributors and growers. She will also provide an update on cannabis related legislation that is currently being considered by the Michigan Legislature.

Rigterink joined the Michigan Municipal League in 2016. She advocates on behalf of communities with a concentration on municipal services, economic development and land use issues. Prior to joining the League, she directed technical assistance for Community Development at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), including the Redevelopment Ready Communities® and Michigan Main Street programs. She also managed the Genesee Institute, now the Center for Community Progress, where she focused on building awareness of Michigan's land bank authority model and vacant property initiatives. She has a bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning from Michigan State University.

In addition, Rigterink was appointed by Governor Whitmer to the Michigan State Housing Authority Statewide Housing Partnership to develop a strategy to implement the state's first-ever Statewide Housing Plan. She also represents the League on MEDC's Technical Assistance Advisory Council and sits on the executive committee of the Housing Michigan Coalition.

Now in its ninth year, the South Haven Speakers Series is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Approximately three-quarters of the Series budget comes from community donors. Further information can be found at the Series website - southhavenspeakersseries.org

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





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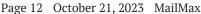








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Don **Stuart**

Humorist

All Aboard That's Coming Aboard!

My wife and I received a gift a few years ago of a small globe of planet Earth, made of a corklike material. It came with a small baggie of pins – the idea is to stick a pin into every country you visit. We agreed from the start that we would only stab countries that we've been to together.

This is all prelude to today's topic, which is that we, by golly, just took an overseas trip, adding a bunch of pins to our globe!

We'd been noodling a trip to Peru, dreaming of visiting Machu Picchu; or maybe taking some sort of jaunt along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. These sounded to me like nice end-of-summer/early-fall sojourns. So, naturally, the final choice became ... a cruise around the Baltic Sea. Meaning waaaaay more northerly and waaaaay chillier locales than Peru or the Mediterranean meaning Latvia, Estonia, Finland and Sweden. And this while my wife's sister and her husband were on a cruise at the same time through the sunny and warm Greek Isles.

But as luck would have it, we wound up experiencing pretty mild weather overall mind you, nobody was wearing Speedos around the ship's pools or hot tubs. (Well, except for me: I had a thong on. But it was under my trunks.)

www.MailMaxOnline.com Let me take a detour here and reflect on the following: I wish I knew better how to address the possible "elephant in the room" (and I'm not talking about Denmark's Order of the Elephant, said to be the highest honor that nation can bestow). To wit, isn't cruising just kind of, you know, pretty bad? This is a super-important question in general, and I'm especially anxious about it, as a contributor to lots of organizations seeking to protect the environment, i.e., The Nature Conservancy, the World Wildlife Fund, and such-like. Well, all I can tell you is we cruised on Holland America's newest ship, the Rotterdam, and it's quite state-of-the-art in terms of fuel efficiency, solid and liquid waste management, emission controls, etc. Maybe that's not enough to rationalize. We dropped a fair amount of coin [earned and saved over the years for the purpose of traveling], which I tell myself means income for the staff aboard, businesses and restaurants and museums and attractions and even churches in the ports, those who build and maintain the ships, the agribusinesses that provide the ship's food, the tour guides, and so on and so forth. Maybe that's not enough to rationalize. It might not be on point in regard to our journey, but around the world, there are communities that depend economically on tourism, as well as communities and governments that are incentivized NOT to develop, with assurances that they will still gain significant economic benefits from tourism...and you need tourists for tourism. Maybe that's not enough to rationalize.

In the end, I can only hope that you'll accept this crucial rationalization: This cruise has given me an elephant-sized wealth of topics to write farcically amusing columns about! (If in the end, you're not farcically amused, I'll get Farrell and Head to publish a picture of me - or an elephant - in my thong. In either case, worn over trunks.)

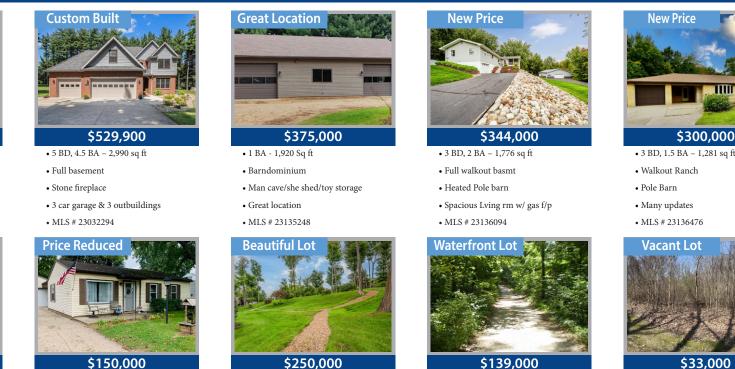
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Edgewater Automation

A couple of engineers from Edgewater Automation put together an all-day poker run fundraiser to benefit five robotics teams from area high schools! At the end of the event, thousands of dollars were raised! The masterminds behind the fundraiser were: Dan Miller, Jamen Blake, Rich Cole, Gina Textor and Seth Vander Ark.

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! Email kellygampel@berriencommunity.org or visit www.berriencommunity.org/GotchaDoinGood



Dave **Ramsey**

Financial Expert The Ramsey Show

Dave Says When You Nickel and Dime Things, Nothing Gets Done Well

Dear Dave,

I'm currently on Baby Step 2, and I have about \$7,000 in debt to pay off before I can move to bulking up my emergency fund in Baby Step 3. When you're paying off debt, what do you recommend for 401(k) contributions?

Rae

Dear Rae,

I recommend putting a temporary stop to investing while you're getting out of debt. Lots of people are shocked by this advice, and some disagree with it, because they're afraid of missing out on their employer's match or the wonders of compound interest. But before we go any further, let me emphasize one thing. The key word here is temporary.

Baby Step 1 is to save \$1,000 as a starter emergency fund. Baby Step 2 is paying off all of your debt, except for your home, from smallest to largest using the debt snowball plan. During this time you're attacking your debt with incredible intensity, and putting every penny you can scrape together toward paying it off. October 21, 2023 MailMax Page 15 Working my plan, the average person can pay off all their debt, again, except for their home, in 18 to 24 months. Some folks can do it faster, and for some it takes a little longer. But during this time I want your financial focus to be on nothing but getting out of debt. Once that's done, you'll find you have a lot more control over your biggest wealth-building tool—your income.

Trying to accomplish too many things at once diminishes the ability to focus. And when you spend all your time nickel-and-diming everything, the result is that nothing at all gets done very well. You need to really move the needle and see results, because personal finance is 80 percent behavior and only 20 percent head knowledge. It's not so much a math issue, because if you'd been doing the math all along you wouldn't have a bunch of debt.

That's why, for a short period of time, I want you to concentrate with laser intensity on knocking out debt. Once that's out of the way, you can pour even more money into investing, saving and giving! – 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, Today, 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 for Ramsey Solutions.





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Glenn Rosenbaum

Pastor

A Reason for Suffering

We share in [Jesus'] sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8:17

A man once came across the cocoon of an Emperor Moth. He took it home. In time he began to see movement inside. The moth was getting ready to emerge.

But there seemed to be a problem. The moth struggled and struggled, but it appeared that the moth was having great trouble breaking through the cocoon. The struggle continued, and still, the moth could not break through. Finally, the man had an idea."I'll save this moth a lot of trouble," he thought.

He took a pair of scissors. And with the scissors, he carefully snipped the bottom of the cocoon so that the moth could get out. As soon as he did, the moth slipped out easily.

But then, the man noticed something. He noticed that the moth had a large, swollen body and small, shriveled wings. The man thought,"No problem. In a few hours the fluid

www.MailMaxOnline.com will go from the body into the wings and the moth will be fine."

But the moth was not fine. Because the man had cut short the time of struggle inside the cocoon, the wings never got a chance to get strong. The wings remained withered. The moth never flew.

When the Lord gives us a time of suffering, in which to struggle, he does it for a reason. One of his purposes is to keep us close to him, his Word, and his love and forgiveness. For when we do, his Holy Spirit strengthens us. He seasons our faith. He reinforces our bond with Christ. And when that happens, our Christian lives can take flight. We can touch the lives of others with the gospel. We can do the wonderful things the Lord intends for us to do.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, when sufferings come, bless my struggle. By your gospel, fill me with your Holy Spirit. Strengthen the wings of my Christian life. 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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AUCTIONS

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ANNOUCNEMENTS

Blue Star Mothers of America #177 sponsors the 19th Annual Support The Troops Christmas Open House. Let's make Christmas special! Saturday, November 4th, 2023. 10:00am-2:00pm. Chapel Hill United Methodist Church. 4071 Naomi Rd. Sodus, MI 49126 Blue Star Mothers support our veterans and active duty military personnel, stateside and overseas. Drop-off locations for item donations needed by Wednesday, November 1st: Stevensville American Legion Post 568 3093 Johnson Rd. Stevensville **Bridgman American Legion Post 0331** 4241 Legion Rd. Bridgman Buchanan American Legion Post 51 403 E. Front St. Buchanan **Coloma American Legion Post 362** 6505 Red Arrow Hwy. Coloma **Coloma Public Library** 151 W. Center St. Coloma Suggested items: disinfecting wipes, foot/body powder, cans of fruit, tuna/chicken pouches, beef jerky, instant drink mixes, gum, mints, nuts, popcorn, granola & cereal bars, Slim Jims, crackers, cookies. You may also make a monetary donation to: Blue Star Mothers Chapter 177 PO Box 76 Stevensville, MI 49127 Your kind donation will help defray the cost of postage and items needed. Thank you for your support! For futher info or to add a service member contact: Marie: 269-519-8974 Jane: 269-468-5182

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LAWN CARE



LEGALS

Lake Charter Township Special Board Meeting October 13, 2023 Meeting called to order 9:00 a.m. Present: Carson, Clark, Drew, and Wilk, Absent: Essig and Mensinger. Motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried. Motion to approve the resolution. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m. Lake Charter Township website: www.lake-township.org A complete set of minutes may be obtained from the Lake Charter Township Clerk.

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