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Moody on The Market

Pat **Moody** 

#### Earvin 'Magic' Johnson leads Mendel Center Series

Basketball legend and now-business mogul and entrepreneur Earvin "Magic" Johnson will be coming back to Southwest Michigan to speak during Lake Michigan College's Speaker Series.

In announcing its 33rd season of performing arts and speaker events, Lake Michigan College officials pleasantly surprised with a season opener of Earvin "Magic" Johnson as the first Lake Michigan College Speaker Series guest on Friday, Aug. 23.

"We've built this season based on the type and timing of programming that has been the most successful over the past few seasons, as well as on feedback from our patrons," stated George Kendall, executive director of the LMC Mendel Center. "The focused schedule offers a diverse selection of high-quality speakers, stage productions, and family programming that will provide enriching and entertaining experiences for audiences."

Johnson has publicly visited the Benton Harbor area in the past, including a 2016 tour where he provided inspirational talks and visited area schools to talk with students about the formula for success in basketball, business, and life (spoiler alert: practice plays a big part).

Others slated to appear at LMC during either the Speaker Series or the Discovery Series include former FDNY 9/11 survivor Tim Brown, Marshall Charloff & The Purple xPeRIeNCE, Lt. Col. Dan Rooney, USAF, and the United States Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus.

The 2024-2025 LMC Mendel Center season lineup: LAKE MICHIGAN COLLEGE SPEAKER SERIES

Earvin "Magic" Johnson Entrepreneur, 2x Basketball Hall of Famer Friday, Aug. 23 Grand Upton Hall Tim Brown Former FDNY 9/11 Survivor

Continued on page 14

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## Anna **Murphy**

President & CEO, United Way of Southwest Michigan

#### United Way of Southwest Michigan: Building Stronger Communities Together

On behalf of the United Way of Southwest Michigan Board and Staff, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude and thanks to each of YOU for helping United Way fulfill its purpose of having a community where everyone *contributes, belongs, and thrives*. To help us share the stories of United Way's impact in our local communities, MailMax is generously donating this space each month, and for that we are grateful. This partnership allows us to keep you informed about

Continued on page 2

#### **Inserts & Promotions**

- Family Fare
  Krasl Art Fair
  Martin's Super Market
  - National *SAVE* Coupons
     Rural King
  - Renewal by Andersen
  - Slumberland Furniture
  - Inserts may vary by zip code

#### Page 2 July 6, 2024 MailMax

#### Murphy Continued from cover

how we're working together to make a difference. Starting this month, and in the first issue of every new month, we'll profile the work we are doing to make change in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties with your help.

I have had the honor and of serving United Way for 26 years and as you can imagine, a lot has changed for United Way of Southwest Michigan since we began 80 years ago as the "Twin Cities Community Chest." But what hasn't changed is our ambitious vision and how we approach our work – with a community-centered approach. Most people when asked about United Way know us through workplace-giving campaigns, and that is still a big part of what we do, but we are expanding beyond. We'll achieve this by directing our energy on the operational basics of Impact, Relevance, Sustainability, and Infrastructure.

We believe that it's always worth reiterating, reinforcing, and keeping at the center of conversations our mission - to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities. It is through communities, one at a time, that United Way mobilizes people, resources, and partners around the most pressing needs of local communities; We understand needs in our local communities because we are in the local communities, and we bring people and organizations together to solve problems – we know that we can't tackle problems alone.

United Way is somewhat complex and harder to define as we are not a one-issue organization. We are okay with that complexity, because we don't live in a one issue world any longer. United Way recognizes that four core issues affect almost everyone, although the needs of one community may not match those of another. Tackling and solving these issues are the cornerstones of success for individuals and communities. With the release of a new Community Impact Agenda for Change in August, we'll focus on quality education for children and youth, health, economic mobility, and community resiliency. We recognize and embrace that each of these issues is related and interconnected. If a child isn't healthy, or is hungry, it will affect their education and the family's financial security.

Communities are made up of people, of families. And increasingly, families are reporting that they can't meet their basic needs, not the extras, but basic needs. In the coming months, we'll get deeper into the WHY of our work in the community, and in next month's story, introduce you to ALICE.

And because we believe that, together, with you, we will change this trajectory and help families and communities that need us most, we'll invite you to engage through **VOLUNTEERISM** because your time and skills are invaluable, **ADVOCATE** to help raise awareness about important issues and promote for change, or **DONATE** to help sustain our mission and support a wide range of programs and ensure we can continue providing essential services.

To learn more about how you can get involved and make a difference, visit our website at uwsm.org. Again, we work to create a united community where everyone contributes, belongs, and thrives. Thank you!



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## Photo of the Week



### Birds of a Feather Flock Together

A seagull joins the Lest We Forget reenactment over Tiscornia Beach. Photo by Dan Utroske

Please email your favorite photo with a brief description to **<u>Photos@MailMaxOnline.com</u>** Photos must be horizontal orientation to be considered for Photo of the Week.



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July 6, 2024 MailMax Page 3



Page 4 July 6, 2024 MailMax



#### Prez Prez Me, Oh Yeah, Like I Prez You

Many of my recent columns mentioned baseball players, many obscure, and frankly, not very good. Kind of like some of our nation's Presidents.

Kidding! I'm just jealous. I've never received one single vote for the Presidency, even though my primary campaign promise would stir the souls of all humanity: Changing that "ball 4" call made on September 2, 1972, by umpire Bruce Froemming that cost Cubs pitcher Milt Pappas a perfect game!

At any rate, to mark Independence Day, here's a column that's chiefly executive.

My No. 4 son, now 27, still has a knack -developed back in 4<sup>th</sup> grade – for rattling off at lightning speed, and in order, the name of every President of the United States. I never worry about him making his way in life – he merely needs to find someone to pay him for this talent. (I keep suggesting he enhance this skill by learning all the Vice Presidents.)

My guess is that most Presidents pretty much make their way in life as THE biggest VIPs EVER in the places they came from. Then there's John Tyler, who hailed from Charles City County, Virginia. He started as Veep to William Henry Harrison, President number nine, who then promptly died. But even on the day he became President, Tyler was a "runner-up"- he wasn't the first Prez from his native county. That honor went to William Henry Harrison, also born in Charles City County. Oh, that's only the beginning of a column full of delightful Presidential trivia exhaustively researched by others but delivered to you exclusively by me!

More about Tyler: As the first President ever not actually elected to the post, he had to put up with being called "His Accidency."

The story goes that on his inauguration day, Thomas Jefferson didn't make it back to the boarding house where he was staying until after dinner was already underway. Every seat was taken...and no one offered him one.

John Quincy Adams (No. 6) was the first President to be photographed, albeit 14 years after he left office. It's especially historic because this enabled him to become the first President to post a photo to his Instagram page.

Rutherford B. Hayes became President (No. 19) under quite a cloud of controversy – something to do with the Electoral College and whether it should've gotten a bid to play in a BCS bowl game. Anyway, thanks to this, he had to put up with being called "His Fraudulency."

Ulysses S. Grant wasn't actually Ulysses S. Grant. He changed his name when he was accepted to the military academy at West Point, feeling pretty sure his classmates would tease him about his real monogram – H(iram) U(lysses) G(rant).

Teddy Roosevelt was the first President to ever ride in an airplane. On October 11, 1910, he flew in a plane built by the Wright Brothers. He said afterward the experience was thrilling, although he'd hoped for more choices in the beverage service.

Women were finally given the right to vote in 1919, but no presidential candidate's mother was alive to do so until 1932. That year, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's mother was eligible to vote for him for President. She almost didn't; but he finally relented and cleaned up his bedroom.

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## Should You Repair or Replace Your Old AIR CONDITIONER?



## AGE OF SYSTEM

## <u>REPAIR</u>

### Under 10 Years

- More efficient
- Under warranty
- Current Freon Standards

## <u>**REPLACE**</u> Over 10 Years

## • Much less efficient

- Much less efficien
- Increased repair costs
- Obsolete Freon refrigerant

## EXTENT OF PROBLEMS

## **REPAIR**

## Minor

- Drain line clogs
- Electrical problems
- Broken or loose ductwork

## **REPLACE** Extensive

- Compressor
- Condenser coils
- Blower motor

## **COST OF REPAIRS**

## **REPAIR**

## Less than 50% cost of new unit

 Don't spend money on a new unit while the warranty will still covers repairs.

## REPLACE

## More than 50% cost of new unit

 It may seem pricey but a new high efficiency unit will save you money over time

## FREQUENCY OF REPAIRS

## **REPAIR**

Less than 2 repairs in 10 years

• Regularly scheduled maintenance has been done

## REPLACE

## 3 or more major repairs

 Regularly scheduled maintenance has not been done





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## SIZE OF UNIT

## <u>REPAIR</u>

### Just right

• Ensure your unit fits the size of your home so that it runs at peak performance and lasts longer

## REPLACE

#### Too big or too small

Expect constant and costly inefficiencies and even premature failure

## FREE Consultations



Page 6 July 6, 2024 MailMax



#### Who Do You Think You Are?

Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: "Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge?" Job 38:1,2

"I can do it myself!" the toddler insists. The teenager broods, "You have no idea what I'm going through." "I could do it better," the twenty-something insists.

Maybe the toddler can grab food off the stove. But does he know the stove is hot? Maybe the teenager's parent has never experienced what the teenager is going through. But does she have her parent's knowledge that this too shall pass? Maybe the twenty-something could do the task better. But does he realize there is an important reason why it is done this way?

We all think we know better than those with more wisdom. And what you would like to say to those who question your wisdom probably sounds something like what the Lord said to Job. It's what God would say if he answered us when we question his wisdom. "Who do you think you are?"

God is not being a jerk. He's lovingly helping us remember who he is, what he has done, what he is capable of, and what great and good plans he has in store for us that can only come by the storms through which we must sail.

God knows the plans he has for you. From eternity, he knew how to save us from sin. He laid out the details over thousands of years. And, when the time was right, when everything was in place, he sent his Son to fulfill all of God's plans as proof that God knows what he is doing. And then he appointed the exact time and place where you should be to hear the good news and receive eternal life.

That's his plan for you. So, you can be sure, even now, come what may, God knows what he's doing. He is working all things for good to you who love him.

Prayer: (Romans 11:33,36) Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his

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judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

Submitted by Pastor Josh Bishop Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Joseph Originated by: <u>www.What AboutJesus.com</u>



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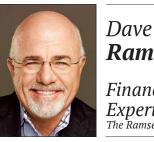
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## Ramsey Financial Expert

The Ramsey Show

### **Dave Says** Part of Your Monthly Budget

Dear Dave,

How important do you feel identity theft protection is today? Should my husband and I buy it just for ourselves, or should we cover the kids, too? Lastly, where does identity theft protection fall in your Baby Steps plan? Lanie

Dear Lanie.

Unless you've gone completely off the grid, and have been there for a long, long time, there's a good chance someone out there has a few of your numbers. Unfortunately, that's all part of living in today's world. Between consumer carelessness and data breaches-which have become an all-too-common occurrence these days-almost everyone has experienced, or will experience, some sort of identity theft during their lifetime.

So, yes. I recommend everyone have identity theft protection. I don't really consider it part of the Baby Steps, because in my mind it's like car insurance or life insurance, in that it's something virtually everyone needs. And things like that should just be part of your regular monthly budget.

Good question, Lanie!

-Dave

An Agreement is an Agreement Dear Dave.

I own a small rental house, and for the

most part my tenants have been conscientious people over the years. Recently, I learned my current tenant is subleasing the property for the short term as a vacation site. This kind of thing is prohibited in the rental agreement. He has always taken very good care of the place, so should I confront him about this. or just ignore it until it becomes a real problem? Karl

Dear Karl,

This may sound hardnosed, but it's already a problem. He's in obvious violation of the lease agreement. If it were me, I'd have a face-to-face talk with this guy today. I'd let him know how much I appreciate that he's been a good, respectful tenant in the past, but the subleasing has to stop.

An agreement is an agreement. I have several rental properties myself, and I always try to be gentle and nice, but really clear about things. You may not have experienced any problems up until now, but what happens next time? If you don't know and trust who's in the house, you could end up with holes in the walls, ruined carpets and worse. On top of all that, what if they don't have the money to fix things when they leave? It'll be on you, because you lost control of your property.

Again, be decent when you talk to this guy. It sounds like you two have a good history. But remind him he's in violation of the lease agreement. And gently let him know if anything like this happens again, you'll begin the eviction process.

–Dave

FOR SHERIFF

\*Dave Ramsey is an eight-time No. 1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, 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 the company, Ramsey Solutions.



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Jeff

Miller

Page 14 July 6, 2024 MailMax



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#### **Moody** Continued from cover

Monday, Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m. Hanson Theatre

Marshall Charloff & The Purple xPeRIeNCE Friday, Oct. 25, 8 p.m. Jenkins Theatre

#### Lt. Col. Dan Rooney, USAF

Fighter Pilot, PGA Professional, Patriotic Philanthropist, and Author of "Fly into the Wind: How to Harness Faith and Fearlessness on Your Ascent to Greatness" Thursday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m. Hanson Theatre **DISCOVERY SERIES** Cirque Musica Holiday Wonderland Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.

#### Jenkins Theatre The United States Army Field Band &

**Dining and Sunsets in** 

**Southwest Michigan** 

Open Wednesday - Saturday

**Soldiers' Chorus** 

Tuesday, April 8, 2025, 7:30 p.m. Jenkins Theatre

#### The Perondi's Stunt Dog Experience Sunday, April 27, 2025, 2 & 6 p.m. Jenkins Theatre

Tickets for the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center 2024-2025 season are available: July 8 – Pre-sale for the previous season's series ticket holders July 15 - Individual events go on sale to the public.

Mendel Center Series ticket packages are available by purchasing three or more eligible events. Series benefits include a 10% discount on most events, ticket pre-sale opportunities, and exclusive services. To purchase tickets or learn more visit

www.TheMendelCenter.com.

#### **Rotary interact students** return from successful **Dominican mission**

The Rotary Interact Clubs of St. Joseph High School and Our Lady of the Lake High School have returned from their week-long service project trip to the Dominican Republic. The teens were joined by other Interact Clubs in their 10th annual trip to the DR, building homes and painting a school.

The Interact Clubs of St. Joseph High School and Our Lady of the Lake High School joined forces yet again this summer and invited several other Interact Clubs to join them in La Romana, Dominican Republic for their 10th annual service trip!

The Interact Clubs are sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of District 6360 in Lower and Southwest Michigan. The schools collectively raised close to \$ 8,000 throughout the year and sent it to Rotary in the DR for building supplies for shelter building in Batey 106, an

Brown Bag CONCERTS

Friday Night CONCERTS

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impoverished village in a sugar cane field. Together last week they were laying the foundation for one home, adding walls to a duplex, and painting at a local school. The Interact Clubs raised funds by partnering with organizations throughout their community to provide services, detergent sales, and donations.

Josephine Marsh, Our Lady of the Lake Interact Club President said "Being on this trip for my second year has been an amazing opportunity to learn and grow as a person. This year, 7 schools worked hand in hand embracing new challenges and hard work together. Everyone gave it their all in order to accomplish something greater. The work was intense but everyone did it with a smile on their face knowing they are giving a family a place they will cherish forever."

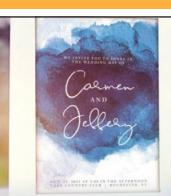
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Ritika Wadke, President of Interact for St. Joseph High School 2024/2025 reflects on her first trip with the group," "This is my first trip to the DR and wow it has been as cliche as it sounds: life-changing. Seeing the way Batey 106 lives, it really puts into perspective how even though life is not going so great you can still be happy. After being drenched in sweat, receiving multiple cuts from cinder blocks, and being sore, it was all worth it in the end when we were showered with hugs from the families receiving the houses. I'm so

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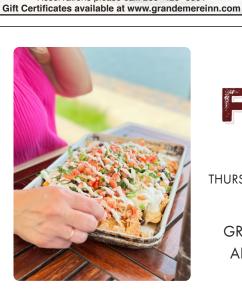




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glad I received this opportunity and am so grateful for the experiences I made".

The trip has grown over the years from the very first trip in 2013, where the Rotary partnered with Whirlpool Corporation and provided water filtration for each home in the Bateys and building latrines. After studies and a better water system installed in the area, we switched our focus to building homes and education. Many of the residents live in very poor conditions with metal walls and roofs.

Prior to Covid in 2019, the Interact Clubs of SJ and Our Lady vowed to raise \$20,000 to send every child in Batey 106 to school in the city. Prior to that there were just tutors once a week for the young ones. The Whirlpool Golf Charity Outing matched Interact funds dollar for dollar which put the group ahead of schedule and able to fund the kids going to school or at least have devices for learning during the Covid months and after including uniforms, bus transportation, and school supplies

Interact Club Advisor for SJPS and trip coordinator, Cindy Igoe said "these special people in Batey 106 hold a special place in our hearts and we just want to see to it that they flourish and have opportunities to better their lives".

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In the past SJ, Our Lady of the Lake, and Lakeshore public schools have been the main Interact Clubs coordinating and traveling for the trip. This year they invited and had students and chaperones from River Valley High School, Berrien Springs High School, Coldwater High School, and Kalamazoo High School on the trip.

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#### **July Happenings**

2024 is proving to be a 'blink and you miss it' kind of year. That is the only explanation I have for how we are suddenly in July! In addition to celebrating America and Bridgman's birthdays, we've got a few other fun things that you can join us for this month!

Starting off with Forever Clean Soap Works 10 Year Celebration and Ribbon Cutting on Wednesday, July 10th at 9:30 a.m.! Owner, Lisa Miller started Forever Clean Soap Works more than 10 years ago, but this is the celebration of having a physical brick and mortar store, something that most entrepreneurs dream of having. Her journey started in downtown Niles, before heading North to her first St. Joseph location in 2019, before finally settling in downtown St. Joseph this last year.

'lt's been quite a journey, but we're thrilled to be here," Lisa shares, beaming with excitement. "I'll be crafting all our products right here in the showroom, so you can witness the magic unfold before your eyes."

For those unacquainted with her thriving business, you'll discover a treasure trove of wholesome natural bath and body products, ideal for individuals with allergies or sensitivities. Lisa herself shares in the world of sensitivities and understands the importance of knowing 100% what's in the products you're putting on your body, and making sure they are high quality. She emphasizes her commitment to quality, stating, "I use premium oils and butters, and strive to source most of our raw materials locally, ensuring that everyone can enjoy our products." Her in-house product lineup boasts an array of delights, including goat milk soaps, lotions, sugar scrubs, bath bombs, shower steamers, lip balms, beard products, and much more! Some of my personal favorites include the lip balms, shower steamers (which are incredibly useful if you

are like me and suffer from allergies and regular sinus infections), and their shower scrubs which have helped my keratosis pilaris tremendously!

You can find Lisa and all her wonderful products at 416 State Street in downtown St. Joseph or online at forevercleansoapworks.com Next up, we're heading to the Pool - the

Pool at Four Winds Casino in New Buffalo! That's the location for our July Business After Hours on the 18th from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Now, if you've never been to the pool area at Four Winds New Buffalo, you're in for a real treat. This space is PHENOMENAL and features a pool, two fire pits, poolside service including The Pool Bar, multiple seating areas, and is a hidden gem of a place to just relax. It also serves as a party spot with live bands and all kinds of themed fun - my favorite happened to be an 80's party!

For this event, you're welcome to attend and connect with other Chamber members and attendees, as well as enjoy some delicious food and beverages. Keep checking our website smrchamber.com for more information and perhaps a few specials for those who attend! Casual and comfortable summer attire is encouraged but not required, and yes, if you'd like to go all out and wear your swimsuits & cover-ups, those are welcome too!

At the end of the month our **NextGen:** Young Professionals are giving back to the community with a trash pickup in downtown Benton Harbor. They've partnered with Prairie Real Estate and will be hitting both the downtown areas on Main Street and the Arts District on July 25th from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Once they are done with the pickup, they'll be heading to a yet to be determined restaurant for a beverage and maybe an appetizer or two

If you're interested in getting involved or want to learn more about other upcoming NextGen events, reach out to Jasmine Hansen at jhansen@smrchamber.com.

That's just a quick look at July and some of the things you can join us for this month! To get more information visit our website at smrchamber.com. You can also connect with me directly at sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com or 269-932-4040.







## **Greg Brenner**

Greg is always giving back in some way, shape or form. We caught him doing good recently at the River Valley Senior Center, where he is one of the

drivers who takes senior citizens to medical appointments. One day as he was driving, he saw a sign in their front vard looking for drivers. which drove him to connect with the Harbor Country organization and now he volunteers on a weekly basis!

> 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 1300d kindness in our community! Email kellygampel@berriencommunity.org or visit www.berriencommunity.org/GotchaDoinGood



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#### July 6, 2024 MailMax Page 17



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