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Moody on The Market



New Italian/Indian restaurant coming to former Santaniello's

The new owners of 'Intalia' at the former Santaniello location on Glenlord Road are sharing their plans for a new and unique restaurant that balances the best of Italian and Indian food to offer something for a wide range of customer tastes.

Aravind Ale and his wife Kavita sat down with MoodyOnTheMarket.com for an extensive discussion about their plans, formulated over many months as they untangled legal and financial challenges that flowed from the untimely demise of the restaurant in 2022. Now, the final big challenge is obtaining the last 'green light' from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for beer, wine and liquor sales

When that happens, Ale says they will be ready to open the doors to a concept that is new to this region but has been successful elsewhere in the Midwest: a menu that features both Italian and Indian specialty items.

"I'm going to make sure that the Italian side of the restaurant will be as authentic as it was before. We are working hard to keep that cuisine as the main thing. That's why we named it 'Intalia'. But we know there's a lot of demand for Indian food in and around St. Joe, especially for a dine-in restaurant. So, we're going to add some Indian to the main menu and special dishes. We're going to serve both Indian and Italian here and be as authentic as possible!"

Ale's vision for his new double-barreled menu extends across the kitchen to the pizza oven:

"We're going to have some real authentic Italian pizzas comparable to the good ones around in town. But we also have like four or five specialty pizzas which will be made based on the Indian sauces and Indian toppings which are popular among many people around here."

Ale told us he's counting on the Italian side of the menu to bring in many longtime customers who frequented the heritage loca-

Continued on page 6



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Marcy Simpson

Executive Director, Visit Southwest Michigan

Fun and interesting things to do in Southwest Michigan

Have you heard the news? A new, complimentary trolley, the "Shop & Shore Trolley," is now rolling through St. Joseph, offering free rides to residents and visitors. This joint effort by Visit Southwest Michigan, formerly the Southwest Michigan Tourist Council and Clark Logic, aims to provide convenient transportation to the city's key attractions, shopping districts and shoreline. The vintage-style trolley, which is ADA-accessible and air-conditioned, can accommodate up to 26 passengers. The service operates on a fixed route and schedule with four designated stops, making it easy to hop on and off throughout the day. For more information go to swmichigan.org/trolley.

Continued on page 2

Inserts & Promotions

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Inserts may vary by zip code

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Simpson Continued from cover

Lake Breeze at Sunset is your invitation to relax, enjoy, and lose your soul in the music and sunset. Get ready for an unforgettable experience at Lake Breeze at Sunset: the ultimate celebration of music and culture in Southwest Michigan. As the fastest-growing festival in the region, it's your ticket to the stunning sandy shores of Lake Michigan. Picture yourself immersed in the beautiful communities of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph, where music fills the air against the backdrop of breathtaking sunsets and a refreshing breeze. Expect to be wowed by a lineup of diverse and incredible talent, savor mouth-watering dishes, and indulge in Michigan's finest wine and spirits. Whether you're a music lover, foodie, or just looking to soak up the vibrant atmosphere, Lake Breeze at Sunset promises an experience like no other. Join us and make memories that will last a lifetime on Saturday, July 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Shadowland Pavilion. For tickets and more information lakebreezemusicfestival.com

The Benton Harbor Arts Association presents: The Benton Harbor Children's Art Fair, Saturday, July 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by United Federal Credit Union. The Benton Harbor Arts Association first hosted the Children's Art Fair nearly 20 years ago. After a 10-year hiatus, the BHAA brought The Children's Art Fair back to life in 2024. With over 20 vendors, live music, local artists and more than 1,000 attendees, they're excited to bring the Benton Harbor Children's Art Fair back in 2025. It's a vibrant celebration of young talent, providing students with the opportunity to showcase

their artwork and engage in various artistic activities. The event is located at Art's Park on the corner of Water Street and Territorial and is free.

Get ready for a soul-stirring, beer-sipping good time at Blues & Brews-a celebration of great music, craft beer, and laid-back summer vibes at Round Barn Brewery & Public House. Whether you're here for the tunes, the brews, or the backyard atmosphere, this event has all the makings of a perfect summer evening. This event is sponsored by Honor Credit Union. The Resurrection Blues Band, a local fan favorite, brings high-energy performances and soulful blues that keep crowds coming back for more. Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Summer is in full swing as artists take over Broad Street in downtown St. Joseph during Chalk the Block. Attendees can watch as both amateur and professional artists prepare their squares on Friday evening, work all day Saturday, and enjoy the completed chalk masterpieces on Sunday. This family-friendly festival is Friday, August 1 at 4:00 p.m. through Sunday, August 3 and showcases regional, national and international artists, using the charming town as their backdrop. Attendees can vote for their favorite chalk masterpiece in the People's Choice. Be sure to drop in the fabulous shops, restaurants and tasting rooms downtown while you're there.

If you would like more information on these and other events and activities in the area, please visit our website at swmichigan.org.



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8:30 AM • St. Joseph, MI









Sarah **Spoonholtz**

Regional Director, SMR Chamber

Applebee's & a New Bridgman **Business!**

While July continues to fly by just like the rest of the year, we are gearing up to celebrate a few exciting things with some of our members

Starting off with the owners of Applebee's in Benton Harbor - TEAM Schostak! You're invited to join their leadership, the **Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber, Benton Harbor City & Benton** Charter Township leaders, and local heroes for the Grand Reopening & Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, check presentation to Present Pillars and complimentary lunch on Monday, July 21 at 10:00 a.m.!

TEAM Schostak Family Restaurants is proud to announce the grand reopening of its Applebee's restaurant located at 2050 Pipestone Road in Benton Harbor following a renovation. The updated 5,500-square-foot restaurant now features refreshed interiors and exteriors, including new lighting, paint, doors, signage, reupholstered booths, and updated artwork that reflects the vibrant spirit of the Benton Harbor community. Guests will notice a modernized bar and to-go area, along with upgraded restrooms and a warm, inviting atmosphere that welcomes both longtime regulars and new diners.

As part of its commitment to the community, TEAM Schostak hosted a "Dine to Donate" fundraiser on July 3, where 20% of all sales were donated to Present Pillars, a nonprofit that empowers men and fathers in Benton Harbor with tools and support to help them become the dads of their dreams. "We're proud to invest in Benton Harbor-not just

in our restaurant, but in the people who make this community so special," says Stephanie Brinkman-General Manager of the Applebee's location. "We're especially honored to support Present Pillars and the vital work they do with fathers and families right here in our neighborhood."

If that wasn't exciting enough, a new wellness destination is coming to the heart of Bridgman this summer. Beachside Salt & Spa, owned by local resident and Licensed Massage Therapist Sarah Buist, is set to open its doors at **4209 Lake Street**, bringing with it a unique blend of therapeutic services and holistic self-care.

With a professional background in massage therapy and a passion for promoting whole-body wellness, Buist has created a spa environment that aims to support both the physical and mental wellbeing of her clients. A highlight of the spa will be its Himalayan Salt Room, offering halotherapy-a natural treatment that dates back to the 12th century and is known to help alleviate respiratory and skin conditions like asthma, COPD, eczema, and acne through its anti-inflammatory and anti-microbial properties.

In addition to halotherapy, Beachside Salt & Spa will offer massage therapy services that can be combined with Salt Room sessions for a deeply relaxing and restorative experience. Guests will also find a curated selection of essential oils and wellness-inspired gifts available for purchase.

"The Beachside Salt & Spa will be a great addition to our community," said Nancy Kiernan, Director of the Greater Bridgman Chamber and Growth Alliance (CGA). "We are growing our own in Bridgman and believe that local entrepreneurs can help create the mix of retail and services our community wants year-round."

Buist, a resident of Lake Charter Township, quickly seized the opportunity to acquire the Lake Street property after it became available. With the support of the CGA, she was able to develop a business plan, secure funding, and begin renovationstransforming the space into the tranquil wellness retreat she envisioned.

"The CGA helped me create a business plan, find the right space, and paved the way for the needed capital to purchase the building and com-

plete the renovation," said Buist. At the July 7th meeting of the Bridgman City Council, Buist received approval for a small business loan through the Bridgman Corridor Improvement Authority's Revolving Loan Program-further supporting her investment in the community.

Beachside Salt & Spa is slated to open in August 2025. More details on services and grand opening events will be shared in the coming weeks.

A big Congratulations and Thank You to Sarah Buist and Applebee's/TEAM Schostak for their commitment to Southwest Michigan and these exciting announcements!

If you're interested in learning more about the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber visit smrchamber.com. Connect with me directly at sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com or 269-932-4040. See you around Southwest Michigan!





Glory that Never Fades

When the Olympic games first started in Greece over 2000 years ago, they didn't have fancy metals for the winners. They had crowns. But not the crowns you are thinking of with gold, diamonds, and other precious stones. These crowns were woven twigs from an olive tree. The wrestling champion got a stick on his forehead as a prize. Cue the trumpets and fanfare.

It doesn't sound all that special to me. I wonder how many hours it took for the first leaf to fall off the drying branch. How long before the bark began to peel and the brittle wood started to crack? What is so special about being an Olympic winner if you can't show off the trophy?

But oh, how I cling to the things in this life that fade away so fast. I scramble for time, yet the sand in the hourglass falls so quickly. I fight for the house I live in and need to repair and repaint it repeatedly. I upgrade my phone only to have it slip out of my hand and find a crack from the impact with the parking lot. I can hear

from the doctor, "Everything looks good," one moment and then hear, "I'm sorry to report...." just days later.

I can scramble faster to hold onto what is fading and find myself more agitated and depressed. Or I can find my security in something that lasts. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive an unfading crown of glory. (1 Peter 5:4). Jesus won for you a crown that is permanent. The leaves from the tree of life in heaven never wither. You have access to that unfading glory because the Chief Shepherd was also the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

The real prize for winning the ancient Olympic games was not just an olivebranch crown, but it was the fame, honor, feasts, and lifelong benefits that came with the title. We not only get a crown of glory in heaven, but we get to dine at the banquet table with Jesus and all other believers. The Father will seat us at his table, and we will be honored forever by his presence.

What can you let go of to help you focus on the unfading crown of glory won by Jesus?

Thank you, Lord, for the security of my eternal crown of glory. When the world slips through my fingers, help me find my certainty in what you have done for me and the future you have planned for me. Amen.

Submitted by Pastor Josh Bishop Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Joseph



Buzzworthy Facts About Bees: Nature's Tiny Superheros

Bees are more than just honey-making, flower-loving insects – they're nature's tiny superheroes with a knack for surprising us! These buzzing dynamos play a colossal role in our world, and their lives are packed with fascinating quirks. Here are some fun facts about bees that'll make you appreciate these winged wonders.

Did you know bees are math geniuses? Their iconic honeycomb is built with perfect hexagonal cells, a shape that maximizes space and strength while using the least wax. Scientists call this the "honeycomb conjecture," and bees have been nailing it for millions of years without a single geometry class! Each hive's honeycomb can hold thousands of cells, storing honey, pollen, and baby bees, all in a buzzing metropolis.

Bees are also incredible dancers. When a worker bee finds a great patch of flowers, it performs a "waggle dance" to tell its hivemates where to go. This shimmy involves waggling its body and vibrating its wings in specific patterns to share the exact location and distance of the nectar source. It's like GPS choreography, and other bees decode it with pinpoint accuracy. Talk about a hive mind!

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Ever wonder how bees pick their queen? It's not a royal election but a matter of diet. All bee larvae start the same, but those fed a special substance called royal jelly grow into queens. This nutrient-packed superfood transforms a regular larva into a regal egg-laying machine, capable of producing up to 2,000 eggs a day. One queen rules the hive, and her pheromones keep the colony in harmony.

Bees are also pollination powerhouses. About one-third of the food we eat-like apples, almonds, and avocados-relies on bees pollinating crops. A single bee can visit up to 5,000 flowers in a day, spreading pollen like a tiny, fuzzy Cupid. Without them, our grocery stores would look pretty barren. In the U.S. alone, bees contribute over \$15 billion to agriculture annually. That's some serious buzz for the economy!

Here's a wild one: bees can recognize human faces. Studies show honeybees can learn and remember facial patterns, a skill once thought exclusive to animals with bigger brains. So, next time you're near a beehive, don't be surprised if the bees give you a knowing glance-they might just have you on their VIP list.

Bees also have a secret weapon: their venom. A bee's sting isn't just for defense; it contains melittin, a compound studied for its potential to fight infections and even cancer. But don't worry–bees only sting when they feel threatened, and losing their stinger costs them their life, so they're not exactly eager to use it.

From their dance moves to their architectural brilliance, bees are nature's MVPs. Next time you see one buzzing by, give it a nod for keeping our world blooming and buzzing with life!

Jove LOCAL **JULY 18-20**



Meet me in

FRIDAY

Mike Yore Memorial Car Show 4-8p | Lake Boulevard

Friday Night Concert 7-8p | John E.N. Howard Bandshell

SATURDAY

St. Joe Farmers Market 9a-2p | Lake Bluff Park

Lake Bluff Artisan Fair 10a-5p | Lake Bluff Park

SUNDAY **City of St. Joseph**

Municipal Band Concert 7p | John E.N Howard Bandshell

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Dave Says Investing or Student Loan Debt?

Dear Dave,

Our daughter is a student, and she has \$10,000 in student loan debt. She works part-time, and has a couple of scholarships, but she has borrowed a little along the way to bridge gaps. Her uncle recently sold his business, and he told us he would like to give her a gift of \$10,000. We've talked to her about this, and we'd like to guide her in the smartest possible direction. Should she begin planning for the future, and use this gift to start investing, or should she use it to pay off her student loans? Gilbert

Dear Gilbert,

I really appreciate you two trying to help your daughter do the very best thing with her finances and her future. Her uncle sounds like a pretty generous guy. So, let's take a minute and give this situation a aood look.

We'll start by pretending she doesn't have any student loan debt. In a case like that, would it be wise for her to borrow

1363 Mall Drive • Benton Harbor

money on a student loan in order to invest? Of course not. It's a dumb question, but I want to get you thinking. If you don't pay off the loans, and invest it instead, it's just like you borrowed money to invest. See what I mean? That would be a pretty bad plan.

In my opinion, your daughter needs to get her student loan mess cleaned up as soon as possible. And this gift from her uncle represents the perfect opportunity to do just that. Listen to me, Gilbert. The last thing in the world your daughter needs is big pile of debt waiting on her when she gets out of school. I want her to start investing at some point down the road, but she's just not in a good position to be an investor right now. She needs to pay off all those student loans. I'm talking about wiping out all that debt the minute she gets this wonderful gift in her hands.

And the second after she pays off those student loans, she should get to work on saving a pile of money, so she can complete her studies without racking up any more debt!

Dave

* Dave Ramsey is a nine-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.

Moody *Continued from cover*

tion. Once they're inside he'll gently challenge them to try something new:

"I'm going to accommodate every kind of people. But the core food we're going to serve is Indian and Italian. As far as people who don't have exposure to the Indian food, I'm very willing to offer some tastings and some samples. Maybe we'll do a Costco kind of thing-have two, three stations, and give some samples. People who want to try it can try it and if they like it, they always can order. But at least they will get exposure to what kind of food it is, whether it is something they would like to try."

Aravind and Kavita understand their new restaurant will automatically be compared to the memorable tastes and recipes of Santaniello's. They make it clear that they are NOT trying to imitate or duplicate, however they deeply respect the long heritage of the halls in which they walk ... and the kitchen in which they cook.

"I'm going to try to make the tastiest Italian food I can. That is my primary goal. Unfortunately, I was unable to get the recipes. And, anyway, every chef has his own style of cooking. Even if I got the recipes, I don't know how it would have been. But I tried my best, especially for the focaccia bread and some of

www.MailMaxOnline.com the pastas and the sauces they had. So, I'm going to just do my best!"

Who can ask for a more straightforward pledge from a chef and a restaurant?

Ale brings restaurant experience from earlier in his life in Australia and India. For more than 15 years until recently, he has been part of the Engineering Team at Whirlpool Corporation. Kavita is the Director of Rehabilitation at Royalton Manor, a senior living facility. They will be the 'hands on' management team at Intalia, with Aravind serving as General Manager and Executive Chef and Kavita taking the role of Director of Operations.

As they wait for the MLCC to approve their liquor license, they are turning their attention to recruiting experienced staff to allow them to open the restaurant at 'full speed?

"Right now, I'm hoping my liquor license will be coming through this month. With luck, the plan is to open sometime in August. We are pretty much ready. I just need to hire some people. I'm going to hire some managers, some chefs and line cooks. I'm going to hire some bartenders, servers, people in the kitchen,"

Ale said he would be delighted if there were applicants who worked in the facility in the past, saying they could learn from each other.





While preparations continue for the opening, Ale points out that the big banquet hall, the party room at the back of the 10,000 square foot facility is ready for rental use right now. There is no alcohol service available currently, however the catering kitchen is fully operational, and he is willing to offer special rates over the next few weeks for last-minute bookings. Reach Aravind Ale at 269-470-2716 or AravindAle@gmail.com By Gayle Olson, MOTM Contributor

Lake Michigan College expands emergency financial aid

Lake Michigan College is taking steps to ensure that students facing financial hardship can stay enrolled and complete their education. Thanks to a \$99,954 MiLEAP Breaking Barriers Direct to Students grant, the College is launching an initiative to simplify and expand access to emergency aid. The project is led by Leslie Navarro, Director of Student Well-Being & Accessibility.

Navarro says the new initiative combines four separate aid sources-the Student Success Fund, Veterans Education Assistance Fund, Perkins Cost Assistance Fund, and the Barrier Grant-into a single, unified system. This integration aims to expedite financial assistance for students facing urgent situations, including food insecurity, housing instability, childcare challenges, or a lack of essential academic supplies.

Key features of the initiative include a centralized application, a shared review process, and stronger cross-departmental coordination. Additionally, upgraded technology and a new data dashboard will enable real-time tracking, enhanced communication, and equity monitoring.

The project is a direct response to internal data showing that over one-third of LMC students experience food insecurity, with many others struggling to pay for housing, transportation, or childcare.

"In situations where students are choosing between paying rent or buying groceries, timely support can mean the difference between staying enrolled and dropping out," Navarro said.

Interested parties can visit the college website for more information.

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

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MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$62,995
INCLUDES FORD PROTECT 2 YEAR/25,000 MILE
PREMIUM MAINTENANCE PLAN!
PLUS 1.9% FOR 36 MONTHS,
2.9% FOR 48 MONTHS, 3.9% FOR 60 MONTHS,

OR 4.9% FOR 72 MONTHS* *MUST QUALIFY *MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT **RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY



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**RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY



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EMPLOYEE PRICING DISCOUNT 3,276
MIDWEST BC BONUS CASH ** 250
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If This Is Sunday, This Must Be Barcelona

¿Estás listo para escuchar todo sobre mis vacaciones europeas? Empezamos en Barcelona, por eso escribo en español.

Translation: Are you ready to hear all about my European vacation? We started in Barcelona, which is why I'm writing in Spanish.

(Full disclosure: I didn't actually write the Spanish above – google translate did. I am learning Spanish on the computer, using Duolingo. I learn slowly. My spanish is still terrible. It's not DuoLingo's fault. I learn VERRRRRYYYYY slowly.)

We arrived in Barcelona much too bright and early on a Sunday. There's no snoozing on planes for me or my wife - not for lack of trying, but it just doesn't work for us. We went straight to our hotel, but alas, there was no room ready for us. So we dragged ourselves around the city for a bit.

Fortunately, after just a couple hours, we got a text that we could move into our hotel room early. The walk to the hotel was the fastest we moved all day!

Our hotel key cards were somewhat, ahem. eye-opening: A slogan printed on them, in ALL CAPS, read, DO YOU WANT TO SLEEP WITH ME? The less said the better about that, ya think?

Resolving to nap, my wife succeeded, dozing heavily. I failed. Too excited to have reached Europe, too buzzed from that third cup of tea. too distracted thinking about the keycard slogan, I don't know. Anyway, the rest of Day 1 unfolded: Supper early and EARLY to bed.

Among Barcelona's great claims to fame are the myriad fabulous structures designed by the uber-creative architect Antoni Gaudi, whose greatest patron was the uber-wealthy industrialist Eusebi Guell (sounds like "whale"). We ogled a lot of Gaudi in Barcelona, all of it very gaudy, and had a Guell of a good time!

Our Gaudi immersion included Parc Guell, a lovely green space with Gaudi structures and decorative flourishes; Casa Batllo (BAHT-yo) and Casa Mila, Gaudi-designed homes; and Gaudi's piece de resistance, Sagrada Familia Cathedral. Gaudi's vision was pretty expansive, and waaaaay out of the ordinary. It's said that when he was awarded his diploma from the Barcelona School of Architecture, the institution's director mused whether he was a genius or a madman. This may be evidence of one or the other?: Sagrada Familia is not quite finished. It was begun in 1882.

I know there's nothing special these days about getting audio guides while touring museums and attractions. Unless you're with me! who cleverly referred to our devices as "Gaudios" and "Gaudioguidios." (Before you try something like this, you may wish to consider: These bon mots strongly tempted my wife to revoke my "DO YOU WANT TO SLEEP WITH ME?" key.)

Our last day in Barcelona we visited Palau Guell, a fantastical abode designed by Gaudi for his patron, Guell. It is hyper-imaginative, uber-eclectic, with outlandish "conceptions of time and space." Guell could afford to let Gaudi loose - he was super-rich, estimated to be worth 80 billion euros in today's dollars. But no matter the creativity or the cost: Guell's wife never liked the place! She didn't care to dwell in Palau Guell! I hear she even revised his keycard to read, "DO YOU WANT TO SLEEP WITH ME? THEN BUILD ME ANOTHER HOUSE!"



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Bluetooth & more

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appointed, 1.8L Turbo engine, auto transmission, heated seats, Am-Fm Sirius XM, CD player, Styled wheels with baby moon wheel covers, remote keyless entry, Clean Carfax, Walt Sicard Certified

SALE \$239 mo



Snow White Pearl, 41,539 miles, well equippe fun to drive and very roomy for it's compact size Nice rearview camera, Apple CarPlay / Android Auto, AM/FM/MP3 HD Audio, Speed sensing steering, Factory warranty remaining.

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