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Moody on The Market Pat Moody

# Cornerstone Alliance EVP exits for role at Notre Dame business school

Cornerstone Alliance is losing its 'second in command'. Executive Vice President Christina Frank is leaving the economic development organization for a leadership role at the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend. Frank will serve as Director of External Engagement for the nationally acclaimed business school.

"In my new role, I will get the opportunity to lead a best-in-class employer and alumni engagement operation focused on graduate business students. My work will ensure Mendoza students secure their best first job upon graduation while building meaningful, lifelong connections with employers and alumni across the globe."

"This opportunity at Notre Dame is a natural next step for me professionally, It combines my passion for relationship-building with my commitment to supporting people in their professional journeys. I'm honored to help connect talented students with the people and organizations that can shape their future success."

Frank spoke exclusively with MoodyOnTheMarket.com about her new opportunity and her nearly nine years with Cornerstone Alliance, covering a period when the organization redefined itself to focus on retention of existing business as well as recruitment of new employers.

Frank joined Cornerstone Alliance in 2016 and quickly rose through the ranks, earning her Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) designation in 2021 and gaining national recognition, including being named one of the Top 50 Economic Developers in North America in 2022.

Reflecting on her journey, Frank told us: "This is a bittersweet time for me. It's hard for me to put into words how much I have loved serving my community and working alongside so many amazing people. When I started at Cornerstone, I knew very little about economic development. I pretty much grew up here. Cornerstone Alliance has been my home, and a part of my family for almost 10 years."

Over the years, Frank has played a key role in advancing economic development initiatives throughout Southwest Michigan. She has supported projects, built partnerships, and worked alongside business leaders, elected officials, and community champions to drive sustainable growth. Most of all, Frank said she'll miss those

Continued on page 14



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### Sarah **Spoonholtz**

Regional Director, SMR Chamber

#### Calling all LEGO® fans! A new store is getting ready to open their doors that is 100% all things LEGO®! Bricks & Minifigs®, the Saint Joseph one-stop shop to buy, sell, and trade all things LEGO®, will open August 2nd in the Southtown Center, 2047 Niles Rd, St Joseph, inside the former All Eyes location.

#### Introducing Bricks & Minifigs!

For those of you unfamiliar with Bricks & Minifigs®, they are the largest franchised toy store of its kind specializing in the buying, selling and trading of new and used LEGO® sets, bulk bricks, and minifigures ("minifigs"). The store is the first store opened by franchisee Fernanda Pineda, a

Continued on page 2

#### **Inserts & Promotions**

- Dollar General
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- Renewal by Andersen Inserts may vary by zip code

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#### **Spoonholtz** Continued from cover

resident of the Saint Joseph/Stevensville area.

In addition, Bricks & Minifigs will provide an event space for birthday parties or special LEGO® themed events like afterschool robotics clubs, "Make-and-Take" events, Brick Derby races, and more. The space will also be available for corporate workshops, mini-retreats, and team-building off-site meetings.

Bricks & Minifigs has built their brand based on three principals:

• REBUILD: with tens-of-thousands of pieces to choose from, customers will have what they need to rebuild their favorite sets or create their own original projects.

• REUSE: Bricks & Minifigs buys, sells, and trades everything LEGO<sup>®</sup>. And we mean everything!

• REIMAGINE: staff members are trained to assist customers of all ages to create unique and imaginative masterpieces.

"I'm very excited to bring the Bricks & Minifigs experience to the area," Fernanda said. "LEGO® is an ageless toy that appeals not only to children, but also to parents, grandparents, and anyone who enjoys creative expression through those little plastic bricks."

I had the pleasure of meeting Fernanda and her husband to talk about their new venture with Bricks & Minifigs - their passion for LEGO® and the community is contagious! I know personally, I'm looking forward to visiting the space and shopping for many of my friends' children and perhaps a few items for myself.

**SINCE 1942** 

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The first 100 customers through the door for the Grand Opening celebration on August 2nd will receive a free customized "Bricks & Minifigs Saint Joseph" gift. The first 10 customers in line will also receive a full year of Free Bulk once a month. For all people joining our Grand Opening there will be a chance to win 3 New in box LEGO sets and be part of amazing activities during the day. All parties and events booked during the Grand Opening weekend will receive a 20% discount off standard booking rates

The LEGO® pop culture experience not only includes the quintessential building bricks, but various movies and television programs as well, such as "The LEGO® Movie" (2014) and the "LEGO® Batman Movie" (2017), "The LEGO® Ninjago Movie" (2017), and LEGO®Masters hosted by Will Arnett (airs on FOX).

Bricks & Minifigs® was founded in Portland, Oregon in 2009 and now operates 150+ franchised stores in North America and Canada with more stores slated to open later this year. In 2021 Bricks & Minifigs was named one of Entrepreneur Magazine's 500 Best Franchises (also named as the #2 children's retail brands).

You can find them online by searching BricksandMinifigs St. Joseph on Facebook, or feel free to email Fernanda directly at SaintJoseph.Mi@BricksAndMinifigs.com

If you're interested in learning more about Bricks & Minifigs, their ribbon cutting, or the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber visit <u>smrchamber.com</u>. Connect with me directly at <u>sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com</u> or 269-932-

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Photo of the Week



#### Buzz and Berries Photo by Chris Loose-Randall

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.



#### **Trapped and Set Free**

I was crammed into the small space beneath the bed—completely trapped. Behind the drawers built into the frame of the bottom bunk where my brother slept, there was a narrow slot just big enough to crawl into. As kids, we used to hide and play back there.

But this time was different. My older brother had friends over, and

when I scrambled into the space to hide from them, I got stuck. In the scuffle, the box spring had slipped partly off its brace and dropped just enough to pin me down.

My brother and his friends ran off, unaware I was trapped. At first, I was relieved to be alone. But then I realized I couldn't get out. I called for help, but the mattress muffled my voice. It was only a few minutes before my younger brother found me and got help, though it felt like much longer.

Have you ever felt trapped?

Maybe it's a hurt that someone else has caused you. It's so deep that you feel it caving in on you. Maybe it's depression or anxiety that muffles your cries. Maybe you feel like no matter what decision you make, it will lead to something bad. Or it's the same bad habit that catches you over and over again. It can be terrifying to be trapped. <sup>13</sup>The Father rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13-14).

Notice that rescued is past tense. It already happened. Just as you can't change your past, you can't change what God did for you in the past. God came into history to rescue you. He reached in when it was all falling on top of you. He has pulled you out from under the weight and burden to bring you from darkness into the Son.

Do you still feel trapped?

Don't let Satan lie to you. He wants you to think that you are stuck. He wants to keep you pressed in. He taunts and attempts to toss you back into the darkness.

God sent a Savior in a very real person (Jesus) at a very real time (the first century) to walk in a very real place (Jerusalem) to shed his very real blood on a real piece of wood and rise from a very real tomb. It happened and it happened for you. God rescued you. You don't have to feel trapped anymore.

Who do you trust to remind you that you have been set free whenever you feel trapped?

Dear Lord, thank you for such an amazing rescue of redeeming me from sin through Jesus. Help me see that I am safe with you. Chase Satan away so I don't feel trapped anymore. Amen.

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

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Tyler **Allen** Comfort Advisor Boss Services

#### Penguins and Their Icy Romance

Penguins, those charming, tuxedo-clad birds, have an undeniable love affair with the cold. Found primarily in the Southern Hemisphere, these flightless wonders thrive in some of the planet's chilliest environments, from the icy slopes of Antarctica to the windswept shores of sub-Antarctic islands. Their ability to flourish in freezing conditions is not just a survival tactic—it's a testament to their remarkable adaptations and quirky behaviors that make them a favorite among wildlife enthusiasts. Here are some fun facts about penguins and why they're so enamored with the cold.

First, penguins are built for the cold. Their feathers, densely packed at about 70 per square inch, act like a natural wetsuit, trapping warm air close to their bodies. Beneath this, a layer of blubber provides insulation against frigid waters, where temperatures can plummet below freezing. Emperor penguins, the largest species, take this to extremes, enduring Antarctic winters where temperatures drop to -76°F (-60°C). They huddle in groups, sometimes thousands strong, to share body heat, rotating positions so each penguin gets a turn in the cozy center. This communal strategy highlights their social nature and cold-weather resilience.

Their love of cold extends to their playful antics. Penguins are known for toboggan-

ing—sliding on their bellies across ice or snow to conserve energy while moving efficiently. This behavior, seen in species like the Adélie and chinstrap, is both practical and downright adorable, as they glide with surprising grace. The cold, icy slopes are their playground, and their streamlined bodies are perfectly suited for these frosty slides.

Penguins also rely on the cold for food. Their diet, primarily fish, squid, and krill, thrives in chilly, nutrient-rich waters. For instance, the Humboldt penguin, native to the coasts of Chile and Peru, benefits from the cold Humboldt Current, which supports abundant marine life. Diving into icy waters, penguins use their flipper-like wings to "fly" underwater, reaching depths of over 1,800 feet in the case of emperor penguins. The cold ensures their pantry stays stocked, fueling their active lifestyles.

Interestingly, not all penguins live in icy realms. Galápagos penguins, for example, inhabit equatorial islands but still seek cooler ocean currents to hunt. This shows their adaptability, but their preference for colder waters remains a constant. Even their black-and-white plumage, a hallmark of their "formal attire," aids thermoregulation, with dark backs absorbing heat when needed and white bellies blending with icy surroundings to avoid predators.

Penguins' love of the cold also shapes their romance. During breeding season, species like the gentoo build nests from pebbles in snowy colonies, with males offering choice stones to woo mates—a chilly but charming gesture. Their devotion to cold habitats ensures their survival, making them icons of resilience and joy in the world's iciest corners.

In a warming world, protecting these cold-loving creatures is crucial. Their icy homes are under threat, but their enduring charm reminds us why penguins and their frosty romance deserve our admiration and care.



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#### How Modern Hearing Aids Tackle **Restaurant Noise**

For individuals with hearing loss, one of the most frustrating environments is a noisy restaurant. The clatter of dishes, overlapping conversations, and background music can turn a simple dinner out into an exhausting experience. Fortunately, today's hearing aid technology is changing that reality in powerful and life-enhancing ways.

It's a common misconception that hearing aids "just make things louder." In reality, hearing aids have undergone a significant transformation in recent years, particularly in helping users navigate noisy environments like restaurants. These advances aren't just upgrades, they're breakthroughs that are allowing people to reconnect with moments they once avoided.

One of the most important innovations is in noise processing and speech clarity. In the past, hearing aids often amplified every sound equally, making it difficult to separate the voice of the person you're with from the background chatter. However, cutting-edge hearing aids now utilize





This kind of intelligent sound filtering is especially effective in dynamic environments like restaurants, where noise levels are constantly shifting. As you move from the bar area to a quieter table, or as the dinner crowd grows louder, your hearing aids adapt instantly with no manual fiddling required.

Another key feature is directional microphone technology, which helps focus your hearing on specific sound sources. If you're facing someone, the hearing aids will prioritize their voice while minimizing sounds coming from other directions. Combine that with Al-driven background suppression, and you get a much more comfortable and natural listening experience.

The result? Dinner out becomes eniovable again. No more pretending to hear. No more nodding along. Just clear, confident conversation even in challenging environments.

As hearing care professionals, we've seen firsthand how these advances in hearing technology can restore joy, confidence, and connection for our patients. If restaurant noise has made you avoid dining out, it's time to rediscover what you've been missing.

Want to experience the latest in hearing technology for yourself? Call us at (888) 675-9480 to book your free appointment or schedule online at www.prohear.net

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#### The Pet Corner

I recently read a list of the dos and don'ts when adopting a pet from a shelter or rescue (or anywhere for that matter). The suggestions all made a lot of sense, but I had to laugh because our most recent adoptee, Gracie, apparently hadn't read the list. Don't be too handy. In other words, don't try to hug and pet them all the time. Give the animal a chance to get to know you first. Gracie was happy to endure pets and as many treats and cuddles as you wanted to give her. Don't leave the pet alone at first. Well, we did, and she was fine. I wouldn't advise doing that with just any pet, but she behaved with no problems. Don't take off on a new adventure right off the bat. We did a walk around the neighborhood, where she introduced us to her unique hound bark, but we held off on anything more than that. Don't expect instant love. We didn't. But Gracie did. One of her first maneuvers was to jump in her new dad's recliner with him and flop on her back, paws in the air. It's still her favorite way to chill. Don't give a bath right away (which depends entirely on whether or not they desperately need one). Since we brought Gracie home in February, we held off on that until the weather was hot enough to bathe her outside. She was a very good girl and didn't try to escape,

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but like most dogs, she did run around all crazy afterward. Then she didn't mind being swaddled in a big towel.

Having said all this, I will also advise to not be surprised if your newly adopted pet pulls some trick on you even after a few weeks or months. Like figuring out how to open the kitchen door and escape. Or, knocking over the kitchen waste basket while you're gone to eat something she shouldn't. We fixed the door so no more escapes, and we make sure the waste can doesn't contain anything tempting or gets set in the garage when we leave. There's more than one way to train a Beagle. But the truth is, every animal is different and you need time to learn their personalities as well as they need to learn yours and what is expected of them. The very best gift to give a new pet is the gift of time. Your time. Time to adjust. Time to realize they are home. It often doesn't happen overnight. Sometimes it takes months. But sometimes, they surprise you with how willing they are to make their home with you, if you just give them a chance.

If you're looking for a new addition to the family, Berrien County Animal Services has a Summer Adoption Special going on this month. The dog adoption fee is \$30, cats \$15, and barn cats are \$5. If you adopt a dog in July, you are entered to win a doggy DNA test for your new friend.

Kitten season is still here, and all the shelters and rescues can use donations of cat and kitten food, litter, kitty toys, and treats. Also, kitten replacement milk is needed for those orphan babies that come in. Let's keep the donations bins overflowing!

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Dave Ramsey Financial Expert

#### **Dave Says** Which Comes First?

#### Dear Dave,

I just started listening to your radio show a few months ago, and I love your advice. I do have a question about the order of two of the Baby Steps, though. The list puts saving for retirement ahead of putting money aside for college if you have kids. Why do you suggest this?

#### Dear Jon,

Jon

Setting aside a college fund for your kids is a really nice thing to do, if you can actually afford that kind of thing. But kids can also further their education by getting good grades, applying for scholarships, choosing a school they can afford and working their tails off while attending classes. Trust me, I believe in education. The point is there are lots of ways to get a college degree—or complete career training at a technical or trade school-without your parents saving up and footing the bill.

Taking steps to begin saving for retirement comes before setting aside a college fund for kids, because everyone is going to retire someday. Unless, of course, they happen to

die before reaching retirement age. So, in my mind funding retirement is basically a necessity. College, on the other hand, is a luxury. In fact, it's often not the best route for someone to take when pursuing a career. Tons of folks succeed in life without going to a four-year school, and on top of that, thousands have worked their way through college.

That's why it follows saving for retirement in the Baby Steps. Should you try to save up for your kid's education? Sure, if you can. If you have the financial resources to do it, without putting your entire family's future in jeopardy. But there are many parents out there who, for one reason or another, can't pay a dime toward someone's education. And that doesn't make them bad parents.

The last time I checked, there aren't any good ways to retire that don't require getting your finances ready for retirement well ahead of time. And that requires putting aside as much money as possible to live on during your Golden Years. I mean, you can always live off Social Insecurity alone, but I don't consider that to be a good plan-or a smart one.

- Good question, Jon!
  - 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*

people. "Some of my favorite memories come from the incredible people I've had the privilege of meeting and working alongside during my time at Cornerstone. Those relationships have meant everything."

We asked Frank for a 'point of pride' during her tenure at Cornerstone:

"Among my proudest accomplishments is the creation of FLEX: Female Leadership Excellence, a now nationally recognized panel-style event that brings together powerhouse female professionals from diverse industries to share their experiences. FLEX is meant to inspire girls and women of all ages, from all walks of life, and in every stage of their career. I could not be more proud of the impact that has been made by this initiative."

As she turns her attention to Notre Dame's business school, Frank told us she feels extremely positive about Cornerstone Alliance and its future success:

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"I've always believed in the mission of Cornerstone Alliance, and that hasn't changed. I remain confident in the positive direction of the organization. Cornerstone is in a strong position with engaged leadership and a committed network of investors and partners who care deeply about the future of Berrien County. I look forward to cheering on the great things to come and the continued success of this important work."

Frank will transition out of her role with Cornerstone over the next couple of months. She'll remain a resident of Michigan's Great Southwest, commuting to the Notre Dame campus. She and husband Brian Lieberg, an executive with Wightman, recently built a new home and plan to continue to live here and be involved in the community.

by Gayle Olson, MOTM Contributor

#### **Corewell Health expands cardiology** services at Watervliet Hospital

Residents in Watervliet and surrounding areas can now receive expanded heart care at Corewell Health Watervliet Hospital

New services include general cardiology office visits, a specialized device clinic for pacemaker and defibrillator patients, and point-ofcare testing for blood thinners, providing rapid results to quickly guide treatment decisions. Testing includes echocardiograms, heart rhythm monitors, event monitors, stress testing and nuclear medicine testing which uses radioactive tracers to assess organ and metabolism function.

"Bringing high-quality cardiology services closer to home is a meaningful step forward for patients in northern Berrien and Van Buren counties," said Natalie Baggio, president of Corewell Health in Southwest Michigan. "By expanding trusted programs known for excellent outcomes and experience, we're making it easier for our communities to access the care they need, where and when they need it most."

Corewell Health Watervliet Hospital is located at 400 Medical Park Drive in Watervliet. Cardiology services are provided Monday

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"Corewell Health Watervliet Hospital is offering services five days per week in addition to cardiology testing for patients who previously had to travel to Niles and St. Joseph," said Beth Bailey, heart and vascular practice manager, Niles and Watervliet.

The hospital is in the process of hiring several new cardiologists with the expectation of an influx of new patients. The new services became available in early July.

"Cardiovascular disease continues to be a leading cause of death in the United States," said J.P. Markovic, M.D., cardiologist, Corewell Health in Southwest Michigan. "But a large percentage of cardiovascular disease is preventable, so it is vital that patients have convenient options for care as close to home as possible."

#### Downtown St. Joseph paid parking to

remain suspended for 2025 Paid parking will not be coming back to downtown St. Joseph this year.

At Monday's regular meeting of the St. Joseph City Commission, City Manager Emily Hackworth gave an update from the latest parking subgroup discussions. She said she's been on a listening tour with downtown business owners and city residents to learn their thoughts on the issue, and she's going to continue speaking with them in the coming months.

With that, Hackworth said the parking subgroup has recommended to commissioners the city extend the current paid parking pause through the year and develop new updates to the program before it relaunches next spring. She added the Downtown Development Authority is making some changes.

"There will be more voices in downtown decisions," Hackworth said. "The Downtown Development Authority is currently interviewing candidates to fill one existing vacancy while considering expanding the board further."

After the poorly received rollout of paid parking back in May, commissioners in June suspended the program while issues with non-ADA

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compliant pay stations are resolved. Following the latest subgroup meetings, that pause will simply continue.

"The parking subgroup is committed to rethinking the parking program, ensuring it both addresses downtown parking and congestion issues and is implemented in a way that enhances the downtown."

Hackworth also said the parking subgroup has recommended adding 26 new three-hour spaces to the big parking lot across from city hall. Commissioners Monday approved that recommendation but didn't take action on the recommendation to continue the paid parking pause. Their previous vote to suspend the program will suffice until they take some other action.

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





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#### On the Riviera: Seeking Grace and Taking Our Èze

Today's installment of my Mediterranean cruise serial puts Spain in our rearview mirror as we board our ship and set sail for France!

I can't wax poetic about the ship. We sailed on the Norwegian Sky. It's a somewhat older ship, and had some problems you don't wanna have on a ship (i.e., plumbing). Enough said.

The first port of call was Villefranche-sur-Mer, just east of Nice. Rather than take any tours offered by Norwegian, we booked a "private tour," with a van and guide devoted exclusively to us. Sounds hoity-toity, but in fact, it was cheaper than the ship's tours. Making my father-in-law quite happy – he's led his entire life pinching pennies until they scream. This also made my wife happy because our tour guide, Robin, was rather good-looking, for a guy. This made me somewhat unhappy.

We got on Villefranche soil a good bit later than expected, even though we were literally on

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the first tender to shore. Never heard what the holdup was. Plumbing maybe. But thankfully we could dictate our itinerary, so we bid Robin to drive us directly to Monaco, skipping a drive around Nice.

Our tour of Monte Carlo included the Jardin Albert, which features a statue of someone we were all interested in learning more about: Princess Grace (Kelly, of the Philadelphia Kellys and Hollywood fame). We also visited the city's Cathedrale, where Princess Grace is buried. I tried to treat everyone to my Grace Kelly imitation, from the film "High Society" ("Oh Dexter, help me please?"). This made them somewhat unhappy.

Next was a photo stop overlooking the city, including views of the finish line of Monte Carlo's famous Formula One race. Robin is a big F1 fan, and I'm becoming one (No 1 son and his wife are into it), so together, our mutual interest resulted in ticking my father-in-law off. See, Robin monologued at that overlook, pointing out notable things about the racecourse. I couldn't interrupt, he was on a roll! This is when my father-in-law muttered, "Don's holding up lunch!"

Monaco/Monte Carlo factoids:

• The streets of the F1 course are repaved every year.

• The Casino de Monte Carlo is a huge tourist draw. For 20 Euros – if you're dressed appropriately, pants and collared shirts for men – you can enter the gaming area. We were all ready to do that. But then pennies began screaming from my father-inlaw's pocket. So, we didn't.

hursttree@cr-lawn.com

• You must show a passport before you can play any games. However, Monaco's citizens AREN'T allowed to gamble in Monaco.

We left Monte Carlo and headed to a small village in France called Èze. And however you just read it, you read it wrong. It's not pronounced "Ease," or "Easy," or "Ezz." Instead, say the plural of "A" – "AS."

When I call Èze small, I mean REALLY small. It makes Baroda look EXTRAVAGANTLY huge. It has

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only seven residents! There are more than seven people around, but they are shop owners, hoteliers, restaurateurs, and the like.

Èze is almost indescribably quaint – a real medieval fairy-tale village, with rustic paths, walls, houses and decor. I asked if we could stay longer but Robin said "Non, must return to zee ship." Probably a good thing; I definitely would've been blamed for holding up dinner.





#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUSINESS CLOSING! After 79 years, Surplus Trading will be closing. Projected last week will be the end of September. Take advantage of in-house price reductions on all in-stock purchases. We want to thank all our loyal customers over the years. It has been a wonderful relationship and we will miss you all. Stop buy at the store, 4 miles north of downtown St. Joe. Hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8-5. Wednesday 8-12, and Saturday 9:30 to 12.

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#### LEGALS

#### BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING NOTICE

The City of Bridgman Board of Review will meet on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. EST, at the Bridgman City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, Michigan for the purposes of correcting clerical errors and mutual mistakes of fact. This notice is posted in compliance with Open Meeting Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, MCL 15.261, et seq., and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids should contact the City Assessor by writing or calling the following:

calling the following: John Baumann, City Assessor (269) 465-5144, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, MI 49106. John Baumann, City Assessor City of Bridgman

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#### July 19, 2025 MailMax Page 17 MISCELLANEOUS

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