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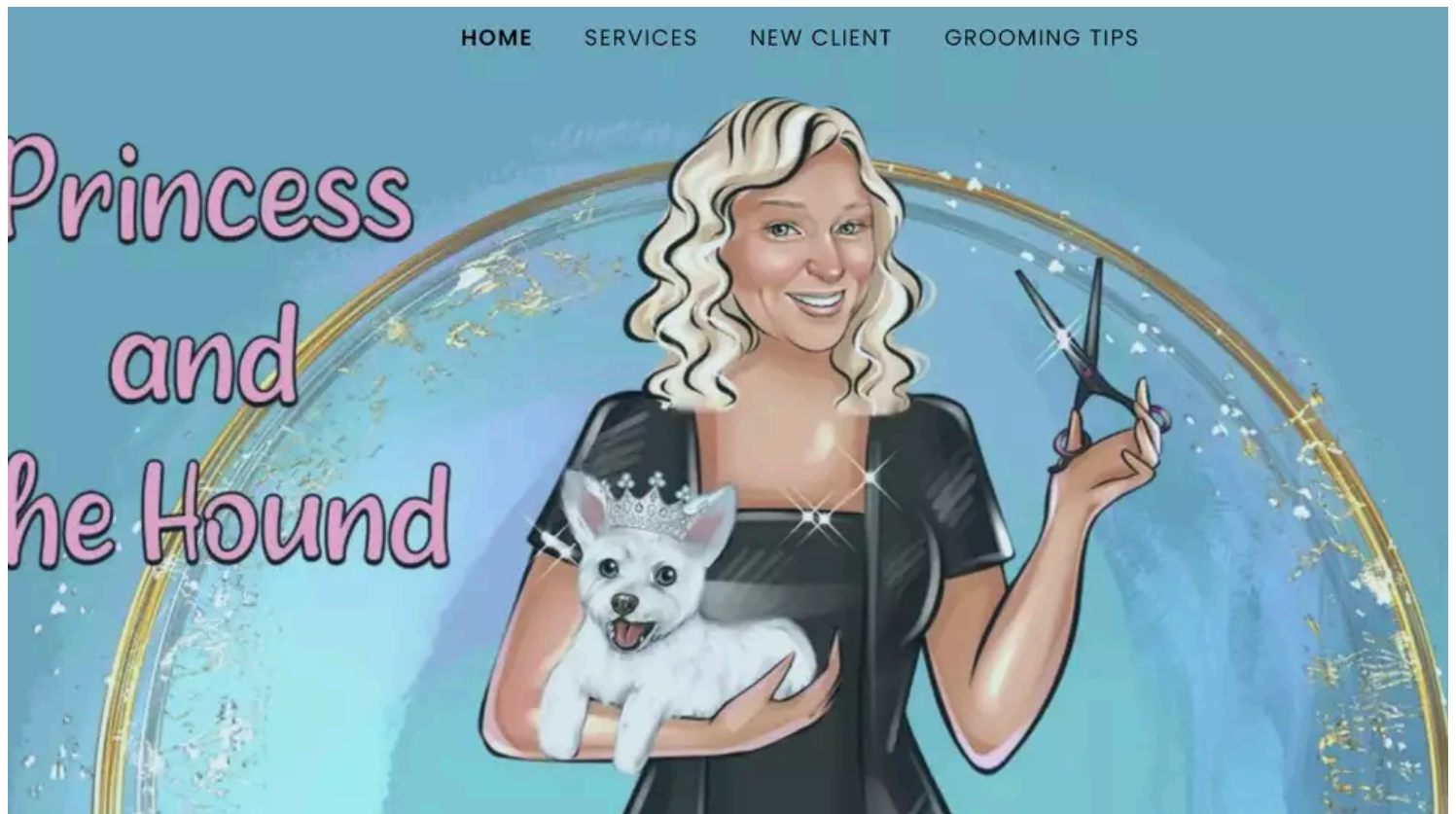
Second 'Business by the Bay' competition taking applications till July 31

Final live pitch takes place Nov. 13 at John Glenn High School

By **Jon Becker**, *for the Daily News*

July 14, 2024





Princess and the Hound, a mobile pet grooming salon, took home top honors and \$5,000 as the winner of the inaugural Business by the Bay Pitch Competition in 2023.

screenshot

Bay County's efforts to help pave a path for entrepreneurship continue with its second annual "Business by the Bay" Pitch Competition.

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Presented by Huntington Bank, the event is accepting applications from emerging small businesses in Bay County until July 31 at 5 p.m.

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To be eligible to compete for \$11,500 in cash prizes, you must be a for-profit business with a primary location in Bay County that has operated for two years or less as of November 13, 2024, and has generated less than \$1 million in revenue.

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The final live pitch event, to be conducted in front of a panel of industry experts, is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 13 at the John Glenn High School auditorium.

Michelle Judd, small business consultant for Bay County and organizer of the event, said it's back by popular demand.

“After the tremendous success of our inaugural event last year, we’re thrilled to bring Business by the Bay back for its second year,” said Judd. “The event not only provides funding opportunities but also offers ir

opportunities for our local entrepreneurs.”

The grand prize winner will receive \$5,000, with \$3,500 to \$750 for runners-up.

According to Judd, the event aims to foster small business prosperity and economic growth within Bay County's start-up business community.

"The competition's impact is evident in the success of the previous winners," she said. "Princess and the Hound mobile dog grooming, Lolobee's Lounge coffee shop, and Bayside Buggies pedicab service, all award recipients from the 2023 competition, are now successfully operating their businesses in Bay County."

The competition offers participants valuable work pitch deck creation. Finalists will have the opportunity to a panel of judges and receive direct funding c

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Additional funding support stems from Bay County’s American Rescue Plan Act allocation to Bay Future, Inc. in partnership with the Michigan Small Business Development Center–Lake Huron Region.



The event is the brainchild of Bay Future, Inc. or Development Center.

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July 14, 2024

Jon Becker



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