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Moody on The Market



February 12, 2022

loody

Whitcomb Is Sold, Will Remain

Retirement Residence

The Whitcomb Senior Living Residence has been sold and will remain a senior living facility with expanded focus and upgraded facilities.

The new owners, Whitcomb Senior Living confirmed the purchase Tower. to MoodyOnTheMarket.com Tuesday afternoon, saying they are "super-excited to join the St. Joseph community."

Prabhjot (Jay) Singh and his wife, Dr. Navneet Kaur own the new company. They are residents of Kalamazoo and expect to be on-site at the Whitcomb daily and involved with residents care and the operation of the facility. Day to day management will continue to be handled by Whitcomb Executive Director/Administrator Tim Haves.

Singh told MoodyOnTheMarket.com that they have about three years of experience in the ownership and operation of senior living facilities in North Carolina, where they lived until recently. Singh said they moved back to Kalamazoo to be closer to family and were looking for a business opportunity in the senior care field when "the Whitcomb opportunity fell into our lap." Singh said he and his wife have the background, experience and firm commitment to build on the 50-year heritage of the Whitcomb and improve it going forward.

The Whitcomb has been owned for more than 15 years by a group of investors with Chicago area and Southwest Michigan ties, West Coast Management. WCM was headed by managing partner Eric Hansen. There had been rampant speculation in recent months that the Whitcomb would be sold and redeveloped as a boutique hotel. That is not happening.

Singh told us they will immediately begin planning upgrades of the Whitcomb facilities and the overall feel and appearance of the building's interior. Where appropriate, it will be modernized, he said, but with careful commitment to maintaining the Whitcomb's historic ambiance and look. And he announced proudly that the Whitcomb has been newly listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Singh and Kaur said they take the Whitcomb's legacy very seriously, however, one

Continued on page 16

I wanted to be proactive and get my life back under control while I'm still young."

-Tashawn Reese

Niles, MI

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Executive Director, Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council

Fun & Interesting Things to Do in Michigan's *Great* Southwest! We hope you are make this area prosper and vibrant with activ-

Speaking of activity, the later part of this month you can enjoy a couple of performances during Live at the Acorn. The first performance is by The Backups, February 13. The Backups are a soulful, harmony driven lady and to do our part to trio made up of Leslie Sypian, Meredith

George and Morgan Ingle. A love for music and sharing it brought this group together. All hailing from Southwest Michigan, these ladies play originals and covers from all genres. Sweet and smooth!

The second Live at the Acorn features Real Pretenders, February 26. Real Pretenders

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Fun Continued from cover

are four Chicago music scene veterans (Expo '76, Heartsfield, Zimmermen, Naomi Ashley Band) with a passion for the hard-driving rhythms, catchy melodic hooks, soul-tortured lyrics, and back-alley sex appeal that characterize the music of the Pretenders. Real Pretenders aren't simply a tribute to the music of the Pretenders, they are a tribute to their essential spirit. The Acorn says that this is a do not miss performance!

Next up is a couple of do not miss performances at The Mendel Center this month. The first is *Cirque Mechanics: Birdhouse Factory*, February 19. Enter the most unlikely setting for a circus: a factory. One where the workers are acrobats and the machines are circus props. Welcome to the Birdhouse Factory! See a contortionist perform on a turntable powered by unicyclists. Be captivated by the trapeze artist powered by the spins of an acrobat inside a giant wheel. Be stunned as the trampoline wall artist defies the laws of physics. Giggle at the antics of the characters, be impressed by the acro-dancing, and enchanted by the story of laughter, love, flight, and birdhouses.

The second event is their annual *Winter Delights* featuring Las Cafeteras, February 26. Born and raised east of the Los Angeles River, Las Cafeteras are remixing roots music and telling modern-day stories of Latino and immigrant lives. Using traditional Son Jarocho instruments like the jarana, requinto, quijada (donkey jawbone) and tarima (a wooden platform), Las Cafeteras sing in English, Spanish, and Spanglish and meld styles, from rock to hip-hop to rancheras. Las Cafeteras use music as a vehicle to build bridges among different

cultures and communities, and create "a world where many worlds fit". There are a few different options for *Winter Delights* which include dinner, wine and chocolate tasting, and Las Cafeteras; be sure to check them out.

Something new begins February 25, *A Little Taste of Home Dinner Series*, at Tabor Hill Winery & Restaurant! With the "Little Taste of Home" dinner series, they will highlight the delectable cuisine renowned to a particular region of the United States with a special à la carte menu, in addition to regular menu offerings.

For February's "Little Taste of Home" dinner series, they will take you to the East Coast! From delicious crab cakes to the classic New England Clam Chowder, Chef Cam has brought the East Coast delicacies to Tabor Hill Winery & Restaurant for this special dinner event.

Due to last week's storm that made for dangerous travel for the professional ice carvers from across the country the *Magical Ice Fest* was rescheduled for February 25-27. Join St. Joseph Today for the annual Magical Ice Fest to celebrate the winter season. It's a weekend that brings frosty fun to downtown St. Joseph where you can enjoy professional Ice Carving Competitions, a SnowBiz Scavenger Hunt, Ice Interactives and more!

For all the details visit <u>www.swmichigan.org</u>. We'll be back in a couple of weeks with fun and interesting things to do in Michigan's *Great* southwest!

Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com





Fire and Ice Photo by Rhonda Coffey Riggins

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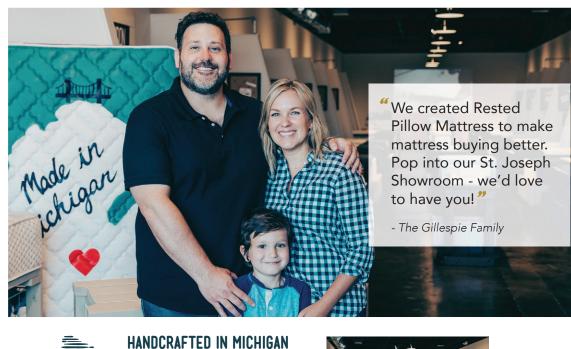
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My quest to learn about entrepreneurs in Southwest Michigan has brought me to Ben's Soft Pretzels, located in the Arts District of Benton Harbor. Ben's Soft Pretzels is owned by Julie Weckel. Julie first tasted a Ben's pretzel

about five years ago when her daughter (who happens to be one of my best friends... HI TAY!) convinced her to try one while they were shopping one day. She said that after trying it, she was hooked. She thought to herself how she would love to have a Ben's Soft Pretzels shop closer to home, and then it dawned on her that SHE could be that person!

Ben's Soft Pretzels offers a wide variety of food, not just your typical pretzel. They offer the



soft gourmet pretzels (of course), but they also offer them in a variety of flavors, such as pizza, garlic, parmesan, jalapeno and cheese, cinnamon and sugar, and much more. They also offer pretzel sandwiches, pretzel dogs, prizza (pretzel pizza), buggy bites (pretzel bites), and 11 different dipping sauces for your choosing; not to mention the world-famous Ben's Lemonade as well.

When asked what she thinks Ben's Soft Pretzels can provide for the community she said "As a social worker, I think it is important for people to make a living wage, that they work in a safe and positive environment, and that they are happy in their jobs. We have created that environment here, all while feeding the community warm, soft pretzels."

Julie would love to connect with schools and outreach programs to provide internships and entrepreneurial education for local students.

I have been lucky enough to have eaten at Ben's Soft Pretzels a couple of times. I have ordered something different every single time I have gone and not a single thing on their menu has disappointed my taste buds. You are always greeted by a smiling and friendly staff member, and everyone seems genuinely happy to be there...the staff AND customers.

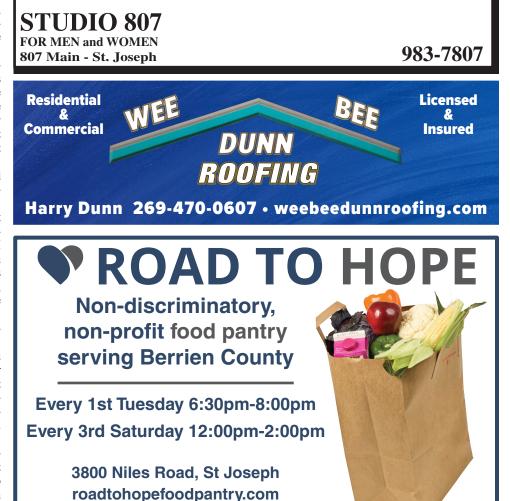
Ben's Soft Pretzels is located in the Arts District at 136 Territorial Road in Benton Harbor. They are open 10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. daily. If you have questions about any of their products or would like to order in advance, give them a call at 269-252-5091. You can also find them on Facebook and Instagram to see photos of all the deliciousness they have to offer. I promise you will not be disappointed stepping in there.

Are you or someone you know a new business owner in the area? If so, shoot me an email at news@MailMaxOnline.com . I would love to learn more about other aspiring entrepreneurs in our area Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com

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At the heart of the Renewed Homes company lies a passion for home design and renovation. Renewed Homes got its start when the co-founders decided to put their passion for fixing up old homes into improving the community around them. That's why they dedicate so much time and energy to each and every project. Our move-inready homes have been carefully and thoughtfully designed and rebuilt to fit modern design and architectural trends.

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Referenced From: www.RenewedHomesMI.com

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ine.com Pastor Rosenbaum

the yard when he heard his dad call his name. Charlie slowly walked into the garage, where his dad was working. His dad said, "I want you to go in and tell your sister it is time for the two of you to clean up the toy room. Grandma and Grandpa are coming for dinner later, and we want the house to look nice."

Seven-year-old

Charlie was playing in

Charlie knew his sister wouldn't be happy to hear that message, and he wasn't either. So, instead of relaying the message, he told her, "Dad says we each need to pick up one toy in the toy room, and then we can have a cookie."

Charlie's dad was not happy when he walked in later to find cookie crumbs on top of the mess on the toy room floor.

God wanted a man named Jeremiah to give the people a message. He told him to warn the people about God's judgment for their disobedience. They wouldn't want to hear God's message, but God uncovered a clear agenda for Jeremiah: Take my message and speak it to the people. Unlike Charlie, Jeremiah faithfully did what he was told to do, even though he would be persecuted and suffer for what he said.

loors

God wants everyone to know and believe what he says. Many don't want to hear what God has to say. But God's agenda for us is clear: Take the message you hear and read in the Bible and speak it to others. Don't hide it. Don't change it. Don't put your own spin on it. Speak the message I give you.

MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest

From God's Lips to Ours

The LORD reached out his hand and touched my

mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in

vour mouth. "~ *Jeremiah 1:9*

God's message isn't always popular with us, and it won't always be popular with others. It reveals our disobedience and how we deserve God's judgment. But then it uncovers the truth of God's love for us in Jesus: Jesus came to die for us, to forgive our fears, and clean up the messes we make in our lives. Jesus doesn't want anyone to die without knowing and believing that awesome saving message. God gives us the strength to speak his Word faithfully.

Prayer: God, you've given me your Word. Help me to speak it without changing anything. Amen.

> Submitted by:Pastor Glenn T. Rosenbaum Administrative Pastor Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Joseph Originated by: <u>www.What AboutJesus.com</u>

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We've heard for years now that using our voices and sharing our thoughts or opinions on things is a good thing. Not only does it allow you to share your insight on current happenings, but it can also help guide how organizations operate and develop in the coming years. Two examples of this, you'll find in this article today. The first being from Coloma Community Schools and the second from the Friends of Berrien County Trails - both need your help in developing their strategic plans.

Coloma Community Schools has partnered with the Michigan Leadership Institute (MLI) to begin work on developing a new strategic plan to provide the focus and drive the work of the

district for the next few years. Their current strategic plan expires at the end of the school year, and anyone familiar with strategic planning knows the earlier that you can start working on it, the better! To make sure the residents, families, and busi-

nesses inside the Coloma School District are involved and have a voice in the process, they have a survey up and active through 11:59 p.m. on February 15th. You'll find the survey here:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/KR5Z9LS results will be compiled together and used by the Steering Committee in developing goals for the strategic plan, which should be adopted by the Board of Education at its regular April meeting. Which will allow for plenty of time to make plans for the 2022-23 school year and get everything aligned together.

The Steering Committee is composed of Heidi Ishamel, Bob Hirsch, Terry Sheehan, Alan Selvidge, Julie Cripe, Wendy Tremblay, John Klein, Ben Rimes, Tandy Ulleg, and Superintendent David Ehlers

www.MailMaxOnline.com **Use Your Voice - Be Heard!**

Next up is the Friends of Berrien County Trails. This week they announced the launch of the Berrien County Trails Master Planning public engagement activities, which will include a community survey and community workshops later this Spring.

Berrien County residents are encouraged to participate in the planning process starting with the official survey found at

www.surveymonkey.com/r/bctmp-survey which will remain open through the end of February. This Master Trail Plan is for the people of the region to connect us to our natural amenities which includes our rivers, parks, and communities.

From their official Press Release: "In response to increasing awareness, use and support of trails throughout Berrien County, the Friends of Berrien County Trails is developing a county-wide Trails Master Plan. The plan will provide a county-wide vision and foster the development of more trails in the county. The plan will address trails for transportation and recreation use including walking, hiking, biking, paddling, skiing and equestrian trails.

"The Friends of Berrien County Trails has identified a bold vision for a future in which walking, paddling, and bicycling and other trail opportunities are easily accessible throughout Berrien County for people of all ages and abilities. The Berrien County Trails Master Plan will provide the tools to achieve this vision. The Friends hopes to engage a broad group of stakeholders in a process that will build community consensus on future trail project priorities and investments.

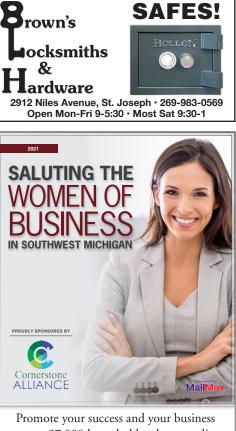
'We want trails in Berrien County to become one of the top reasons residents and visitors love the SWMI region. Our vision is to develop trails that enhance people's quality of life and strengthen the social, economic, and environmental well-being of our region," said Dawn Marie Smith of Be Healthy Berrien."

The Trails Master Plan has been taken on fully by The Friends of Berrien County Trails, in partnership with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission and Be Healthy Berrien, as a key activity to further the organization's mission and goals. Abonmarche Consultants has been engaged to lead the planning process. You can learn more about the Friends and the Master Plan at www.BerrienTrails.org.

If you'd like to chat more about the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber and upcoming events or programming - feel free to reach out! sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com or 269-932-4040. Stay safe, and warm out there! I hope to see you around Southwest Michigan soon!



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Bright White, 6.4 V8 Engine, Trailer Brake Controller,		
Touchscreen Radio, Protection Group, Powe	er Mirrors,	
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ADD FOR SNOWPLOW	. <u>+ 8,123</u>	
SUBTOTAL	\$55,333	
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SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$54,333 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER CONSUMER CASH* - 500















MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest

Boomer generation ages into that phase. He told us the Whitcomb will fully develop its multi-level care model, which he termed "Aging In Place". New residents may come to the Whitcomb seeking Independent Living. Over time, they may require Assisted Living. And some may eventually require Memory Care. He plans to offer the best of all three levels of care at the Whitcomb.

Currently the facility has a capacity of approximately 130 residents and is about 60% occupied. About 40 persons are on the Whitcomb staff.

In reaffirming their commitment to operating a senior living facility Singh and Kaur declined to speculate on whether a previous potential buyer had plans to transform the Whitcomb into a boutique hotel or condominium units. MOTM had heard from several unrelated sources over several months that such plans were in the works, with one even naming a very viable boutique hotel brand. Downtown business owners we spoke to about those rumors generally like having the Whitcomb in its Senior Living role, so they will likely be applauding today's news and the plans outlined by Singh and Kaur.

End of an Era:

Bagatini's Music to Close

It's the end of an era in downtown St. Joseph, and in the Music World in Michigan's Great Southwest.



Ed Bagatini-at age 92-is closing

'Bagatini's Quality Music Merchandise', his

music shop at 418 State Street on the South end

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<image>

Saturday, Febuary 26, 8 pm

\$20 concert only / \$50 for pre-show + concert bundle

This February, Winter Delights is going to sizzle with an unforgettable night of music on the Mainstage that will get you on your feet. Born and raised east of the Los Angeles River, **Las Cafeteras** are remixing roots music and telling modern-day stories of Latino and immigrant lives. Las Cafeteras sing in English, Spanish, and Spanglish and meld styles, from rock to hip-hop to rancheras. Las Cafeteras use music as a vehicle to build bridges among different cultures and communities, and create "a world where many worlds fit".

Visit Winter Delights webpage for full details about pre-show dinner, wine tasting, and chocolate making demonstration!



This program supported by the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs

TheMendelCenter.com or call 269-927-8700, option 1

Open camera & scan code to learn more

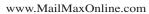




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PRE-SHOW

EXPERIENCES

AILABLE



www.MailMaxOnline.com MOODY Continued from page 17

told us "We're trying to clear things out as soon as we can.

Ed Bagatini has been synonymous with musical instruments and live musical performances in Southwest Michigan for 60 years. According to various internet posts, he took over the former Kniebes Music Store in 1962 and has operated it ever since. 'Bagatini's' went up over the door in 1982-and that's how people have referred to the unique traditional music store ever Musical instruments, a wide variety of since.

sional musicians and give him credit for the initial inspiration, as well as much coaching along the way. According to a biographic page on www.goswm.com, Bagatini "laid the foundations for the band programs at Lake Michigan College and Lake Michigan Catholic Schools

In a time when things are often 'throw away', including musical instruments, Bagatini has been a master of repairing items so that they can continue to be used for years. In the back of his store is fully-equipped musical instrument repair area. It's said that he often has been able with the 5th Army Headquarters Band. Later. after establishing himself in Southwest Michigan, he was the musical director of The Nostalgic Big Band, the Dynabones and the Ed Bagatini Trio. Bagatini's special musical arrangements highlighted The Dynabones performances of 'easy listening live jazz' for trombone, guitar, bass and drums. Depending on the occasion, Bagatini and his trombone appeared with all variations from a trio up to an eleven piece orchestra.

All the best to Ed Bagatini for his lifetime of service to Michigan's Great Southwest!

> Pat Moody Publisher, MoodyOnTheMarket.com moodv@wsim.com (269) 925-1111



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Stevensville, Michigan – Residents living in and around the Stevensville, Michigan can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. First Church of God will host this community event on 2/23/2022. The site is located at 5767 Red Arrow Hwy in Stevensville. *Screenings can check for:*

- The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health.
 - HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels
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 - Bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis
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- Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

Special package pricing starts at \$149, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors.

Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at <u>www.lifelinescreening.com</u>. Pre-registration is required.

Screenings in Kansas are performed by Life Line Screening of America, LLS on behalf of Life Line Screening Physicians, P.A. In Texas: Physician authorization is required. A Life Line Screening affiliated physician will provide authorization for you if you qualify. Screenings in California are provided by Life Line Mobile Screening.

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This year's Super Bowl (version LILXNas I think) will see a new champion crowned. Neither team – the Cincinnati Bengals or the Los Angeles Rams – has EVER won a Super Bowl.

Ok, the Rams won it a couple decades ago, BUT they were the St. Louis Rams then, so technically, my first paragraph is unassailably correct.

What may wind up being assailable is which team I choose to root for. There are many factors to consider, such as:

I could root for Cincinnati because Neil Armstrong taught aeronautical engineering at the University of Cincinnati from 1971-79. This matters to my rooting interest because, besides being an astronaut and the first man to walk on the moon, Armstrong's also a graduate of my beloved Purdue University. (Hey, I never said these rooting rationales wouldn't be torturously tenuous.)

I could root for the Rams because, in a little NFL-playoff bracket contest between me and my sons, only one of us picked one of these teams to make the Super Bowl – No. 1 son, who picked the Rams to win it all.

I could root for the Bengals because Cincy is the home of Fredric Baur, who invented the Pringles can (m'mmmm, Pringles, one of my **serious** guilty pleasures!). When he passed on in 2008, his ashes were interred. In an empty Pringles can. True story.

I could root for the Rams because Los Angeles birthed the Internet! In 1969, the baby Internet, called ARPANET, was used to send a message from the University of California-Los Angeles to the Stanford Research Institute near

This year's Super San Francisco. The message consisted of the 'l (version LILXNas' word "LOGIN." However, the system crashed before the transmission finished. So, Stanford received a message that read "LO." (Sorta like her team – the saying "Hello" without "Hel"?) True story.

I could root for the Bengals because a couple of popular film stars from the mid-1900s grew up there – Rosemary Clooney and Vera Ellen. And some of you may already be reacting like I did! – these two played the Haynes sisters in the classic movie "White Christmas"!

(Sidebar: As a kid, Vera Ellen carpooled to dance classes with Doris Kappelhoff, who eventually became superstar as famous as Doris Day, whom I had a **serious** crush on as a kid.)

As a bird lover, I could root for the Rams for this birdbrain reason: By roaming L.A.'s green spaces, you could come across birds called the California Thrasher, the California Towhee, the California Least Tern, the California Scrub Jay, and the California Quail. California's a *big* winner over Ohio in the "Birds Bearing Names of U.S. States," because Ohio has, ummm, zero.

(Sidebar: California is in the name of two official state birds – the aforementioned California Quail, state bird of "Duh! I shouldn't have to tell you!," and the California Gull, the state bird of . . . Utah. Which, if I were a Utahan, might just rankle me a bit from time to time.)

Wait, I just realized: I almost gotta root for the Rams – they beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the playoffs, thus ushering Darth Brady – nemesis to my beloved Buffalo Bills for a generation – to the sidelines, FOREVER! So, go Rams!! Well, unless someone wants to sway me to Cincinnati's side with a free case of Pringles. TakeFiveT5@yahoo.com

Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com



The Roots of Super Bowl Rooting

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