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March 26, 2022

Moody on **The Market**



WNIT to air documentary on Silver Beach Amusement Park.

Set to air on May 26 on PBS affiliate WNIT in South Bend is a documentary about the Silver Beach Amusement Park, and we caught up with the film's executive producer to learn more about the project. Paul Wasowski tells WSJM News he used to go to the amusement park as a child before it closed in 1971. Looking below the bluff these days, you'd never know what used to be there.

"I always thought, 'Man, this would be a really great documentary to talk about the amusement park' because there really aren't any traces of the amusement park at all," Wasowski said. "You've got the carousel that's down there, but that's not the original carousel. It's built to spec of the original carousel, but it's not the original one "

He says the park was started in the late 1890s by a man who owned a boat business and his partner.

"They put together Silver Beach Real estate Amusement Company, and from there they started building cabins for people to come to Silver Beach just to stay, just for the beach itself, and from there it progressed into the amusement park itself.

Wasowski says the attraction went on to become the Coney Island of the Midwest. Prior to that, St. Joseph and Benton Harbor were quite different from what they are today.

"Benton Harbor was the place to go to at that time and St. Joseph wasn't. When you went to Benton Harbor, the shops were in Benton Harbor. You dressed up to go to Benton Harbor. You would eat dinner in Benton Harbor. In St. Joe, you'd wear shorts and go to the beach."

Wasowski says his documentary will focus on the culture that existed alongside the amusement park.

Continued on page 9



Brandon Haney, **Championship** Director

Showing off Southwest Michigan and driving tourism through the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship

CRISPY GOLDE

the journey to the 2022 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores this spring will enjoy a multi-dimensional preview of all of Michigan's Great Southwest just steps beyond the front gate and ticket booth thanks

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Welcome to delicious.

Spectators from far and wide who make to the team of the Pure Michigan Community Showcase Committee.

That volunteer committee will present eye-popping imagery, performing artists, and even a taste of the talents found along the

Continued on page 2

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Page 2 March 26, 2022 Haney Continued from cover

renowned Makers Trail of craft breweries, wineries and distilleries in our region to visitors arriving for the event.

The Pure Michigan Community Showcase, alongside the PGA of America merchandise center, again will highlight and promote the broad range of amenities, destination attractions and family fun opportunities that await visitors either at the end of their day at Harbor Shores or when they return to the community for the full tourist experience. Visit the wonderful exhibit showcasing Michigan's Great Southwest as a premier place to eat, stay, play, and live.

Six local breweries, wineries and distilleries will participate in the Makers Trail 19th Hole venue, allowing spectators to experience the offerings of local businesses, and fans can sample featured Makers in the Pure Michigan Community Showcase tent. Enjoy a taste of the Makers Trail while listening to live performing musicians in the main entrance courtyard at the end of the day too.

Visitors can also step aboard a shuttle bus that makes stops in both the Benton Harbor Arts District and downtown St. Joe. New this year is a shuttle stop connecting the new water taxi from Cornerstone Alliance, the Harbor Cycleboat and the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, which will share a unique view from the community's waterfront.

The tradition of a major musical concert at City Center Park returns again as Benton Harbor welcomes the entire community to celebrate the transformation over the years since the Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course burst onto the scene. While 2020 marked the

50/50

RATE

CASH

10th Anniversary of Harbor Shores Resort, the Championship returns after four years and for the fifth time in that ten-year span.

Every year that the Championship has been played at Harbor Shores, the actual economic impact to the community tops an estimated \$8-million, and the worldwide showcase of the community on NBC and Golf Channel is valued at the equivalent of another \$8-million in global exposure.

As golfers and spectators arrive in town, every hotel in the region sports colorful lobby banners welcoming them, and those hotels themselves have seen revenues spike by an additional \$1-million a year as compared to the off years when the Championship is played elsewhere.

Visitors arriving by car are greeted in both St. Joseph and Benton Harbor by colorful banners erected on light poles showcasing the event each year as well.

The PGA of America creates approximately 600 temporary jobs during each Championship event, resulting in more than \$500,000 in payroll wages, and has donated nearly \$1-million to local youth organizations in Michigan's Great Southwest over the past decade.

Clearly, the vision of the Champions for Change in our community lives on.

For more on the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship and how to purchase tickets to this year's event (May 25-29), visit: srpga.com/tickets.



MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest



Beauty is in the Eye Photo by Jeff Doroh

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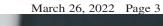
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Dave Says Stronger and in good financial shape

Dear Dave.

Ramsey

My husband and I are getting a divorce, and everything will be final in less than a month. I haven't worked outside the home in a few years, but according to the terms of the divorce I'll receive \$75,000 in cash on the day the divorce is finalized. I also have about \$5,000 in debt on a credit card I am responsible for paying. Other than that, I have no debt. Can you give me some advice for moving forward in my life?

Starla Dear Starla,

I'm truly sorry to hear you're going through this. If you're not already connected to a good church, I hope you'll consider finding one. Having caring people of faith around you in times like this can help a lot.

The credit card debt is a small part of your financial picture right now. Still, my advice is to go ahead and pay it off as soon as you receive the settlement money. That way, you'll be completely debt-free and still have \$70,000 in the bank.

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There's a little bit of a catch, though. You'll need to live for a while like that money isn't there. Use just enough to get yourself settled somewhere else, if that's a consideration, and then start looking for a job so you can eat and pay the utilities. There are tons of places hiring right now, and the money's decent, so it shouldn't be too hard to start generating a regular income soon.

If you'll do this, that big chunk of cash will still be sitting there a year from now when the pain of the divorce has lessened a bit. At that point, you'll be stronger and more emotionally and mentally ready to think about the future and make real plans.

And if you haven't already, cut up that credit card and close the account. The last thing you need right now is an avenue to more debt. God bless you, Starla.

- Dave

* Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, 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 Ramsey Solutions.

Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com



"This Magic Moment," "Cara Mia," "Come a Little Bit Closer," "Some Enchanted Evening," "Walkin' in the Rain," "Only in America," "She Cried," "Let's Lock the Door (And Throw Away the Key)," and more! They will be joined by The Cyrkle, reunited after 50 years ("Red Rubber Ball" and "Turn Down Day"), and one of the hottest young singers on the scene today, Chris Ruggiero, who'll be singing some of the greatest hits of the 1960s. If you've ever seen those latenight PBS-TV vintage rock and roll specials, vou've probably seen Ruggiero singing his heart out. A Pop, Rock & Doo Wopp production at The Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College, March 31

Happy spring! We

have plenty to celebrate

this season in Michigan's

Great Southwest. We

start with two of the big-

gest Stars of the Sixties

are coming to Benton

Harbor for one night

only. Jay & the Americans

will take the stage sing-

ing all their hits including

Our next event is April 9, at Krasl Art Center's artist talk and reception. It's all about graffiti! Graffiti (both singular and plural; the singular graffito is rarely used except in archeology) is a type of art genre that means writing or drawings made on a wall or other surface, usually without permission and within public view. Graffiti ranges from simple written words to elaborate wall paintings, and has existed since ancient times, with examples dating back to ancient Egypt, ancient Greece, and the Roman Empire. You can learn more about graffiti during Krasl's History of Graffiti with Asma Speeks.

MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest Fun & Interesting Things to Do in Michigan's Great Southwest

> The Berrien County Historical Association has a great ending to spring break! March 10, is the Great Bunny Hunt. The History Center at Courthouse Square has been invaded by color bunnies and as cute as they are, they can't stay there. Twenty-four candy and treat-filled 8" plastic rabbits will be hidden throughout their four open buildings. One special rabbit will also contain one complimentary family membership and \$50 gift certificate to out gift shop. Families are invited to hunt for their own rabbit to take home any time during normal business hours. Limit one rabbit per family. A perfect way to hop into the Easter weekend.

> For our next event we will go from bunnies to blooms. April 14, Tabor Hill Winery & Restaurant is offering a class in floristry entitled Booze & Blooms. Grab your friends and make it a lady's night out as they bring together two of your favorite things - flowers and wine! Local florist Leah Bayes, owner of LB Floristry, will lead a two-hour workshop on creating a fresh spring floral arrangement, step by step, just in time to be the centerpiece for this Easter weekend

> It wouldn't be Easter weekend without Easter Brunch! On April 17 the folks at The Inn at Harbor Shores invite you come out to Plank's and celebrate Easter with during their Grand Gala Easter buffet brunch. The buffet will be held in the Harborview Ballroom. Carving stations, dessert stations, seafood stations and much more!

> There's a whole line up of performances so be sure to visit www.swmichigan.org for all the fun and interesting things to do!

Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com



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Russia's Response to International Sanctions



Over the last month, Ukraine has mounted an inspiring and effective defense against Russia's unprovoked military offensive. According to conservative U.S. estimates, more than 7,000 Russian troops were killed in the first three weeks of fighting - a figure nearly three-times larger than the number of American troops killed over 20 years in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. An estimated 14,000 to 21,000 Russian troops have also been injured, further complicating their ability to achieve military objectives.

Frustrated by the fierce resistance, Russia has begun indiscriminately shelling large population centers and deliberately targeting civilian shelters - including a maternity ward - in an effort to beat Ukraine into submission. These callous attacks on civilians have forced 10 million Ukranians to abandon their homes and led nearly 4 million to flee the nation entirely.

Those who've escaped are the lucky ones. In Mariupol alone, some 4,000 civilians have been killed and thousands more are reportedly being forcibly deported to Russia by train where - in a horrific callback to WWII - they may be subjected to provide labor in remote Siberian work-camps. As of writing this article, the workcamp allegations had yet to be verified by Western intelligence agencies. US officials have, however, confirmed that Russia is the first country to use hypersonic missiles in combat and President Biden himself warned that Putin may even deploy chemical weapons on Ukraine as the conflict drags on.

This disregard for international law (and human life) has not only characterized the Russian military's response to resistance, but Russia's response to economic sanctions as well.

Many of their retaliatory measures have been predictable, if for no other reason than those being 'sanctioned' always race to find ways to lessen the impact of those sanctions. For example, Moscow has kept its stock market frozen since the onset of the invasion to prevent investors from pulling their funds; ordered exporting companies (which include some of the world's largest energy producers) to sell 80% of their foreign currency revenues to buttress the ruble; banned the purchase of dollars and other foreign currencies; and limited the amount of foreign currency Russians can withdraw from their bank accounts.

Other predictable measures are indicative of their simple desire to retaliate against those who sanctioned them and, more specifically, inflict pain on the "weak" spots of the West. Russia has already halted foreign exports of key commodities like grain and fertilizer - both of which are relied upon heavily by the rest of the world - and one can expect them to add other major exports like aluminum, copper, nickel, palladium, zinc, and, of course, energy to that list as well. These moves will inevitably drive the prices of these goods even higher, causing economic pain and food/material shortages across the globe. Last but not least are the retaliatory measures that,

much like the abhorrent military tactics mentioned earlier, fly in the face of international law.

Cyberattacks: Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) issued a "Shields Up" warning to all organizations "to be prepared to respond to disruptive cyber activity" Russia has long been suspected of engaging in devastating cyberattacks against Ukraine; knocking out part of their electric grid in 2015, hitting government agencies and banking systems the year after, and disrupting airports, railways, and banks the year after that. Aside from Russia's obvious interest in overtaking them, Ukraine proved a fertile testing ground for these attacks because they have similar grid infrastructure to that in Europe and North America - but limited resources and ability to counter-attack. Now, governments and corporations across the globe are watching closely because the "online front" of this conflict can and likely will - spill across borders. We'll focus a future column about how to prepare for these attacks and minimize damage if one were to occur.

IP Theft: One of the most flagrant ways Moscow has promised to retaliate is their pledge to seize the assets of any business leaving Russia and allow its companies and oligarchs to outright steal Western patents. That's right, Russian lawmakers are already weighing taking over auto plants owned by Ford, GM, Volkswagen and Toyota, as well as multi-billion dollar energy projects owned by ExxonMobil and BP. According to a recent article in The Hill, the Kremlin is also greenlighting a rule to allow Russian firms to steal intellectual property from companies that are home to "unfriendly" nations such as the U.S. and its allies. This means, Russian oligarchs could take over assets such as Coca-Cola's bottling factories or Ford's commercial van manufacturing plant and attempt to continue to manufacture and sell those products under the existing brand.

Complicating matters further, Russia has allegedly reached out to China seeking economic and military assistance. China has denied these claims, but wasted no time in threatening the West with retaliation should the West decide to sanction them too. What China ends up doing will undoubtedly reverberate around the world and could cause an even larger contraction of global trade. We'll likely explore what those ramifications would look like in a further column. In the meantime, we'll keep our eye on all things Russia/Ukraine and work to keep our members - and loyal MailMax readers - informed and alert of any developments.

Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com

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Berrien County Veterans Services

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983-7807

When it comes to Veterans Benefits, many veterans and dependents don't know what they don't know. Nationwide, less than 10% of those eligible apply. Let us help to educate and navigate you thru the maze of what is available from discharge to death. Here are some of the many benefits:

★ Disability Compensation benefits for prior conditions, diseases or injuries that occurred in service or many years later as a result of service (e.g. Agent Orange Exposure, Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – combat or personal trauma) to name a few.

 \star PTSD Counselors from the South Bend Vet Center who come to Berrien County twice a week.

★ Non-Service Connected Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefits (House Bound as well as Aid and Attendance) for low income veterans over age 65 or prior to age 65 that are disabled and have at least one day of wartime service (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free transportation at designated stops for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Benefits Program to the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek and the VA Health Care Center in Mishawaka.

★ Financial assistance thru the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for wartime veterans or peacetime veterans who earned an expeditionary medal (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free financial coaching from an Accredited Financial Counselor and Financial Fitness Coach Counselor as well as ongoing Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Military Edition classes.



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Our Warrior



A champion named Goliath . . . came out of the Philistine camp. His height was [over nine feet tall]. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a coat of scale armor of bronze weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels.

1 Samuel 17:4-7

Could you imagine taking the field of and has crushed them all. By his death on the battle that day? You would only have to face cross and his resurrection from the grave, Jesus has forever defeated our enemies. And he has shared his victory with us! Forgiveness of sins and eternal life are the rewards he has earned for us all through faith in him.

Goliath was a foe like no other. Jesus is crushed the enemies we could not defeat on our own. When those strong temptations Do you have enemies like that in your come back around, look to Jesus. Trust in him and ask him to fight for you.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for deenemy is a bottle filled with alcohol or pills. feating sin and temptation for me. Help me you to bring me the victory. Amen.

Submitted by:Pastor Glenn T. Rosenbaum

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Joseph Originated by: www.What AboutJesus.com

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one enemy, but he was like no enemy you had ever seen. He was almost as tall as a regulation basketball hoop. He was stronger than anyone you had ever seen and could throw that weighted spear right through a brick wall, let alone a human being. All of a warrior like no other! He has forever Israel's army looked at this giant enemy and was convinced there was no hope.

life? A giant against whom you have no chance to defeat on your own? Maybe the Perhaps the enemy is a website where your when I am tempted and lead me to trust in fingers are itching to take you. It could be that the enemy is doubt, fear, greed, or any other temptation that comes your way.

On our own, we are lost. We cannot defeat these powerful enemies by ourselves. Thankfully, we are never alone. Our Savior, Jesus, is with us, and he has already defeated an enemy even greater than Goliath. Jesus has faced off against sin, death, and the devil



pass a physical and make a one day a month commitment. For additional information, please contact Berrien County Veterans Services at (269) 983-7111 Ext. 8224. Thank you! Paid for by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest **MOODY** *Continued from Cover*

"That whole culture around it for the number of years it was going, and it changed throughout the year, and even things like how it survived the depression and World War I and World War II."

Wasowski says music was a major draw in the early days as people flocked to dance at Shadowland Ballroom.

"It's a story about the culture of what was going on at that time. Music was a big driver. Shadowland Ballroom, when that came into play in the 1930s, I think it was, there were bands that came in from all over the world."

The park grew to include a roller coaster, a carousel, a Ferris wheel, a waterslide, a penny arcade, and more. The park was closed in 1971 when crime became too difficult to manage. But that's not going to be the focus of the film. He says it could be a whole series.

"I think that what people are going to hear about this park is going to blow them away, especially people who live there and may not know it even existed. That's the crazy part about it. So, I'm looking forward to doing that."

Wasowski's feature is still in its editing stage. The film will air on WNIT on Thursday, May 26 at 8 p.m. Wasowski says you'll also be able to watch it on WNIT's website.

Improvements Coming to Berrien County Park in Watervliet.

Paw Paw River County Park in Watervliet could be getting some improvements. Berrien County Parks Director Jill Adams tells us the county in 2020 acquired some property next to the existing park. Due to the parcel being across the river, it isn't currently accessible from the park. However, Adams says the county is hoping to seek a grant to change that.

"The recently acquired land is 63 acres of essentially different types of woodland," Adams said. "What we would like to do, using grant funds that we plan to apply for from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, is gain access to that area, which is located just across the river from the current Paw Paw River County Park. We would put in a pedestrian bridge over the river, and we would expand the hard surface trails throughout the 63 acres, as well as build overlook decks and work on the river stabilization so we could have fishing access."

Right now, the property is not in use. Adams says connecting the existing park to it and adding trails would greatly increase the opportunities for recreation at Paw Paw River County Park.

"This trail system, if we are able to get to the next set of land and add the trails, would increase the trail system significantly," Adams said.

The parks department asked the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to allow it to apply for that state grant, which the county commission did shortly after we spoke with Adams.

"The overall amount of the project would be \$400,000, and that would include \$300,000 in grant funds with a \$100,000 match from the county parks."

Adams says applicants for the state grant program typically learn in December if they've been approved. The county needs to apply by April 1. Adams says the Berrien County Parks Department would like input from the public about the development of the park.

"If there are questions or comments, people can send information to <u>Parks@BerrienCounty.org</u> and we will respond." Paw Paw River County Park was opened by Berrien County in October of 2018. The current park sits on former brownfield property right off M-140. It covers an area east of the road, across the river, and on an island in the Paw Paw River. Once you get to the island, you'll find a boardwalk, walking trails, two viewing locations that could be used for fishing, and boat access. The family that owned the land across the river the county now plans to develop agreed to sell the 63 additional acres to Berrien County.

Pat Moody Publisher, MoodyOnTheMarket.com **moody@wsjm.com** (269) 925-1111 Read more at www.MailMaxOnline.com





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2021 DODGE CHARGER GT

Pitch Black, Alpine Audio Group, Blacktop Package, Touch Screen, 20 Inch Black Wheels, Remote Start, and Much More! C21364

MSRP	\$37,185
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	190
NATIONAL RETAIL CONSUMER CASH	1,500
2021 GREAT LAKES BONUS CASH	1,500
NATIONAL 2021 BONUS CASH	1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$3	2,995
MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	500
AS LOW AS\$31,9	995
(*MUST QUALIEY)	

Locks, 4X2, Remote Keyless Entry, Anti-Spin Rear

Axle, and Much More! C22072

MSRP.....\$42,545

SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 250

AS LOW AS.....\$42,295

MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER CONSUMER CASH* - 500

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\$41,795



2021 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE LUX 4X4

Diamond Black Crystal, 3.2 V6 Engine, 17 Inch Aluminum Wheels, Heated Steering Wheel, Remote Start, Heated Front Seats, Rear Back-Up Camera, Lane Departure Warning, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Power Front Driver and Passenger Seats, and Much More! C21370

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2021 JEEP COMPASS TRAILHAWK 4X4

White, Leather Seats, Power Liftgate, Heated Front Seats, Power Sun Roof, Navigation, Heated Steering Wheel, Remote Start, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Lane Departure Warning, and Much More! C21363

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2021 DODGE CHALLENGER R/T SCAT PACK

Granite Pearl, 6.4 V8 Hemi Engine, Alpine Audio Group, Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 20 Inch Low Gloss Granite Crystal Wheels, and Much Morel 021372

MSRP\$45,36	5
SIEMANS DISCOUNT 17	0
NATIONAL RETAIL CONSUMER CASH 1,50	0
2021 GREAT LAKES BONUS CASH	
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$42,19	5
MILITARY/FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 50	0
RETURNING LESSEE CASH* 50	0
AS LOW AS\$41,19	5
(*MUST QUALIFY)	•

WAGONEER



2022 WAGONEER SERIES III 4X4

Bright White, Nappa Leather, 5.7 HEMI V8 Engine, Navigation, Wireless Charging Pad, Heated First and Second Row Seats, Hands-Free Power Liftgate, 8 Passenger Seating, Heads Up Display, Adaptive Cruise Control, Heated Steering Wheel, Quadra Lift Air Suspension, and Much More! C22013

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2022 RAM 2500 PICKUP **2021 DODGE DURANGO** CITADEL ALL WHEEL DRIVE Bright White, 6.4 V8 Engine, Power Windows and

Granite Clearcoat, Heated Front and Second Row Seats, Power Sunroof, Lane Departure Warning, Forward Collision Warning, Blind Spot and Cross

Path Detection, Adaptive Cruise Control, Remote Start, Navigation, Wireless Charging Pad, 9 Alpine Speakers with Subwoofer, and Much More! C21381 MS

MSRP\$	54,II/
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	422
CHRYSLER CAPITAL 2021 BONUS CASH*	750
NATIONAL RETAIL CONSUMER CASH	1,450
NATIONAL 2021 BONUS CASH	
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$50),495
MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER CONSUMER CASH* -	
AS LOW AS\$49,9	05
AV EVIT AV $((\gamma + 7))$	



2022 RAM 2500 **CREW CAB 4X4 PLOW**

Delmonico Red, 6.4 V8 Engine, Ram Box Cargo Management System, Power Mirrors, Electric Shift On the Fly Transfer Case, Chrome Appearance Group, Protection Group, Cab Length Chrome Side Steps, Trailer Brake Controller, Western 8.5 Steel V-Plow, and Much Morel C22023

MSRP\$5	51,615
ADD FOR PLOW	8,123
SUBTOTAL\$8	59,738
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	243
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$59	,495
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(* MUST QUALIFY)	









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MailMax for Michigan's Great Southwest Evaluate How I Schuss?! Shush!!

Starting this column is a little bit like shoving off down a ski run that you're not sure you can handle. Which, I just realized, in an amazing coincidence, is what this column is about!

I'm just back from a week-long ski trip. My wife and I joined a friend who lives in New Jersey to ski in Breckenridge, Colorado. Well, a couple of us skied. One of us tried, with results ranging from moderate success to comical failure, to mimic ski-like motions. Although I should mention that a timeless observation of Yoda applies to "trying to ski": to paraphrase, "Ski or ski-not. There is no try."

My wife LOVES to ski. And she and our friend have wonderful memories of Breckenridge. They skied there many moons ago, along with a big group of folks who were all in the same graduate program at Purdue University. They had a great time, which they always do when they ski, because they long ago left behind "ski-not" and "try" – they're good skiers.

So, as you can imagine, they had a great time last week. I, on the other hand, took all of four seconds to fall on my first run. I think I have some valid excuses. For example, unlike my wife, who began skiing while she was in elementary school and LOVED it right from the start, I didn't learn to ski until I was in my 20s. (Okay, I admit, saying I "learned" gives me too much credit; although maybe I deserve some faint praise for learning to dress like someone who has learned to ski.) I blame my parents somewhat for

Starting this colis a little bit like have to live in pool-table-flat, northwestern ing off down a ski Indiana?

Other valid excuses: I used rented equipment. I used to own ski gear. I had Rossignol skis for a long time, then later got some Fischer brand skis. I loaned these to No. 4 son when he went to college at Way WAY-Away University in Washington. Eventually, he gained my permission to sell them. Approximately 6 months after he'd sold them.

The weather on our last day at Breckenridge was kind of changeable – cloudy and chilly, changing to sunny and mild and then back again. At about 11 a.m., our friend decided she was done skiing – she'd "had enough" and was satisfied to sit and rest while me and my wife continued. And my wife *wasn't* gonna stop – she LOVES to ski. Anyway, at one point we got separated, and I needed to ride a lift to catch up to her. I plopped my skis on the snow and started stepping into the bindings only to discover I only had binding – singular!! For reasons I still don't understand the front part of one binding just fell right off the ski! This was highly sub-optimal for making any more ski-like motions down the hills!

My wife was quite put out about this: "What if that had come off while you were skiing?!?" and so on and so forth. In fact, she was *so* upset that my ski vacation was completely and utterly over that she only skied an hour-and-a-half more on her own. (Did I mention my wife LOVES to ski?)

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