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Moody on The Market

*Pat
Moody*

Fortress Manufacturing: Fabricating a future in Southwest Michigan

Moody on the Market recently brought you the news of an ownership change at Fortress Manufacturing when longtime owner Fred Huff sold his company to former Whirlpool Corporation strategist Andrew Petro. We sat down the Petro to understand more about him, why he chose to purchase Fortress Manufacturing, and what made him choose Southwest Michigan as the place to further establish and grow his new company.

Fortress Manufacturing at 2255 Pipestone Road in Benton Harbor is a specialized sheet metal fabricator focused on production components as well as small batch runs. The seven-employee company primarily serves clients in Michigan and throughout the Midwest.

Why Fortress Manufacturing

Andrew Petro said he's had designs on owning his own company for some time. Because he wasn't in a hurry and wanted the right opportunity, he screened potential investments through a tight filter of two requirements – would it let him be an entrepreneur and would it let him keep his family local.

"When you're looking for a business (like this) in an area like Southwest Michigan, those can be pretty tight parameters. You know, we're not in Chicago or Grand Rapids where multiple businesses come up. So, I had been loosely looking and I'd always consider in the back of my mind, 'We might have to move for an opportunity.'"

That's when the chance to purchase Fortress Manufacturing arrived.

"When this opportunity arose, the size was right. It gave me the confidence to make the jump from the comfort of a corporate job to the unknown of business ownership."

Petro said Fortress felt like the size of business he could maintain, it had a strong foundation to build from, the industry has a future, and the location in Southwest Michigan was right.

"We jumped on it. We said, 'This is it.' I'm fairly young into my career. I recognize that. And this great opportunity probably came a few years sooner than I had anticipated. However, those things gave me the confidence to kind of make that jump. If we can make this happen now, and it's a good fit, and we have good rapport with Fred, let's do it."

Continued on page 20



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**Marcy
Simpson**

**Executive
Director,
Southwestern Michigan
Tourist Council**

Fun and interesting things to do in Southwest Michigan

We've arrived at that wonderful time of year to slow down, appreciate everything you have, and spend quality time with family and friends. While you do so, you can take in some of your favorite holiday happenings here in Southwest Michigan.

Begin by stepping back in time to the origins of Yuletide traditions. With its festive

cornucopia of instruments – lute, cittern, violas, crumhorns, recorders, rebec, and percussion – the Baltimore Consort offers old carols and dance tunes from the British Isles, Germany, France, Spain, and the New World. Wassail, Wassail! will take you back in time on Friday, December 1 at 7:30 at the Lake

Continued on page 2

Inserts & Promotions

- ALDI • Dollar General
- Family Fare
- Harding's Friendly Market
- Martin's Super Markets
- Save A Lot
- Stevensville Christmas in the Village

Inserts may vary by zip code

Simpson *Continued from cover*

Michigan College Mendel Center in Grand Upton Hall.

Downtown St. Joe will be bustling with the sights and sounds of the season. Mark your calendars for Friday, December 1 for Light up the Bluff. While there, be sure to make your way over to The Market for a jolly evening of shopping and socializing at a special after-hours event from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, December 2 is the annual Reindog Parade. This event features dressed-up pets and their owners in a variety of holiday garb. The event also marks the arrival of Santa. After the parade, children can share their wish lists with Santa at Santa's House. Sunday, December 3 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. is Holiday Artisan Fair at Union + Social. There will be no shortage of shopping opportunities in Southwest Michigan this season.

Watermark Brewing Company invites you to enjoy the Hall of Fame, Grammy elected, Australian born, artist Michael Charles on Saturday, December 2 at 7:00 p.m. Based out of Chicago, he tours nationally and internationally with his band as a power trio performing a three-hour non-stop concert of contemporary blues, blues-based rock, ballads, and originals, along with a few choice covers from a discography of forty releases.

The Benton Harbor Arts Association's Winter Art Hop takes place Friday, December 8 in the Benton Harbor Arts District from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event will feature local artists, creators, music acts, decorated storefronts and demonstrations, and improv come-

dy. Artists and music will be featured inside BHAD businesses as well as set up outside on the sidewalks. They welcome groups for caroling and dressing like Santa is encouraged.

Holiday Village returns to downtown Bridgman, on Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Bring your entire family for a full afternoon and evening of fun including a pet parade down Lake Street, festive activities at local merchants, a Holiday Pop-Up Market inside Immanuel Lutheran, the annual tree lighting ceremony with caroling, live music, fire dancing, and more.

Plank's Tavern at the Inn at Harbor Shores welcomes you and your little ones to join them on Sunday, December 10 for Brunch with Santa from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This brunch with Santa will be al carte from Plank's Brunch Menu. Don't forget to bring your wish list!

Come out and enjoy a ride on the miniature trains and see the wonderful light display this holiday season at Eden Springs Park. Bring the whole family, dress for the weather, and come make holiday memories at this historic park. It will be open Saturday and Sunday - December 9 and 10, December 16 and 17, and Friday and Saturday - December 22 and 23 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 per person, age 3 and under free and it is cash only.

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

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Photo by Rex Hartwig

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Glenn Rosenbaum

Pastor

Our Lowly Bodies

The Lord Jesus Christ . . . will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.
 Philippians 3:20,21

A handful of you will live your lives free from serious illness or injury. And when you die, you will die quietly in your sleep. For many people, however, it's simply a matter of time before they experience the hard truth that our bodies are frail, weak, and lowly vessels.

All it takes is one nasty bacterium, one malignant cell, one stubborn virus. All it takes is a second of inattention behind the wheel or a moment of distraction at the worksite, and before you know what's happening, you find yourself lying in a hospital bed with barely enough strength to sit up. It's then that you understand how vulnerable your body really is. And if you manage to avoid all this, there is always the slow-motion collision your body has with old age.

No matter how fit we are, how strong, athletic, or vigorous we are—the bodies we have are still lowly bodies. They are lowly and weak because of sin.

When the Son of God entered our time and space, he took on a human body; he became a human being. In that body, he lived a sinless life on our behalf. Then he allowed sinners to nail his body to a cross. On that cross, Jesus' body carried the sins of the whole world and paid for them in full. And three days later, Jesus rose from death, his body glorified.

What does this mean for us? God's Word says that "the Lord Jesus Christ...will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." Remember this when you look in the mirror and see your frailty. Re-

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 member this when you're lying on a hospital bed. Remember this when you feel too weak to leave your home. Remember this when the body of a beloved Christian wears out and dies.

In this fallen world, our bodies are lowly bodies. But for the Christian, the world to come will be different. God's Word says so.

Prayer: Sustain me, Lord, as I grapple with my lowly body in this fallen world. Thank you for your promise to transform my lowly body to be like yours. Amen.

Submitted by Pastor Glenn T. Rosenbaum
 Administrative Pastor
 Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Joseph
 Originated by: www.WhatAboutJesus.com



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The Baltimore Consort presents Wassail, Wassail! Music for the Yuletide Season Friday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m., Grand Upton Hall

Step back in time to the origins of Yuletide traditions. With its festive cornucopia of instruments – lute, cittern, viols, crumhorns, recorders, rebec, and percussion – the Baltimore Consort offers old carols and dance tunes from the British Isles, Germany, France, Spain, and the New World. Wassail, Wassail! is a seasonal celebration that will delight the senses!

SPECIAL OFFER! Purchase tickets at the same time to **The Baltimore Consort presents Wassail, Wassail! Music for the Yuletide Season** and **Christmas in Killarney: An Irish Christmas Celebration** to receive 25% off the regular ticket price. Use code **JINGLE25**.
When ordering online, enter the code at the bottom of the Cart page where indicated.



These activities are supported by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council.



Wed., Dec. 6, 7 p.m., Grand Upton Hall

Suggested donation in lieu of paid admission
TICKETS NOT REQUIRED

Music and dramatic readings to celebrate the season from the LMC Concert Choir, Vocal Chamber Ensemble, LMC Jazz Band, Instrumental Ensemble, and Theatre students. Light refreshments will be served.

In lieu of paid admission, a donation to the Red Hawk Refuel Pantry is suggested to combat student hunger at Lake Michigan College. Donation links are available on the Holiday Collage page on the Mendel Center website. Presented by the LMC Visual & Performing Arts Department.



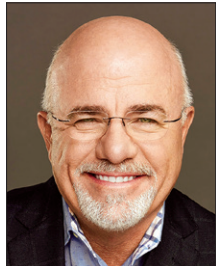
Christmas in Killarney: An Irish Christmas Celebration Friday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m., Mainstage

Christmas in Killarney: An Irish Christmas Celebration is a spirited stage production steeped in world-class Irish dance and traditional Christmas music. You'll be swept away to Killarney, Ireland, in the late 1920s and hear seasonal favorites like "Joy to the World," "Hark the Herald Angels," "Oh, Holy Night," "Sleigh Ride," and many more. Bring the entire family for a Christmas celebration – the Celtic way! *This event is part of The Mendel Center's Discovery Series and is funded in part by the Gast Young People's Performance Endowment.*

BUY TICKETS
TheMendelCenter.com/events

Box office: 269-927-8700, option 1 | *Events subject to change.*

LAKE MICHIGAN
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Dave Ramsey
Financial Expert
The Ramsey Show

Dave Says Risk is Real

Dear Dave,
My husband and I want to do a live-in and flip real estate purchase. The idea is to buy a fixer-upper and rent out the basement to help with the mortgage payments. How do you feel about ideas like this?

Erin
Dear Erin,
In a situation like this you need to do a basic business analysis. You've got to have a plan in place, and you've got to figure out the worst-case scenario. Part of this is determining whether you can survive if things fall apart. In this case, the worst case is that you can't get a renter, and the house doesn't sell. It puts your family in jeopardy, so to me it's not an option.

Want my honest opinion? I think you've both got a case of house fever right now. The possibility I just mentioned isn't a rare occurrence. Lots of people have had the same idea, with the best of intentions, and still wound up in a big mess. I love real estate. I mean I really love real estate. And I've flipped more than

a few houses in my day. But the particulars of this deal make me a little nervous. If you and your husband are willing to accept the possibility of things not working out like you planned—and the fact you might have to take additional jobs for an unknown length of time just to make ends meet—then it might be a play. But for me? Nope. I don't like putting myself into these kinds of situations.

When I was much younger, I was willing to do all kinds of dangerous stuff and ignore the risk. But going broke decades ago knocked that kind of thinking out of me in a hurry. Any deal that runs the risk of leaving you bankrupt, or the victim of a foreclosure, just isn't worth it, Erin.

—Dave
*Dave Ramsey is an eight-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.

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**Don
Stuart**

Humorist

A Column Full of Riga-rous Research

The third part of call on our cruise around the Baltic Sea was Riga, Latvia. Now my wife and I did a LOT of research on all the cities we would visit on the cruise, and Riga was one where we could see all the top sights on foot. After touring Riga, I'd say this is true, but I recommend using two feet.

A couple things I can tell you about Riga: Item: Before there was a Riga, there was Lielais Kristaps! The legend of Lielais Kristaps (which means "Big Christopher") goes like this: Once upon a time, long before Riga was founded, a tall strong man named Lielais Kristaps lived in a cabin on the Daugava's bank. And he was known for carrying people across the river.

One night, Kristaps awoke to the crying of a small child on the other side of the river. He hopped out of bed, crossed the water, scooped up the child, and began to carry it across the river. Halfway across, despite his size and strength, Kristaps felt the child became heavier and heavier. This is because the Daugava thoroughly soaked its Pampers.

Kristaps barely managed to cross the river. Utterly exhausted, he laid the child to sleep in his cabin, then conked out himself. When he awoke the next morning, a large chest of gold coins sat where the child had been. With a certificate verifying it was certifiably tax-free! When Kristaps passed away,

the money was used to found the city of Riga. And the first building rose on the spot where Kristaps' cabin had stood.

A tall strong statue of this tall strong man was sculpted from wood in 1683. It still exists, safely preserved in a museum. We didn't see that, but we did see the modern copy of it that stands today by the Daugava. And if Kristaps really was that hugs and muscular, you could see him easily taking down anyone challenging him to fight, even a U.S. Senator.

Item: A very popular attraction in Riga is The House of the Blackheads. This is a beautiful reconstructed building (the original having been destroyed in WWII), housing a museum that tells the story of the Brotherhood of the Blackheads, a guild of merchants, craftsmen, shipowners and such-like that dates to the mid 1400s.

(Note: They're called Blackheads because their patron is St. Maurice, a black military commander of the late 200s who was martyred by a Roman emperor.)

Back in those days, the House of the Blackheads was a place where guild members could chill out and relax. Although they weren't retreating from nagging wives or whiny kids – members had to be unmarried. Besides daily diversions and camaraderie, the guild hosted public celebrations and feasts. Every feast ended with a specific ritual: The head of the Brotherhood would announce, "I forbid anyone to leave until ALL the ale has been drunk! Violators will be fined a last of wax, a last of linen, 100 lasts of salt, 100 lasts of malt! Be merry everyone!"

Were those heavy fines? Yesssss! While the volume or quantity of a "last" varied among nations and cultures, one last generally amounted to 80 bushels, 640 gallons or 2 tons! Dude, even Big Kristaps couldn't lug that across the Daugava!

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Noon- 2PM

342 TIMBER DRIVE
COLOMA, MI
\$259,900
MLS#23142072
Hosted by: Aubrey Schmidt
Listed by: Jennifer Strzyzkowski

CENTURY 21
Affiliated
830 Pleasant St., St Joseph
3rd Floor
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ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

442 ACRES M/L IN VAN BUREN COUNTY, MI

BIDDING IS CURRENTLY LIVE | PLACE YOUR BIDS BEFORE:
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023 | 4:00 PM (EST)

The farm consists of approximately 442 total acres m/l and features multiple varieties of blueberry plantings. There are currently 337.50 FSA cropland acres m/l of blueberries planted on the farms with a mix of drip and overhead irrigation installed. There was a lease in place through October 31st, 2023. The farm is open for the 2024 cropping season. Located less than 5 miles from Lake Michigan.

SCAN ME

Bryan Bergdale | 712.251.8588
MI LIC 6505417744

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Waterfront

\$899,000

- 3 BD, 2.5 BA - 1,812 sq ft
- Swimming pool
- 3 season room & gazebo
- 4 car garage w/ workroom
- MLS # 23028436

Relaxing Retreat

\$524,900

- 5 BD, 4.5 BA - 2,990 sq ft
- Full basement
- Stone fireplace
- 3 car garage & 3 outbuildings
- MLS # 23032294

New Price

\$360,000

- 1 BA - 1,920 Sq ft
- Barndominium
- Man cave/she shed/toy storage
- Great location
- MLS # 23135248

New Listing!

\$275,500

- 3 BD, 2.5 BA - 2,156 sq ft
- Pole Barn w/ heat and electricity
- Finished walkout basement
- Many possibilities
- MLS # 23141889

Country Setting

\$245,000

- 2 BD, 1 BA - 864 sq ft
- Country setting
- Outbuilding
- Great location
- MLS # 23136120

Investment Opportunity

\$259,900

- 6 unit apartment
- Create Airbnb, apartment or SFH
- Short walk to restaurants & beach
- Motivated Seller
- MLS # 22037185

THANKFUL

for the opportunity to serve your real estate needs.

Acreage

\$650,000

- 64+ Acres total
- 47 tillable, rest wooded
- Buildable
- Two tax codes
- MLS # 22008517

Vacant Land

- Lots sizes vary from .73 - 1.65 Acres
 - Public water/sewer available
 - Buildable & wooded lots
 - Great location in St. Joe Public Schools
- Prices vary - call for more information.

Beautiful Lot

\$250,000

- Vacant Land - 1.17
- Paw Paw Lake Golf Course
- 2 Deeded boat slips
- Buildable
- MLS # 23029269

Beautiful Acreage

\$160,000

- 25 Acres
- Great Location
- Buildable
- Farmable
- MLS # 23031954

Waterfront Lot

\$139,000

- .24 acres
- White Creek
- Close to Lk MI
- Great Location
- MLS # 23016731

Vacant Lot

\$33,000

- .54 acre lot
- Wooded
- 2 parcels
- Close to attractions
- MLS # 23014641

Buildable Lot

\$23,000

- .11 acre lot
- Buildable lot w/ water access
- Located between 2 lakes
- Great fishing
- MLS # 23024426

Retail/Commercial

\$1,700,000

- Commercial 3018 Sq ft, 2 story building
- Arts District Area
- Waterfront that leads to LK MI
- Docking up to 7 boats
- MLS # 23007390

Commercial Land

\$399,900

- 7.5 Acres
- Zoned commercial/duplex
- Along busy road/thoroughfare
- Total of 2 parcels
- MLS # 22042216

Retail/Commercial

\$275,000

- .075 Acres - 1,298 sq ft bldg
- Waterfront
- 2 private boat docks
- Great Location
- MLS # 21109069

Commercial/Residential

\$139,000

- 20 Acres - Tannery Creek
- Buildable, level & cleared
- 3 Phase electric attached
- Convenient location, close to I-94
- MLS # 22008526



BUILT



PROUD



2023 FORD ESCAPE ACTIVE ALL WHEEL DRIVE

Vapor Blue Metallic, Heated Steering Wheel, Remote Start, Heated Front Seats, and Much More!
F23266

MSRP.....\$33,010
SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 515
LOW APR RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH** - 1,000
FORD TO FORD TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH** - 2,500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$28,995
MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$28,495

PLUS 0.9% FOR 36 MONTHS, 1.9% FOR 48 MONTHS, or 2.9% FOR 60 MONTHS

(WITH APPROVED CREDIT)(**MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT)(**MUST TRADE-IN QUALIFYING FORD VEHICLE/RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY)



2024 FORD EDGE SEL ALL WHEEL DRIVE

Forged Green, Heated Steering Wheel, Heated Front Seats, Power Liftgate, Remote Start, Wireless Charging Pad, Panoramic Vista Roof, 18 Inch Bright Machined Aluminum Wheels, and Much More!
F24013

MSRP.....\$44,750
SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 755
LOW APR RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH** - 1,000
FORD TO FORD TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH** - 2,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$40,995
MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$40,495

PLUS 0.0% FOR 36 MONTHS, 0.9% FOR 48 MONTHS, or 1.9% FOR 60 MONTHS

(WITH APPROVED CREDIT)(**MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT)(**MUST TRADE-IN QUALIFYING FORD VEHICLE/RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY)



2023 FORD F-150 SUPERCAB XLT 4X4

Carbonized Gray Metallic, 2.7 V6 EcoBoost Engine, Sport Appearance Group, Trailer Brake Controller, Locking Rear Axle, Remote Start, SYNC 4, and Much More!
F23080

MSRP.....\$56,095
SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 3,600
LOW APR RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH** - 1,500
FORD TO FORD TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH** - 2,500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$48,495
MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$47,995

PLUS 1.9% FOR 36 MONTHS, 2.9% FOR 48 MONTHS, or 3.9% FOR 60 MONTHS

(WITH APPROVED CREDIT)(**MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT)(**MUST TRADE-IN QUALIFYING FORD VEHICLE/RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY)



2023 FORD F-150 XLT 4X4 SUPERCREW HERITAGE EDITION

Avalanche with Black Two-Tone Accent, 2.7 V6 EcoBoost Engine, 20 Inch Wheels with All Terrain Tires, Interior Work Surface, Locking Rear Axle, and Much More! Sharp Truck! Must See!
F23076

MSRP.....\$60,215
SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 3,220
LOW APR RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH** - 1,500
FORD TO FORD TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH** - 2,500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$52,995
MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$52,495

PLUS 1.9% FOR 36 MONTHS, 2.9% FOR 48 MONTHS, or 3.9% FOR 60 MONTHS

(WITH APPROVED CREDIT)(**MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT)(**RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY)



2024 FORD MUSTANG GT CONVERTIBLE PREMIUM

Rapid Red, Leather Seats, 5.0 V8 Engine, 10 Speed Automatic Transmission, B&O 12 Speaker Sound System, Navigation, Heated Steering Wheel, and Much More!
F24016

MSRP.....\$56,495
SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$55,995
MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$55,495

PLUS 2.9% FOR 36 MONTHS, 3.9% FOR 48 MONTHS, or 4.9% FOR 60 MONTHS

(WITH APPROVED CREDIT)(**MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT)



2022 FORD F-250 SERVICE TRUCK 4X4

Oxford White, 6.2 V8 Engine, Rear View Camera, Trailer Brake Controller, Platform Running Boards, Locking Rear Axle, Power Windows and Locks, Snow Plow Prep Package, Knapheide Service Body, and Much More!
F22293

MSRP.....\$47,265
ADD FOR KNAPHEIDE SERVICE BODY +13,382
SUBTOTAL.....\$60,647
SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 3,652
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$56,995
MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$56,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)



2023 FORD F-250 CREW CAB 4X4 XLT TREMOR

Agate Black, 7.3 V8 Engine, 35 Inch Off-Road Tires, Sport Appearance Package, Navigation, 360 Degree Camera Package, Remote Start, B&O Sound System, PowerScope Trailer Tow Mirror, Heated Front Seats, and Much More!
F23276

MSRP.....\$67,775
SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 780
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$66,995
MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$66,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)



2023 FORD EXPEDITION PLATINUM 4X4

Blue Tinted, Carmelo Leather Seats, Stainless Running Boards, Panoramic Vista Roof, B&O Premium Sound System, Remote Start, Reverse Sensing System, First and Second Row Heated Seats, PowerFold Third Row Seat, Heavy Duty Trailer Tow Package, 22 Inch Wheels, 15 Inch Touchscreen, and Much More!
F23222

MSRP.....\$91,295
SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 1,800
LOW APR RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH** - 500
BONUS CUSTOMER CASH.....- 2,000
HOLIDAY BONUS CASH.....- 2,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$84,995
MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$84,495

PLUS 0.9% FOR 36 MONTHS, 1.9% FOR 48 MONTHS, or 2.9% FOR 60 MONTHS

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2023 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE 4X4

Solar Yellow, Navigation, Touchscreen Radio, Dual Zone Auto Temp Control, Lane Departure Warning Plus, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Forward Collision Warning, 1.3 Turbo Engine, and Much More! C23210

MSRP.....\$30,040
 SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 141
 STANDALONE 10% OFF MSRP RETAIL BONUS CASH - 3,004
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$26,895
 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$26,395
 (*MUST QUALIFY)



2023 JEEP COMPASS LATITUDE 4X4

Granite Crystal, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Full Speed Forward Collision Warning, Active Lane Management System, Rear Back-Up Camera, and Much More! C23059

MSRP.....\$34,385
 SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 352
 STANDALONE 10% OFF MSRP RETAIL BONUS CASH - 3,438
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$30,595
 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$30,095
 (*MUST QUALIFY)



2023 RAM PROMASTER 1500

Bright White, Cloth Seats, Convenience Group, Speed Control, Rear Door Windows, and Much More! C23203

PLEASE INSERT ALL BUSINESS LOGOS AND BUSINESS OWNERS GET MORE ASK HOW!
 MSRP.....\$47,170
 SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 175
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$46,995
 ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT UPFIT/GRAPHICS*** - 1,000
 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$45,495
 (*MUST QUALIFY/**BUSINESS OWNERS ONLY)



2022 RAM 1500 BIG HORN CREW CAB 4X4

Diamond Black Crystal, Bucket Seats, Sport Appearance Package, Navigation, 20 Inch Aluminum Chrome Clad Wheels, Remote Start, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, Power Seat, Rear Power Sliding Window, Power Adjustable Pedals, and Much More! C22245

MSRP.....\$57,605
 SIEMANS DISCOUNT - 10,810
AS LOW AS \$46,795



2023 DODGE DURANGO GT ALL WHEEL DRIVE

Diamond Black, 2nd Row Captain's Chairs, Power Sunroof, Leather Seats, Heated First and Second Row Seats, Lane Departure Warning, Full Speed Collision Warning, Adaptive Cruise Control, Wireless Charging Pad, 9 Alpine Speakers, and Much More! C23219

MSRP.....\$55,370
 SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 735
 NATIONAL RETAIL CONSUMER CASH - 2,500
 FEDERAL STATE NON-APR RETAIL BONUS CASH** - 1,750
 CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH* - 750
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$49,635
 RETURNING LESSEE BONUS CASH* - 500
 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$48,635
 (*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL/**RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS APPLY)



2023 JEEP GLADIATOR FREEDOM EDITION 4X4

Firecracker Red, Freedom Edition Package, Trailer Tow Package, Remote Start, Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Navigation, Black 3-Piece Hardtop, and Much More! C23018

MSRP.....\$57,060
 SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 2,059
 NATIONAL STANDALONE 10% OFF MSRP - 5,706
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$49,295
 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$48,795
 (*MUST QUALIFY)



2023 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE L LIMITED 4X4

Diamond Black Crystal, 20 Inch Aluminum Wheels, 9 Amplified Speakers with Subwoofer, Ventilated Front Seats, Intersection Collision Assist, ParkSense Front and Rear Park Assist, Surround View Camera, 2nd Row Window Shades, Heated Front and Second Row Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Navigation, and Much More! C23216

MSRP.....\$60,015
 SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 1,019
 STANDALONE 10% OFF MSRP RETAIL BONUS CASH - 6,001
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$52,995
 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$52,495
 (*MUST QUALIFY)



2023 JEEP WRANGLER 4 DOOR RUBICON

Bright White, Leather Seats, LED Lighting Group, XTREME 35 Inch Tire Package, 3.6 V6 Engine, Premium Sunrider Soft Top, Integrated Off Road Camera, and Much More! C23132

MSRP.....\$63,185
 SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 3,190
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$59,995
 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500
AS LOW AS \$59,495
 (*MUST QUALIFY)

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WAS \$42,259

**2020 GMC SIERRA
ELEVATION CREW CAB 4X4
NOW \$40,805**

3.0 EFI DIESEL Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 72K Miles, Security Cover, Bedliner, Running Boards, Remote Start, Power Driver's Seat, Heated Steering Wheel, Touchscreen Display, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Onyx Black, C23221A



WAS \$50,824

**2022 FORD BRONCO
ADVANCED OUTER BANKS 4X4
NOW \$49,323**

Aluminum Wheels, Less Than 7K Miles! High Package, Running Board, Cargo Area Protector, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 4, 2-Door, Heated Front Seats, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Cyber Orange Metallic, F23231A

Manage



WAS \$25,901

**2020 FORD
EXPLORER XLT 4X4
NOW \$24,507**

2.3 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 111K Miles, Power Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assist, Front Collision Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Rapid Red Metallic, F23230A



WAS \$40,902

**2016 FORD F-250
LARIAT CREW CAB 4X4
NOW \$35,708**

6.2 V8 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Chrome Clad Aluminum Wheels, 96K Miles, Running Boards, Remote Start, Navigation, Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Auto Climate Control, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, White Platinum Metallic, U23091A



WAS \$28,793

**2015 FORD F-450 SUPER DUTY
DRW REGULAR CAB BOX TRUCK
NOW \$27,500**

6.7 V8 Power Stroke DIESEL Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, 166K Miles, Power Windows and Locks, Trailer Brake Controller, Limited Slip Axle, Remote Keyless Entry System, Oxford White, F22271A



WAS \$54,764

**2019 FORD F-150
CREW CAB
NOW \$50,000**

6.7 V8 DIESEL Power Stroke Engine, 60K Miles, Security Cover, Bedliner, Power Driver's Seat, Power Adjust Pedals, Remote Keyless Entry System, FORD



WAS \$44,995

**2023 JEEP
GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO
NOW \$37,980**

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Only 8K Miles! Remote Start, Power Driver's Seat, Heated Steering Wheel, Heated Front Seats, Climate Control, Touchscreen Display, Wireless Charging Pad, Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Lane Keeping Assist, Front and Rear Collision Mitigation, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Diamond Black Crystal, C23157A



WAS \$33,627

**2020 FORD RANGER
XLT SUPERCREW 4X4
NOW \$30,342**

2.3 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 44K Miles, 5 Foot Box, Sport Appearance Package, Auto Climate Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Rapid Red Metallic, U23118



WAS \$23,987

**2019 CHEVY EQUINOX LT
NOW \$20,451**

1.5 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 48K Miles, Remote Start, Power Driver's Seat, Heated Front Seats, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assist, Front Collision Mitigation, Front Collision Warning, Back-Up Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Sandy Ridge Metallic, U23123

2020 CHEVY EQUINOX LT AWD **WAS \$27,500**



NOW \$23,867

1.5 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 24K Miles, Remote Start, Power Driver's Seat, Heated Front Seats, Auto Climate Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assist, Front Collision Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Pacific Blue Metallic, U23122

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Specials

WAS \$25,884



2015 FORD F-150 LARIAT SPORT SUPERCREW 4X4
NOW \$24,975

3.5 V6 EcoBoost EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 120K Miles, Security Cover, Bedliner, Running Boards, Remote Start, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Blind Spot Information System, Reverse Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Magnetic Metallic, F23181A

WAS \$27,995



2020 CHEVY EQUINOX LT AWD
NOW \$24,200

1.5 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Only 20K Miles! Power Driver's Seat, Auto Climate Control, Touchscreen Stereo, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Front Collision Mitigation, Front Collision Warning, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Pacific Blue Metallic, U23115



2015 FORD F-150 XLT SRW CAB 4X4
NOW \$53,695

6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Running Boards, Remote Start, Power Reverse Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, CERTIFIED! Agate Black, C23155B

WAS \$48,995



2021 HYUNDAI PALISADE CALLIGRAPHY AWD
NOW \$44,995

3.8 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Auto, Alum Wheels, 32K Miles, Remote Start, Nav, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated/Cooled Seats, 3RD Row Seats, Auto Climate Control, Power Sunroof, Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Front & Rear Collision Mitigation, Blind Spot Monitor, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Moonlight Cloud, M24002A

WAS \$25,995



2022 HONDA CIVIC SPORT 4 DOOR SEDAN
NOW \$22,995

2.0 EFI Engine, 1 Speed CVT Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 26K Miles, Remote Start, Climate Control, Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Front Collision Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Lunar Silver Metallic, M24006A

WAS \$62,795



2019 FORD F-150 RAPTOR SUPERCREW 4X4
NOW \$60,995

3.5 V6 EcoBoost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 37K Miles, Security Cover, Bedliner, Running Boards, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Panoramic Moonroof, Auto Climate Control, Power Slide Rear Window, 360 Degree Camera, Front Collision Mitigation, Reverse Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Pro Trailer Back-Up Assist, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Magnetic, F23209A

WAS \$28,707



2020 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4X4
NOW \$23,500

2.3 EcoBoost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels 129K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Twin Panel Moonroof, Climate Control, Adaptive Cruise Control, Evasive Steering Assist, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Front Collision Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Agate Black Metallic, F23161A

WAS \$33,989



2020 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4
NOW \$32,474

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 31K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Climate Control, Power Moonroof, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Rear Collision Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Walnut Brown Metallic, F23214A

WAS \$29,704



2017 MERCEDES GLE350 4MATIC AWD
NOW \$24,926

3.5 EFI Engine, 7 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 81K Miles, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Auto Climate Control, Power Sunroof, CD-Player, Front Collision Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Black, F23163A

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2020 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4

WAS \$36,899



NOW \$29,995

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 31K Miles, Power Driver's Seat, Climate Control, Touchscreen Display, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Rear Collision Mitigation, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Diamond Black Crystal, C23045A

Bridgman, MI

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Dan Zarobsky



Dennis Varo



Greg Kantauskas



Jim McLean



Jon Weber



Tim Place



Bob Betker



Alisha Danneffel



Jonathan Ingels



Jeff Miller





2012 FORD FUSION SE
NOW \$9,949

2.5 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Only 84K Miles! Power Driver's Seat, Power Moonroof, Climate Control, CD-Player, Remote Keyless Entry System, Red Candy Metallic, U23155J



2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4
NOW \$20,995

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 95K Miles, Remote Start, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Power Sunroof, Climate Control, Touchscreen Display, Rear Collision Mitigation, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Diamond Black Crystal, C24025A



2021 RAM 1500 LARAMIE CREW CAB 4X4
NOW \$46,555

5.7 V8 HEMI EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 31K Miles, Security Cover, Bedliner, Running Boards, Remote Start, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Power Adjust Pedals, Panoramic Sunroof, Touchscreen Display, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Front Collision Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Remote Tailgate Release, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ram Certified! Ivory White Tri-Coat, C24023A



2020 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM AWD
NOW \$29,998

2.0 EcoBoost EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Only 15K Miles! Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Auto Climate Control, Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assist, Evasive Steering Assist, Front Collision Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Hands Free Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Star White Metallic, F22160A



2021 FORD ESCAPE SE AWD
NOW \$26,704

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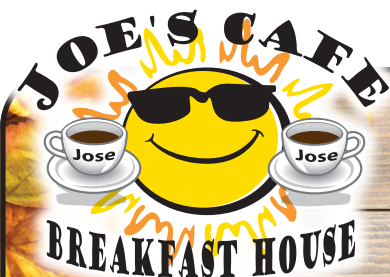
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Moody *Continued from cover*

Who is Andrew Petro
 "I grew up in Ohio. That's where my parents still live. In college, I went to school down in Miami, Ohio. I met a Michigan girl, and she really introduced me to the state. We've vacationed on the east side, but she introduced me to the state, and I fell in love with it quickly."
 Petro said in the summer, his wife's family would vacation up north and he had the opportu-

nity to see much of Michigan. He appreciated the beauty of other places, but the water and the sunsets here were enchanting.
 "I'm a big outdoors guy. I love boating. I love all things water. And that summer just opened my eyes to the beauty of Western Michigan. I'll never forget going to watch the sunset was an event. We'd get a group of us together and we'd go over and we'd watch the sunset for 45 minutes and you'd cap off the day and that was just like the type of lifestyle I loved. I absolutely loved it."

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But it wasn't all vacation and sunsets. Petro said he first started working in manufacturing in Holland.

"My introduction to manufacturing – where this all comes kind of full circle – was with Gentex up in Holland. That internship not only introduced me to Western Michigan, but also introduced me to Whirlpool Corporation, where I didn't really know who they were, didn't know where they were headquartered (here), they didn't recruit in Miami."

Petro would apply for roles at both Gentex and Whirlpool – both significant manufacturers headquartered in Western Michigan. Both offering interesting career opportunities.

"I ended up getting a role in Whirlpool's manufacturing team because of my relevant experience. So, long story short, it took me seven, eight, nine years to get back to Southwest Michigan where I ultimately wanted to be a decade ago."

What's next for Fortress Manufacturing

On the day we sat down with Petro, he was conducting interviews for an office manager. He's

feeling good about having filled that role, but he's still looking for two immediate employees in welding and machine operating. Beyond the hiring, Petro said his primary focus is nurturing Fortress's existing customer relationships.
 "Increasing the channels of communication, increasing the relationship on what they're looking for and how we can better serve them, and how we can help with things that maybe they've been struggling with."

Petro points to advantages Fortress offers that are frequent pain points companies might experience from other vendors. Specifically meeting deadlines, competitive pricing, and agility when it comes to flexing between running small batches to large-scale production runs.

"We're very agile. We have the capabilities, and we have the agility to flex to small batches. If the (research and development) team needs some prototyping, we can build 5 to 25 pieces for them in a week or two. But we also have the capability and repeatability to build production parts when they need 5,000 or 25,000 pieces a month."

Investing in people, process, and tools

Petro appreciates the team Huff has developed at Fortress and he looks forward to continuing to invest in people and "most likely" in additional equipment. Part of the transition, though, will see the introduction of repeatable processes.

"I think there's plenty of capacity currently on our shop floor to take our company to the next level just through driving more efficient processes and maybe hiring. Sooner or later, we also have to invest in equipment (because) we

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want to stay cutting edge. It's the relationships that bring the bring additional jobs into the shop, and then the investments in the people, into the equipment, and the systems. Really, it's those three things."

Petro said his experience in manufacturing, primarily with Whirlpool Corporation, influences what he plans to introduce into Fortress's strategic and daily operations.

"I would say the value that I'm going to try to bring personally is the systems – the process focus. The team here will hear me say a lot, 'We need to create a predictable process and predictability comes from a repeatable process, and the only way to get a repeatable process is to have a standardized process.'"

Petro admits it's a careful balance. "How do we keep the flexibility for some of our customers that call and say, 'Hey, we need this tomorrow.' And we have that good relationship, and we want to serve them in those instances. But how do we standardize the process? How do we make it repeatable? And then ultimately, how do we make it predictable so that we can do what we say? That's how I'm thinking about it."

Asked where he sees Fortress Manufacturing in 20 years, Petro says it's still here, though it might be ten times the size of what it is today.

"Ultimately, what I want to build is a company that stands behind its values and offers great opportunities to the local team. Whether we're making widgets for one customer or complex fabrication components for another, it's about how the team functioning within the four walls. Are the people looking forward to coming to work? Are people growing and developing? Are they changing generational habits? That's why I get excited and why I wanted to take the risk of what I'm doing. With that, we grow the company, provide a great product, and a great service."

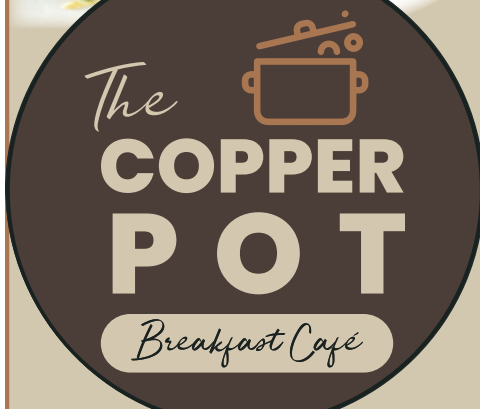
In love with Southwest Michigan

Even though Petro's been living here and searching for a Southwest Michigan-based opportunity for years, it won't surprise him to see people and companies from outside the Midwest migrating to our area more frequently. He says with all that Berrien County has to offer, it's only a matter of time before more people discover the hidden gem that is Southwest Michigan.

"I have a passion for this area. I love Southwest Michigan. I'm still waiting for the Great Migration North. I swear, Austin, Texas, Florida, Arizona... I'm waiting for people to find Southwest Michigan on the map and start coming up here."

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located at 301 State Street in downtown St. Joseph, or at stjoetoday.com.

SJT acts as a Neighborhood Champion for the American Express national Small Business Saturday campaign and will hand out a limited number of swag items on Saturday, November 25 at the Welcome Center.

“When people shop local with small businesses, they are helping to keep their community thriving. Small businesses are the ones who support the local little league, the local fundraisers and the high school yearbook!” says Lisa Miller, owner of Forever Clean Soap Works, “They are a huge part of the community and they in turn need the support of everyone to stay in business. As a small business owner, I know and recognize my customers and I celebrate and appreciate them on Small Business Saturday. They are a vital part of my business, they are my neighbors and friends. Shopping small keeps businesses in business!”

Visit stjoetoday.com/shops-small for a list of shops and Small Business Saturday specials.

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Sarah Spoonholtz

Regional Director, SMR Chamber

December Events!

And just like that, we've found ourselves on the cusp of the last month of the year. As 2023 draws to a close, I wanted to highlight a few of our December opportunities for you to connect with the business community and celebrate the holiday season.

First up, our next **Business After Hours** takes us to what I affectionately call the **Gingerbread House** in downtown St. Joseph - that would be the **Sturgis Bank & Trust downtown Banking Center**. Located on the corner of Broad and Main St., if you've ever seen it decorated for Christmas you know exactly why I call it the Gingerbread House! We will be gathering there to celebrate the holiday season and to see the additional internal expansion of the space that Sturgis has taken on from **5:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7th**.

Guests will enter through the front door at **320 Main Street**, to view their expanded space, and enjoy winter mingling and fellowship outside in a heated tent. Street and lot parking available throughout downtown St. Joseph with delicious refreshments by **Evelyn Mae's BBQ, Merry Little Baker and Biggby Coffee**.

This site is home to a powerhouse group of local banking veterans, led by **Bob Burch SVP Community President**, along with **Joseph Dick VP Commercial Lending**, and **Larry Morrow VP Mortgage Lending**. Together, they provide expert-level banking and lending services backed by years of experience in the Berrien County community.

Sturgis Bank's St. Joseph Banking Center is led by **Nick Barber, Branch Manager of the Southwestern Market**, who also oversees their second St. Joseph location on **Cleveland Avenue** and their branch in **Niles**. They are joined by a team of banking professionals happy to assist you with deposit and transactional products and services to fit your specific needs.

Next up, our **NextGen Young Professionals** group is heading to **Four Winds Casino in New Buffalo** for their **Holiday Party on December 20th from 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.** If the Business After Hours we just hosted there is any indication, this is going to be a super fun event!

Attendees are encouraged to dress in your most **FESTIVE** attire or your best **UGLY** Christmas sweater. There will be **PRIZES!** Then, put your best **SPY** skills to the test for a Casino scavenger hunt, all participants will be entered into a drawing and winners will be announced at the end!

Feel like staying the night and extending the holiday fun? Four Winds Casino is **discounting rooms** to \$119 for the night! Call Four Winds Casino at 1-866-4WINDS1 (1-866-494-6371) and use DISCOUNT CODE **"NextGen! Holiday Party"** when booking your room.

Would you like more information including sponsorship opportunities or to donate a prize? Contact Jasmine at **Jhansen@smrchamber.com**.

Some other member events happening between now and the end of December include:

- **Toys for Tots** collection with **BOSS Services & Berrien County Riders** - If you reside in Berrien County and wish to request toys for your family, or want to make a financial donation to help visit <https://thebosservices.com/toys-for-tots/>

- **12th Annual Bears in the Air Kick-Off Party** with the **South Bend International Airport**, raising funds for brand new teddy bears for children at our local hospitals and funds for Veterans who have served our country and now need our support. givegrove.com/bearsintheair2023/

- **Berrien County Historical Association's An Acre of Our Own: The Jewish Farmers of Berrien County** Through December 23rd

- **Box Factory for the Arts Annual Member Show** Through January 14, 2024
- **Lake Michigan College Annual Holiday Concert** on December 6th
- **LIGHTS at Fernwood** - one of the most BEAUTIFUL events every year running through January 6th, 2024
- **Berrien Springs Kindle Your Christmas Spirit** on December 7th

- Singer **Michael Bolton** at **Four Winds Casino's Silver Creek Event Center** in New Buffalo on December 8th
 - **Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra's Merry & Bright Concert** on December 9th
- There's always something to do in Southwest Michigan, don't believe me, check out the list above and visit our website at **smrchamber.com** for more upcoming events! Want to chat? Reach out to me directly: 269-932-4040 or sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com.

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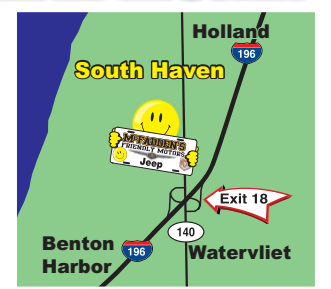
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