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Moody on The Market

Pat **Moody**

Statewide think tank visits Berrien Co. to warn of "huge implications" in Ax MI Tax initiative

An initiative to eliminate property taxes in Michigan would result in massive funding short-falls for local governments and public schools, according to Eric Lupher, president of the Citizens Research Council of Michigan (CRC).

Speaking on WSJM's "The Morning Show with Ken & Friends" program, Lupher provided a non-partisan analysis of the "Ax MI Tax" ballot proposal, which seeks to amend the state constitution.

If it makes it to the ballot and is approved by voters, the proposed amendment would abolish all property taxes in Michigan, effective 60 days after the 2026 election. Lupher stated this would remove approximately \$2.5 billion in annual revenue—roughly a third of all taxes collected in the state.

While the initiative proposes to backfill some of this lost revenue by redirecting a larger portion of state sales tax, as well as a percentage of income tax and marijuana, alcohol, and tobacco taxes to local governments, Lupher's analysis shows it would be far from a dollar-for-dollar replacement.

"When you do the math...it's still a \$4 billion result in less taxes to cities, villages, and townships," Lupher said. For counties, he added, the deficit would be an estimated \$1.7 billion annually.

Perhaps most critically, the proposal offers "no backfill for schools," which rely heavily on property taxes.

Lupher acknowledged the sentiment behind the initiative—that "nobody likes to pay taxes"— and the public's frustration with government services. However, he warned of the drastic consequences.

"Taking away all their money isn't how you fix schools," Lupher stated. He emphasized that the changes required to reorganize government funding would be "massive" and could not happen overnight, cautioning that using a constitutional amendment to "just blow everything up and let's see where the dust settles has huge implications."

The initiative also raises concerns about the state's creditworthiness. Lupher noted that a refusal to collect taxes for debt repayment could put Michigan on "the radar of Wall Street" in a negative way and threaten its financial stability.

Continued on page 6





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Marcy **Simpson**

Executive
Director,
Visit Southwest Michigan

Fun and interesting things to do in Southwest Michigan

Say aloha to summer at the Lemonade Luau. Join The Inn at Harbor Shores on Saturday, August 9, under the Riverside Tent for live music from The King of Mars, tropical vibe, and ice-cold Good Boy Vodka Lemonades. We'll be serving up drink specials and laid-back harbor energy all afternoon long, from 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. There'll be a kids' lemonade stand so everyone can join in the

fun! This event is open to the public; no ticket needed, just bring your good vibes.

The Ghostlight Theatre proudly presents Chess - The Musical August 14-24. Before Mamma Mia!, members of the pop group ABBA teamed up with Tim Rice (Jesus Christ Superstar, The Lion King, Evita) to create a

Continued on page 2

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Simpson *Continued from cover*

dynamic drama centered around the world chess championship; mirroring the 1980s Cold War tensions of USA vs. Soviet Russia. The dazzling and beautiful pop rock score became a worldwide smash, including the hit single "One Night in Bangkok." Directed by Artistic Director PAUL MOW and starring DAN MAXON (Anatoly) and JULIE PETERSON (Florence), the musical Chess makes its move to Southwest Michigan for the first time, as the game's long history continues to rise in popularity.

Island Night at the Featherbone Factory is Saturday, August 16 at 6:00 p.m. Join Journeyman Distillery for a tropical escape right here in Michigan. They're transforming part of the distillery into a vibrant island-inspired setting for an unforgettable summer evening. Enjoy a Polynesian-inspired buffet filled with bold, flavorful dishes and sip on handcrafted tropical cocktails while taking in the sounds and sights of our backyard island oasis. The night features live hula performances and weather permitting, an exciting fire show to close out the evening. Dress in your favorite attire, bring your friends and get ready for an immersive experience that blends food, culture and celebration. Tickets are \$80 each.

"An Evening at The Catalpas" is a rare opportunity to tour one of the grand Gilded Age homes on Pipestone Road in Benton Harbor. Built in 1898, The Catalpas is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Attendees will be able to tour the house, learn about the history of the home, and enjoy light bites, wine, craft beer and special-occasion cocktails. The current owners will also share stories of their experiences

living in this magnificent home. Proceeds will support the mission of the Morton House Museum to be "The Home of Benton Harbor History." 21 years of age and older only. Tickets are \$60 per person and can be purchased through Eventbrite. Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 21 from 5:30 to 7:30 n m

Celebrate The Livery's 20th Anniversary on Saturday, August 23 at 1:00 p.m. It's a daylong extravaganza with live music in the beer garden throughout the day, food specials, beer releases and more surprises. They will cap the evening with a special Slim Gypsy Baggage REUNION show, as they perform The Beatles "Abbey Road" in its entirety. For those that may have missed this special performance many moons ago - this show broke the all-time attendance record at The Livery.

Get ready for the Sunset Wine Pairing Dinner at Filkins Vineyards. Chef Justin Paruszkiewicz has designed a delicious menu to pair with Filkins Vineyards Estate grown wines. Chef Justin's passion and desire to make delicious food continues through his impressive pairing menus. He has worked in hospitality since 2005 and his portfolio includes restaurants such as Hugo's Frog Bar, Quarantino and Ferrand Hall. The menu will be paired with a few Filkins Vineyards new red wine releases. Make your reservations at filkinsvineyards.com for this special event on Saturday, August 30 at 7:30.

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



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Sarah Spoonholtz

Regional Director, SMR Chamber

August Events!

It's hard to believe we are cruising through August as quickly as we have been - slow down 2025! With a handful of events kicking the month off, our entire team is looking forward to enjoying the Berrien County Youth Fair before jumping back into events, networking, and growing the community.

On Thursday, August 7th, we hosted a ribbon cutting with Cornerstone Caregiving, a trusted provider of in-home, non-medical senior care services. The grand opening of their newest location at 2900 S. State Street, Suite 4E, St. Joseph, included an opportunity to meet their staff and learn about the services they offer. Staffed by experienced caregivers offering personalized care plans tailored to the unique needs of seniors, veterans, and individuals requiring Alzheimer's, dementia, respite, hospice, palliative, and hospital recovery support. The company's mission is to help clients maintain independence, dignity, and comfort in their own homes.

Krystyna Watson, Operating Director, has a foundational career as a nurse and has spent the last 10 years assisting clients and families navigate the different levels of care within their communities. Witnessing firsthand the profound positive impact that aging in place can have on seniors, she became passionate about advocating for their freedom and quality of life. Her dedication shines through in every aspect of her leadership: she's committed to helping each client maintain the highest level of independence with compassion in in-home support. You can connect with them directly by visiting their website at cornerstonecaregiving.com/locations/benton-harbor-mi.

Looking past fair week, on August 19th, we're helping to host a community Meet & Greet Open House with Southwest Michigan Dermatology as they welcome board-certified dermatologist Dr. Brittany Valk, D.O. to its St. Joseph office. The event will run from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at 2750 Niles Rd., St. Joseph, MI 49085.

Dr. Valk brings years of experience in medical, surgical, and aesthetic dermatology, along with a strong passion for personalized, lifestyle-centered treatment. Her clinical expertise includes skin cancer prevention, acne, psoriasis, surgical skin care, and cosmetic services such as Botox® and dermal fillers—always with a natural aesthetic in mind.

A proud graduate of Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Valk completed her residency at Beaumont Hospital – Farmington Hills, where she served as chief resident. She joins Dr. Jeffrey Globerson and Dr. Ryan Jones, who continue to provide surgical dermatology services during

their visits from the Portage office. Outside the clinic, Dr. Valk enjoys spending time on the shores of Lake Michigan with her husband, Dr. Josiah Valk, an orthopedic surgeon joining the local medical community this fall, and their goldendoodle, Finnegan.

To schedule an appointment, call 269-321-7546 or request online at www.swmderm.com.

Our **August Business After Hours** takes us to the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor #541 Elks Lodge on Thursday, August 21st from 5:00 to 7:00 PM! Located on the banks of the beautiful St. Joseph River, Lodge #541 has proudly served the community since 1900. We'll celebrate the expansion of their scenic riverfront patio with a ribbon cutting at 5:45pm, alongside appetizers, a cash/credit bar (non-alcoholic beverages are covered), and a relaxed evening of networking and camaraderie.

The Elks believe in building strong communities, with members embracing the motto "Elks Care – Elks Share." Through ongoing programs, the lodge supports veterans, individuals with special needs, youth development, and countless local charitable

efforts-raising over \$100,000 in recent years. Annual traditions include Flag Day services with area Boy Scouts, veteran dinners, food and clothing drives, and fishing trips for children with special needs. The lodge also participates in the Gold Key Scholarship Fund, helping students with physical or educational challenges pursue higher education, and proudly supports national programs such as the Elks Hoop Shoot and Veterans Service initiatives.

Lodge #541 isn't just about service—it's also a place for fun and friendship. Members enjoy restaurant-style meals, events throughout the year, and unbeatable sunset views from the riverfront patio. If you're inspired by purpose-driven connections, this is the perfect place to learn more. For details about membership join us at Business After Hours, visit the lodge, or call 269-363-4180.

I hope to see you around Southwest Michigan - especially at BCYF! Have questions - contact me directly at sspoonholtz@smrchamber.com or 269-932-4040.

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Josh **Bishop**

Pastor

How do I know?

Have you ever asked for a sign from God? It is normal for us to want something like this. We ask of those who profess their love to us, "You say that you love me, but how do I know? Show me." We do this because we want to be certain that they really love us.

Abraham was a man in the Bible who was told many things by God—but they hadn't happened yet. After years of waiting, Abraham began to wonder if it was all true. So he asked God for a sign. He wanted to be sure that God would come through.

But have you ever asked why we need a sign? Shouldn't it be enough that someone simply says it? Don't we trust the person? Perhaps it's because we've been burned in the past. Someone made a promise and didn't follow through. Someone said they loved you—and then hurt you deeply. Or maybe we we've placed unrealistic expectations on someone and been disappointed when they couldn't meet them.

Abraham asked for a sign because he was growing impatient with God. He his own expectations and timetable. He thought God should have to follow *his* schedule. But God knew better.

Interestingly, God didn't give Abraham a sign, not the way we might expect. Instead, he doubled down on his promise. "I will do what I have promised."

Abraham responded:

⁶Abram believed in the Lord, and the Lord credited it to him as righteousness. (Gensis 15:6).

A few years later, God did follow through. That's one sign that God keeps his word.

Another sign that God gave to show he is true to his word was a cross outside the city of Jerusalem, around 33 CE. Jesus, God's one and only Son—the Son who he loved—was crucified to show that God truly loves all humanity. Three days later, that same Jesus rose from the dead to prove that sin and death held no power over him, and therefore hold no power over you.

He said he loved us—and he showed it with a real event in history.

So what do we have left to do? Nothing at all.

Believe in the Lord and he credits righteousness to you.

You and I haven't kept all our promises either. We've said we love and yet shown the opposite. God has *always* kept his promises—especially the one to forgive and love you. He gives his righteousness—his "rightness"—and credits it to you. Every kept promise, every faithful word, every enduring act of love—it's all yours in Christ.

You want a sign to know if God is real or if he already loves you? He has made many public signs throughout history. Read about them in the Bible and see for yourself.

Can you think of a time when you doubted God's promises or timing? What helped you trust him again or what could help you trust him now?

Dear Lord, I have doubts. Help me to believe. You are the one who has kept your word repeatedly. Help me lean on those times to get me through the seasons of uncertainty. Amen.

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



Tyler **Allen**

Comfort Advisor Boss Services

Corn Sweat Intensifies Southwest Michigan's Summer Heat

Southwest Michigan's summer is feeling the weight of an unusual phenomenon: corn sweat. This natural process, driven by the region's vast cornfields, is amplifying the heat and humidity, creating challenging conditions for communities and agriculture across Berrien, Cass, and Kalamazoo counties.

Corn sweat, scientifically known as evapotranspiration, occurs when corn plants release water vapor into the atmosphere during growth. With over 150,000 acres of corn in southwest Michigan, the collective effect is significant. Each plant can release up to a gallon of water daily, and during peak growing season, this process can increase local humidity by 10-20%. The result is a heavy, oppressive atmosphere that makes summer days feel even hotter. The National Weather Service in Grand Rapids reported heat indexes reaching 105°F in July 2025, with corn sweat contributing to the elevated moisture levels.

This heightened humidity impacts the region's agricultural backbone. Southwest Michigan's \$1.2 billion corn industry relies on healthy crops, but the moist conditions created by corn sweat foster pests and fungal diseases like gray leaf spot, which thrive in warm, damp environments. Farmers are

August 9, 2025 MailMax Page 5 increasing pesticide applications to protect yields, adding to operational challenges. The intensified humidity also complicates field work, as machinery and laborers contend with the muggy air.

Beyond agriculture, corn sweat affects daily life. Outdoor activities, such as farmers' markets in St. Joseph and Niles, see reduced attendance as residents avoid the sticky heat. Cooling centers in Dowagiac and South Haven are experiencing higher demand, particularly for vulnerable populations like seniors at risk of heat-related illnesses. Meanwhile, local businesses report a surge in demand for cooling products, with ice cream sales in St. Joseph rising 15% and backyard sprinklers becoming a common sight.

Climate trends are exacerbating corn sweat's effects. Warmer summers prompt corn plants to transpire more, releasing additional moisture and creating a feedback loop that intensifies humidity. Researchers at Michigan State University note that this cycle highlights the need for adaptive strategies, such as developing heat-resistant crop varieties and expanding community cooling resources to mitigate the impact on public health and comfort.

As southwest Michigan navigates another month of heat, corn sweat remains a defining feature of the region's summer. While it underscores the area's agricultural strength, it also challenges residents and farmers to adapt to its humid consequences. From increased pest management to community efforts to stay cool, the region is finding ways to cope with this sticky byproduct of its cornfields, a reminder of the intricate link between nature and daily life in this agricultural heartland.















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Moody *Continued from cover*

The CRC, a 109-year-old independent think tank, is not taking a stance for or against the initiative. Instead, it said its mission is to provide objective information so policymakers, business leaders, and citizens can make informed decisions.

'We have to agree on the facts," Lupher said, "and we try to provide those facts so people can make sound policy."



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Initiative leader for Ax MI Tax, Karla Wagner. has posted a number of articles on her website calling for an end to Michigan's property tax, saying, "Any time we pay a government entity to provide a service, the end recipient gets much less than the full amount. Too many hands grab too many of those dollars before it reaches the intended party"

"We must force the government and other entities seeking our dollars to find another source of revenue. AND THEY MUST STOP SPENDING!!! We are being taxed out of our homes and off our property!! We are being forced to close the very businesses that offer us jobs and a living!!!"

The petition organizers are now gathering signatures, hoping for a spot on the 2026 ballot.

New gas station planned near St. Joseph Martin's grocery store

A gas station could be opening next to the Martin's Super Market in St. Joseph Township.

The township board of trustees on Monday reviewed a site plan for the Martin's Gas Station proposed for 1666 Hilltop Road, the site of a former KFC. Anchor Properties is planning to tear down the KFC building and construct a new 2,600 square foot station with a total of eight fuel pumps across four pumping stations.

Trustees Monday were more concerned about the Berrien County Road Department's management of nearby traffic than anything else. In particular, trustees were concerned about the traffic light at Hilltop and Cleveland backing up vehicles because they said its cycle is too long.

"When we approve this thing, indicate to the -- or at least drop a note or something to the developer and say we're doing this, but we hope that you'll join with us to put some pressure on the powers that be to get the signal straightened out because it's not going to do them any good," one trustee said. "It's going to hurt their business if people can't get in and out of there."



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Township Manager Denice Cook said she would contact the Berrien County Road Department about the matter. The department just wrapped up a traffic signal replacement project in the area that should have resolved that long cycle problem by now. Department spokesperson Adri Boone told us Monday the new signals are camera-controlled so wait times should he reduced

Either way, township trustees Monday were inclined to approve the site plan for the new gas station. The township building official has reviewed the site plan and determined it meets local rules.

New Benton Township car wash project delayed by road construction

The opening of a new Tommy's Express Car Wash planned for the corner of M-139 and Napier Avenue in Benton Township has been delayed.

The Benton Township Board of Trustees was told on Tuesday the delay is due to construction scheduled on both M-139 and Napier next year.

While the news may disappoint some potential Tommy's customers, Cornerstone Alliance's Greg King told trustees it brings with it another problem. He said Tommy's is asking that a 12-year Commercial Facilities Tax Exemption granted by the township to the business last year be delayed to December of 2026 to reflect the new schedule.

Township Supervisor Cathy Yates told us the upcoming construction would make a smooth opening too difficult for the car wash.

'I'm excited about the car wash and I do know that MDOT is going to be doing some work there," Yates said. "It's major work down on M-139, and that's why the delay."

But Yates said bumping that tax break back isn't a problem and the project remains a win for the township.

"I think it's going to be a great one for the township. I feel our residents will use it because they'll be able to buy monthly passes and go every day and get their car washed if they choose to do so."

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Trustees agreed to the delay. They were told because Tommy's operates on a membership basis, it's pretty important for its members to be able to access the business unencumbered. So, the company will just wait out that road construc-

The Commercial Facilities Tax Exemption will give the company a 50% property tax reduction for 12 years once it opens. That'll amount to about \$62,000 per year saved on taxes to help it recoup a more than \$5 million investment.

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



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August 9, 2025 MailMax Page 7

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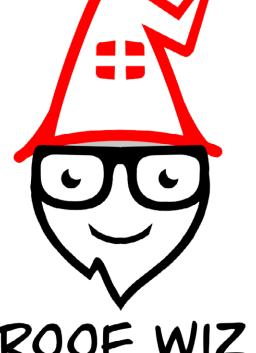
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Page 8 August 9, 2025 MailMax www.MailMaxOnline.com







2025 FORD BRONCO SPORT HERITAGE 4X4

Azure Gray Metallic Tri-Coat, Cargo Mat, Cargo Management System, 17 Inch Oxford White Wheels, Convenience Package, 13 Inch Touchscreen, Power Seat, Heated Front Seats, and Much More! F25070

MSRP\$37	,725
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	730
RETAIL BONUS CASH**	500

SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$36,495 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$35,995

INCLUDES FORD PROTECT 2 YEAR/25,000 MILE PREMIUM MAINTENANCE PLAN!

> *MUST QUALIFY **RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY



2025 FORD EXPLORE **ACTIVE 4 WHEEL DRIVE**

Carbonized Gray Metallic, 2ND Row Captain's Chairs, 20 Inch 10-Spoke Wheels, Remote Start, Heated Steering Wheel, Heated Front Seats, 8-Way Power Passenger Seat, Trailer Tow Package, Power Liftgate, 13 Inch Touchscreen, Trailer Tow Package, and Much More! F25175

MSRP\$4	48,660
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	1,165
BONUS CUSTOMER CASH**	1,500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$4	5,995
MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CAS	•

AS LOW AS \$45,495

INCLUDES FORD PROTECT 2 YEAR/25,000 MILE PREMIUM MAINTENANCE PLAN! PLUS 1.9% FOR 36 MONTHS.

2.9% FOR 48 MONTHS, 3.9% FOR 60 MONTHS,

OR 4.9% FOR 72 MONTHS*

*MUST QUALIFY

*MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT *RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY



2025 FORD TRANSIT CARGO VAN

Oxford White, Limited Slip Rear Axle, Cloth Seats, Fixed Rear Door Glass, and Much More! F25087 MSRP.....\$51,660 SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 2,165

RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH.....- 1,500 **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$47,995**

MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$47,495



2025 FORD F-350 4X4

Oxford White, 7.3 V8 Engine, STX Appearance Package, Dual Battery, Remote Start, Snow Plow Prep Package, Roof Clearance Lights, Platform Running Boards, Blind Spot Information System, 18 Inch Ebony Black Aluminum Wheels, LED Box Lighting, 360 Degree Camera Package, and Much More! F25035 MSRP.....\$57,745 SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 2,750

RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH**..... 1,500 **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$53,495**

MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$52,995

*MUST OUALIFY

**RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY



2025 FORD MACH-E'GT ALL WHEEL DRIVE Shadow Black, ActiveX Seats, 20 Inch Gloss Black

Aluminum Wheels, Panoramic Fixed-Glass Vista Roof, Mobile Power Cord, Interior Protection Pack age, 360 Degree Camera, B&O 10 Speaker Sound System, Power Liftgate, and Much More! F25080 MSRP.....\$57,185 SIEMANS DISCOUNT...... 1,190

SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$55,995

TESLA COMPETITIVE CONQUEST BONUS CASH* - 1,000 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$54,595

INCLUDES FORD PROTECT 2 YEAR/25,000 MILE PREMIUM MAINTENANCE PLAN!

PLUS 0.0% FOR 72 MONTHS*

*MUST QUALIFY

*MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT



Carbonized Gray, 20 Inch Alloy Wheels, Mobile Power Cord, Power Seat, Heated Steering Wheel, 360 Degree Camera, B&B 8-Speaker Sound System, Adaptive Cruise Control, 15 Inch Touchscreen, and Much More! F25096

MSRP SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 2,795 TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH** - 2,250 **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$65,745** TESLA COMPETITIVE CONQUEST BONUS CASH* - 1,000 FEDERAL EV TAX CREDIT*..... 7,500 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$56,745

INCLUDES FORD PROTECT 2 YEAR/25,000 MILE PREMIUM MAINTENANCE PLAN!

FORD POWER PROMISE - INCLUDES CHARGER! PLUS 0.0% FOR 72 MONTHS*

*MUST QUALIFY *MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT



Rapid Red, 3.5 PowerBoost Full Hybrid V6 Engine, ActiveX Seats, Wireless Charging Pad, Power Sliding Rear Window, B&O 8-Speaker Sound System, XLT Black Appearance Package, 20 Inch Gloss Black Painted Aluminum Wheels, Twin Panel Moonroof, Tailgate Step and Work Surface, Tow/Haul Package, and Much More! F25076

.....\$71,205 SIEMANS DISCOUNT...... 3,710 RETAIL BONUS CASH**..... 1,250 TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH** - 2,250 **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$63,995** MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$63,495

INCLUDES FORD PROTECT 2 YEAR/25,000 MILE PREMIUM MAINTENANCE PLAN! PLUS 1.9% FOR 36 MONTHS,

2.9% FOR 48 MONTHS, 3.9% FOR 60 MONTHS.

OR 4.9% FOR 72 MONTHS*

*MUST QUALIFY

*MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT

**RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY



2024 FORD E-350 SERVICE BODY CSV

Oxford White, 7.3 V8 Engine, Limited Slip Rear Axle, Power Windows and Locks, Rear View Camera, Trailer Tow Package, Power Mirrors, Remote Entry, **READING Aluminum Service Body, and Much More!** F24001

MSRP.....\$41,220 ADD FOR READING SERVICE BODY +41,141 SUBTOTAL.....\$82,361

SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 13,366 **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$68,995**

MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER RECOGNITION EXCLUSIVE CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$68,495



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www.MailMaxOnline.com August 9, 2025 MailMax Page 9









Jeep





2025 JEEP COMPASS LATITUDE 4X4

Diamond Black Crystal, Altitude Special Edition, 10 Inch Touchscreen, 18 Inch Gloss Black Aluminum Wheels, and Much More! C25022

SIEMANS DISCOUNT...... 360 MIDWEST BC BONUS CASH**.....-500 NATIONAL RETAIL BONUS CASH...- 1,500 NATIONAL SELECT INVENTORY BONUS CASH - 500 **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$29,495** NATIONAL SFS LEASE LOYALTY BONUS CASH* - 1.500 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$27,495

*MUST QUALIFY

*MUST FINANCE THROUGH CHRYSLER CAPITAL

**RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY



2024 DODGE HORNET R/T EAWD

Acapulco Gold, R/T Blacktop Package, 18 Inch Abyss Finish Wheels, Heated Steering Wheel, Heated Front Seats, Power Seat, Adaptive Speed Control, Parksense Rear Park Assist, Lane Keep Assist, Full Speed Forward Collision Warning, and Much More! C24094

.....\$45,185 MSRP.... SIEMANS DISCOUNT...... 3,440 NATIONAL RETAIL CONSUMER CASH - 7,750 **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$33,995** SFS LEASE LOYALTY BONUS CASH* - 2,000 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$31,495

*MUST QUALIFY *MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL



2025 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4

Bright White, Remote Start, Power Liftgate, Navigation, Heated Front and Rear Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Black Appearance Package, 20 Inch Wheels, and Much More! C25029

MSRP.....\$49,425 SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 1,776 MIDWEST BC SELECT INVENTORY BONUS CASH** - 3,000 NATIONAL RETAIL BONUS CASH..- 2,250 **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$42,399** NATIONAL SFS LEASE LOYALTY BONUS CASH* - 2,000 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$39,899

*MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY



2025 DODGE DURANGO GT BLACKTOP REDLINE ALL WHEEL DRIVE

White Knuckle, Black SRT Leather Performance Seats, Performance Hood, 20 Inch Black Noise Aluminum Wheels, 2ND Row Captain's Chairs, Wireless Charging Pad, Alpine Speakers, Adaptive Cruise Control, Power Sunroof, Heated 1ST and 2ND Row Seats, Blind Spot Monitoring, Lane Departure Warning, Navigation, Power Liftgate, and Much More! C25104

.....\$49,985 MSRP... SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 1,523 MIDWEST BC BONUS CASH **.....- 1,000 NATIONAL RETAIL BONUS CASH ... - 2,250 **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$45,212** MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$44,712

*MUST QUALIFY
**RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY



2025 RAM 1500 BIG HORN CREW CAB 4X4

Bright White, Night Package, 20 Inch Wheels, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Power Tailgate Release, Rear Power Sliding Window, Navigation with 12 Inch Screen, Power Seat, Power Adjustable Pedals, and Much More! C25053

MSRP.....\$59,090 SIEMANS DISCOUNT...... 3,186 NATIONAL 10% BELOW MSRP...... 5,909 MIDWEST BC SFS BONUS CASH* ** - 1,250 MIDWEST BC REGIONAL BONUS CASH** -__ **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$47,995**

NATIONAL SFS LEASE LOYALTY BONUS CASH* - 2,000 MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$45,495

*MUST QUALIFY

*MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL
**RESIDENCY RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY



2025 RAM **PROMASTER 2500 HIGH ROOF CARGO VAN**

Flame Red, Cargo Partition with Sliding Window,

Rear Bumper Step Extension, Cargo Area LED Lighting, Storage Group, Rear Assist Handles, Power Windows and Locks, and Much More! C25045 MSRP.\$54,815 SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 1,320 NATIONAL BONUS CASH.....- 2,500 ON-THE-JOB COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT/UPFIT*** - 1,000 **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$49,995** MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$49,495

*MUST QUALIFY

***BUSINESS OWNERS ONLY



2025 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED SAHARA 4X4

Black, 3.6 V6 Engine, Sky One-Touch Power Top, Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 12 Inch Touchscreen, 18 Inch Aluminum Wheels, and Much More! C25062

MSRP.....\$57,955 SIEMANS DISCOUNT...... 1,960 NATIONAL BONUS CASH.....- 1,500 NATIONAL RETAIL BONUS CASH...- 2,500 **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$51,995** MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500

AS LOW AS \$51,495

*MUST QUALIFY



2024 RAM 4500 DUMP **BODY WITH BACKPACK**

Bright White, 6.7 Cummins DIESEL, Trailer Brake Controller, Rear Back-Up Camera, Power Windows and Locks, Remote Keyless Entry, Cloth 40/20/40 Seat, 9 Foot Steel Rugby Eliminator Dump Body, Tarp, Steel Backpack Toolbox, and Much More! C24126

.....\$69,580 ADD FOR RUGBY STEEL DUMP BODY WITH BACKPACK +22,348 SUBTOTAL.....\$91,928 SIEMANS DISCOUNT.....- 10,183 BONUS CASH.....- 3,750 ON-THE-JOB \$1,000 COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT/UPFIT*** - 1,000 **SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE \$76,995** NATIONAL STELLANTIS LOYALTY BONUS CASH* - 1,500

MILITARY OR FIRST RESPONDER BONUS CASH* - 500 AS LOW AS \$74,995

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1.0 Ecoboost Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 35K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Panoramic Vista Roof, Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Keeping Assist, Front Collision Mitigation, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Iconic Silver, U25057



2.0 Ecoboost Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 35K Miles, Remote Start, SYNC 4, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Panoramic Vista Roof, Wireless Charging Pad, Universal Garage Door Opener, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Keeping Assist, Front Collision Mitigation, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Oxford White, U25056



6.4 V8 SRT HEMI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Only 18K Miles! Sky One-Touch Power Top, Running Boards, Remote Start, Navigation, Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Front Collision Mitigation, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Trailer Tow Package, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Hydro Blue Pearlcoat, F23222A



6.1 V8 SRT HEMI Engine, 5 Speed Autom Bee Special Edition SRT8, Remote Start, N Front Seats, Power Sunroof, Harman Performance Audio Group, Remote Keyle:

MANAGERS



6.2 V8 Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Only 10K Miles! Remote Start, Memory Power Leather-Suede Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Power Convertible Top, Climate Control, CD-Player, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Arctic Blue, Very Nice! Must See! F24225A



 Ecoboost Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 31K Miles, Bedliner, Ford Co-Pilot360, Front Collision Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Cactus Gray, F25065A



2.0 Ecoboost Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 30K Miles, Remote, Start, Navigation, Memory Power Leather-Suede Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering, Paroramic Vista Root, Wireless Charging Pat, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Weiming, Front Collision Mitgation, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified Star White Metallic, U25050



3 Ecoboost Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 27K Milesl Remote Start, Nevigation, Sport Appearance Package, SYN 3, Power Leather Header Foror Stasts, Headerd Steering Wheel, Timin Parel Moormon, Adaptine Cruise Control, Bind Spot Montro, Crosk-Traffic Hatt. Lear Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warring, Front Collation Mitigation, Explain Steering Assist, Rear Parking Sensors, Back-Up Camera, Trailer Ton Package, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified Jewiel Red Metallic, U250544

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3.6 V6 Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Only 36K Miles, Blacktop Package, Remote Start, Memory Power Nappa Leather Heated/AC Front Sport Seats, Heated Steering Wheels, 2nd Row Heated Seats, 6 Premium Alpine Speakers, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Go Mango, Dodge Certified., C23230A



6.7 V8 Power Stroke DIESEL Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Chrome PVD Auminum Wheels, 122K Miles, FX4 Off Road Package, Bediner, Running Boards, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Memory Power Leather Heated/NC Front Seats Heated Steering Wheel, Power Adjust Pedals, 2¹⁰ Row Heated Seats, Twin Panel Sunnoof, Back-Up Camera, Upfitter Switches, Trailer Sway Control, Trailer Brake Controller, Remote Keyless Entry System, Race Red, F24339A



2.3 Ecoboost Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 22K Miles, Bedliner, Running Boards, FX2 Package, STX Appearance Package, Remote Start, Navigatior, Front Collision Mitigation, Front Collision Warning, Back-Up Camera, Trailer Tow Package, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Lightning Blue, U25043A



6.4 V8 HEMI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 37K Miles, Spray-In Bedliner Power Running Boards, Off-Road Package, Sport Appearance Package, Remote Start, Power Driver's Seat, Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty, Bright White, F24234A



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ss Entry System, Blue Pearlcoat, C23185B

Kardon 13 Speaker Kicker SRT High

ORT ISLANDER 4X4

2.0 Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Only 36K Miles! Remote Start, Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Islander Package, White 3-Piece Hardtop, Back-Up Camera, Anti-Spin Rear Axle, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Hydro Blue Pearlcoat, U25047



1.4 Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Less Than 12K Miles! Remote Start, Power Driver's Seat, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System Balance of Factory Warranty! Summit White, U25049



2.0 Ecoboost Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 38K Miles, Remote Start, SYNC 4, ower Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Auto Climate Control, Blind Spot Monitor Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Front Collision Mitigation, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Forged Green, U25048



3.6 PowerBoost Full Hybrid Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Alloy Wheels, 107K Miles, FX4 Off-Road Package, Security Cover, Bedliner, Running Boards, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Power Adjus Pedals, 2º Row Heated Seats, Twin Panel Moonroof, Wireless Changing Pad, Blind Sport Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Keeping System, Pre-Collision Assist, Neverse Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Agate Black Metallic, P25088/



Bright White, 6.8 V8 HEMI Heavy Dury Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 30K Miles, Running Boards, Western V-Plow, Snow Chief Group, Power Windows and Locks, Sliding Rear Window, Anti-Spin Differential Rear Axle, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ram Certified! Bright White, F25043B



2.7 V6 Ecoboost Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, Only 42K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Running Boards, Memory Power Leather Heated AC Front Seats, Heated Seeting Wheel, Power Adjust Pedais, 2rd Row Heated Seats Blind Sport Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Kegging Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Front Collision Mitigation, Reverse Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Pro Trailer Back-Up Assist, Remote Keyless Entry System, Agate Black, P25047A



2.5 Engine, 1 Speed CVT Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Less Than 7K Miles! Power Leather Heated/AC From 13 drugher, Toyleeu O'r Morel, Pallom Hindels, Cast Mint The Miller Street Cade in Teaceur's Castal Heated Seats, Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Front and Rear Collision Mitigation, Hands Free Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Midnight Black Metallic, F25105A

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3.2 V6 Engine, 9 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 49K Milies, Remote Start, Power Leathe Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Blind Spot Monitor, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Front Collision Mitigation, Rear Collision Mitigation, Rear Parking Aid, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Spitfire Orange, U25036



Power Driver's Seat, Heated Front Seats, Climate Control, CD-Player Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Venetian Red Pearl, F24332B



2.4 Engine, 9 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 42K Miles, Power Windows and Door Locks, Rear Cargo Door Window Insert Panel with indow Grate, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, BALANCE OF FACTORY WARRANTY! Bright White, U25060

dgman, MI 925-3673



Zarobsky

Dennis

Varo



Kantauskas

Jon

Weber





Betker





Danneffel



Ingels

Martin

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Page 12 August 9, 2025 MailMax







Extended Battery, 1 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Only 13K Miles! Navigation, SYNC4, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Panoramic Fixed-Glass Roof, Wireless Charging Pad, Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Aerial View Display System, Front and Rear Collision Mitigation, Evasion Assist, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftoate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Star White Metallic, C25055A



3.6 V6 Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Only 19K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Black Appearance Package, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Dual Pane Panoramic Sunroof, Touchscreen Display, Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Front and Rear Collision Mitigation, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Baltic Grey Metallic, F25152A



3.6 V6 Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 110K Miles, Remote Start, Power Driver's Seat, 2ND Stow 'N Go Bucket Seats, 3RD Row Stow 'N Go Seats, Touchscreen Display, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Octane Red Pearlcoat, C25085B

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5.7 V8 HEMI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 43K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Power Driver's Seat, Power Adjust Pedals, Heated Steering Wheel, Heated Front Seats, Front and Rear Park Assist, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ram Certified! Flame Red Clearcoat, C25105A



3.5 PowerBoost Hybrid Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Alloy Wheels, 59K Miles, Power Running Boards, FX4 Off-Road Package, Remote Start, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Power Adjust Pedals, 2¹⁰ Row Heated Seats, Twin Panel Moonroof, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Rear Collision Mitigation, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Back-Up Camera, Trailer Tow Package, Remote Keyless Entry System. Iconic Silver Metallic. Balance of factory warranty! F25165A



2.7 Ecoboost V6 Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Less 2,000 Miles! Remote Start, Navigation, Raptor-Style Running Boards, Soft Convertible Top and 2-Piece Black Hardtop, Black Appearance Package, Climate Control, Adaptive Cruise Control, Front Collision Mitigation, 360 Degree Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Marsh Gray, C24120A





www.MailMaxOnline.com August 9, 2025 MailMax Page 13

1.5 Engine, 1 Speed CVT Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 81K Miles, Remote Start, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Power Sunroof, Climate Control, Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Front Collision Mitigation, Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Platinum White Pearl, M25074A



2.0 Ecoboost Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 31K Miles! Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Wireless Charging Pad, Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Front Collision Mitigation, Evasion Assist, Back-Up Camera, Power Littred Close II. Trailer Tour Replaces. Liftgate, Class II Trailer Tow Package, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Stone Blue Metallic, U25058



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3.5 Ecoboost Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 40K Miles, Security Cover, Bedliner, Running Boards, Remote Start, Navigation Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Power Adjust Pedals, Twin Panel Moonroof, Adaptive Cruise Control. Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Front and Rear Collision Mitigation, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, 360 Degree Camera Package, Tow Technology Package, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Code Orange Metallic, F24175A



 Ecoboost Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 35K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC3, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Climate Control, Adaptive Cruise Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Lane Keeping Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Front Collision Mitigation, Evasive Steering Assist Back-Up Camera, Power Liftgate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Atlas Blue Metallic, F25202A



6.7 Cummins DIESEL Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels Only 24K Miles! Bedliner, Running Boards, Power Windows and Locks, Touchscreen, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Bright White, C24196A



8961 Red Arrow Hwy., Bridgman, MI





Mike

Ferguson

Alisha Danneffel

Martin

Siemans

Dan Zarobsky



Greg Kantauskas

Bob











Jeff Miller

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Dave Ramsey

Financial Expert The Ramsey Show

Dave Savs Focus on What's Important Now

I'm 22, working my way through college and I've already been able to start setting money aside for life after graduation. I had a talk with my parents recently about my plans once I get a real job and get out on my own. They seem to think I'll be okay, but sometimes things can seem so overwhelming. How do people manage and prioritize more adult responsibilities like investing, marriage, having kids and everything else?

Kieran

Dear Kieran,

You're right, it can be overwhelming if you look at all these things as if they have to be done right now. But I'll tell you something you already know: You don't have to do everything right now. It's great to look toward the future, and have a plan, but you're only 22. You've got plenty of time to decide what's important to you. For now, let's just say you've done a great job so far. Take a deep breath and relax. You're way ahead of the game compared to most young people your age, and you should be proud of your accomplishments.

Now, all the things you mentioned are great goals. Some of them are kind of intimidating, but those aren't what you're facing





right now. In my mind, finishing college is your number one priority. Then, after you graduate and begin life on your own, you can begin looking at the other things you mentioned one at a time. Once you find a good job, you can begin setting aside for retirement. If your car is about to roll over and die, that first step may be a better vehicle. If there's a special lady in your life, you might begin focusing on marriage somewhere down the road.

Don't be too intimidated, Kieran. Things are often easier to deal with when you break them down into smaller pieces and address them individually. There's a funny old adage that goes something like this: How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. Do you get what I'm saying? Nobody can do four or five big things at once and do them all to the very best of their abilities. Decide what matters

most, put it at the top, and list everything else in descending order of importance. Once you've done this, go down the list, focus and knock them out one after the other.

You're a smart and determined young man, who has accomplished a lot already. Something tells me you can do just about anything you set your mind to!

* Dave Ramsey is a nine-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solu-

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What's It All About, Amalfi!

Before we dive into the deets of a day that ended in Pompeii, let me just say it doesn't feel terribly appropriate to try and make light of what happened there on August 24, 79. That's when Mount Vesuvius erupted and, well, you know.

Something I can make light of, which happened the evening before our day that ended in Pompeii, is the White-Hot Glow party aboard the Norwegian Sky, a gathering on the pool deck

where everyone was supposed to wear white clothes and gyrate amidst flashing lights and pulsating music.

For this special night, I went all out. I wore my Whitest Hottest outfit, the centerpiece of which was a brand-new, gleaming alabaster-colored guayabera shirt, which reflected approximately 97.9% of the ambient glow. And rather than my usual reluctant dance techniques. I busted out a buncha bodacious and booty-licious

NONE of which, it turned out, was White or Hot or Glow-y enough to entice my wife to dance. Which was weird, because she's always the one trying to coax ME to dance. Thus, it was an Off-White Not-So-Hot Slow party for me.

The next morning, we set out on a tour that began with a scenic drive along Italy's Amalfi Coast. The journey started with a not-so-scenic drive out of Naples, during which we encountered standstill traffic. Our quide was a vivacious young lady named Selene, who tried keeping us awake

during stoppage time with interesting factoids such as:

- Mozzarella cheese is not a cheese. Selene said this most emphatically, with a few extra talking-with-her-hands gestures.
- Mozzarella seems to have been invented in or quite close to Naples, which Selene takes pride in since she is a Neapolitan.
- Yes, I know what you're thinking, and I agree...a sizable serving of Neapolitan ice cream would be just about awesome just about now.

Nearing the city of Sorrento, we began seeing lots and LOTS of lemon trees, mostly in tended orchards, but also just growing hither and thither. And they bore the most JARGANTIC lemons I've ever seen! We got up close and personal with some of them, and with a multitude of products made from them, at a visit to a shop called Limonora in Sorrento. There we sampled six or seven adult beverages made with lemons. Which almost led to an impulse purchase of a pair of lemon-yellow sandals, AND a complementing pair

August 9, 2025 MailMax Page 15 of knee-high socks festooned with lemons (imprinted lemons, that is).

Fortunately, I got talked out of this, because $% \left\{ 1,2,\ldots ,2\right\}$ I soon learned about something better I should start saving my money for: Driving along the Amalfi Coast, Selene pointed out a cluster of islets which she says are called the Chicken Islands. (Wikipedia says they're the Siren Islands, "Le Sirenuse," which sounds a little better than the Chickens, I think.)

They're private islands, but one of them has accommodations that can be rented. Selene says celebrities (she specifically mentioned the supermodel Naomi Campbell) go there when they need to unwind from, well, I guess from being celebrated. Surprisingly, they go for just 200. That is, \$200,000. Per night.

When I take my family there someday, I'll try to make it special somehow. Probably by wearing the new white-hot fashions I'm about to order!: Yellow sandals and knee-high socks festooned with lemons!





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