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See Page 12



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**3/\$70**  
1 GRAM

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OR

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# CityPULSE

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**AN AP INVESTIGATION FOUND THAT PRISON LABOR—OFTEN FORCED—IS WIDESPREAD IN THE U.S. FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN.**

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I CAN'T BELIEVE IT EITHER!

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Jazzmeia Horn brings her Grammy-nominated music to MSU

**PAGE 16**

Peppermint Creek's "How to Defend Yourself" is brutally honest

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Let vanilla do the heavy lifting in your Valentine's Day treats

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Cover photo by Lawrence Cosentino of an untitled painting by Elijah Hamilton-Wray

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

### MISSION-IMPOSSIBLE (TAYLOR'S VERSION)

BACKSTAGE AT THE GRAMMYS, 2023 GOOD EVENING, AGENT SWIFT. THE DEEP STATE CONGRATULATES YOU ON SUCCESSFULLY ESTABLISHING YOUR COVER IDENTITY AS AN INTERNATIONAL POP STAR.



YOUR NEW MISSION, SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO ACCEPT IT, IS TO SHAPE THE OUTCOME OF NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION. FIRST, WE NEED YOU TO ENCOURAGE YOUR FANS TO REGISTER TO VOTE.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT THIS IS A SINISTER AND UNDERHANDED TACTIC, BUT THESE ARE DESPERATE TIMES.

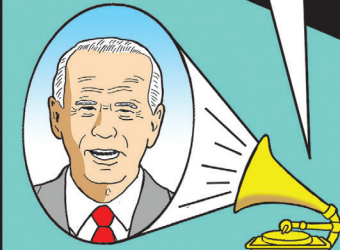


WE FURTHER NEED YOU TO DEVELOP A PUBLIC ROMANCE WITH ANOTHER OF OUR ASSETS--FOOTBALL PLAYER TRAVIS KELCE, WHO HAS ALREADY BEEN WORKING TO PROMOTE OUR VACCINATION INITIATIVE, OPERATION MICROCHIP SHEEPLE.



OUR OPERATIVES IN THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE WILL ENSURE THAT AGENT KELCE'S TEAM MAKES IT TO THE SUPER BOWL--WHERE, WITH THE EYES OF THE NATION ON YOU, YOU WILL ENDORSE JOE BIDEN FOR RE-ELECTION.

THAT'S IT. THAT'S THE SECRET PLAN.



THE DEEP STATE IS COUNTING ON YOU, AGENT SWIFT. HOWEVER, IF YOU OR ANY MEMBER OF YOUR TEAM ARE DISCOVERED, GEORGE SOROS WILL DISAVOW ANY KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR ACTIONS.

THIS AWARD WILL SELF-DESTRUCT IN FIVE SECONDS.



AND SO, AGENT SWIFT SPRINGS INTO ACTION!

TIME TO GET TO WORK! I SEE NOTHING THAT COULD GO WRONG--

--UNLESS MY FOES IN THE RIGHT WING MEDIA SOMEHOW UNCOVER THE TRUTH OF MY MISSION!



**NEXT: THE CONSPIRACY EXPOSED!**

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# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## In Lansing, the issue of affordable housing a ‘two-headed monster’

Lansing has long been touted as an affordable place to live. In 2018, it was listed as the nation’s best affordable city by Livability.com, which cited the average price of rent at the time as \$734.

Today, the city remains below the average cost of living elsewhere in the U.S. and Michigan, but the average rental price in Lansing has risen to nearly \$1,000.

Local landlords like David Sheets have seen that phenomenon unfold firsthand.

“What used to be around \$800 to rent a three or four-bedroom house now costs \$1,200, and that’s happened in the last few years,” said Sheets, once widely known as Discount Dave from ads for his mattress stores. “The availability is just not there. People will wait for months to find a place.”

Of the 120 properties he owns and rents out in Greater Lansing, Sheets said he doesn’t have a single unit available right now. He called it “the best market for what I do that I’ve ever seen.”

“If we have a vacancy, I mean, boom, it’s gone immediately. Do I understand it? No. I just deal with it, and it’s working pretty well for me,” he said.

It’s part of a national trend that has grown more prominent in recent years, and one that Michigan, in particular, has struggled with. According to Rent.com’s Jan. 2024 rent report, Michigan had the third highest increase in average rent prices in the country over the past year, at 12.47%.

Renters and activists in Lansing have taken notice. Last week, a diverse group of concerned Lansingites gathered at The Fledge, on Lansing’s east side, to discuss the state of affordable housing in the city and strategies for addressing a related spike in its homeless population.

The session’s panel featured state Rep. Emily Dievendorf, D-Lansing, City Council member Ryan Kost and Rawley Van Fossen, who became Lansing’s director of planning and development in December following five years as executive director of the Capital Area Housing Partnership.

“We know that we don’t have enough housing, that housing is not



Photo by Raymond Holt

Rep. Emily Dievendorf (left) discusses housing affordability as (to her left) Lansing City Council member Ryan Kost, Ashia Wilson of the Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness and Kelsey Brienne of For Our Future listen during a community event at The Fledge last week.

safe enough, rent is too high, full ownership is too expensive, and there are unfair obstacles to getting into renting and to stay in renting,” Dievendorf said.

The event touched on a vast array of issues related to homelessness and tenant rights, although the debate frequently circled back to one key-stone issue: the need to boost the city’s available housing stock.

“If we don’t have enough roofs over the head to be offering throughout our city, we’re not going to solve homelessness in Lansing,” Van Fossen said. “The pure and easy answer is to offer permanent solutions.”

For Kost and others, one way the city could put a dent in the mismatch between supply and demand is through reducing the number of red-tagged properties in the city, thereby adding more homes to the city’s pool of safe rentals. When Kost first joined City Council early last year, the city had around 700 red-tagged homes. He said it has since fallen to “just over 500.”

But Lansing Housing Commission Executive Director Doug Fleming said in an interview that the city

needs to exercise caution in pursuing this goal.

“Right now, the city will readily admit that they have hundreds of people living in red-tagged units. Why would anybody live in a unit that’s red-tagged? Because they don’t have a better alternative,” LHC’s Fleming said. “If the city went out and enforced all of those and dumped all those people on the street, what is that going to do for our homeless population?”

A more sustainable solution, he said, would be to build more new units.

“As people move out because they have options, you’ve forced the landlord to either invest in their property to keep up with the Joneses, so to speak, or sell it,” Fleming said. “If they sell, someone with the capital can hopefully go in there and buy it, fix it up and get it within code. In either case, building more new affordable housing units is actually going to help solve our red-tag problem as well.”

The city, in partnership with groups like Fleming’s LHC, has tried to capitalize on state funding designed to help bolster Michigan’s housing stock.

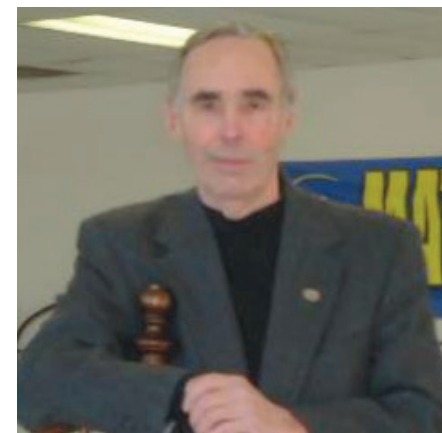
This includes LHC’s Riverview



Doug Fleming



Pat Gillespie



Dave Sheets

220, a \$22.5 million mixed-use and mixed-income apartment building made possible in part through a \$1.5 million tax credit Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Slated for completion by 2026, the project planned for the south side

See Housing, Page 6

# Housing

from page 5

of East Kalamazoo Street, between South Grand Avenue and Cherry Street, will have 63 units, with 56 of them designated as affordable. Fleming cited it as the first mixed development of its kind in Lansing.

The process of planning and completing these state-assisted projects can take a lot of time, however. To solve the issue, Fleming said more development is also needed in the private sector.

The problem, he said, is that rising inflation has impacted both sides of the coin. The cost to construct and ensure new buildings has increased, which has led developers to become more selective in the projects they pursue.

In that way, Fleming added, achieving greater affordability is a "two-headed monster."

Pat Gillespie, one of Greater Lansing's largest developers, agrees.

"The supply and demand curve is upside down right now. We have sites all over the state that we would love to go build on, but we can't make many of the numbers pencil out to make enough economic sense for a bank to

## CONCEPT | EXTERIOR PERSPECTIVE



13 Hooker DeJong | Design Concept | 03/21/2023



Riverview 220, which the Lansing Housing Commission plans to build on Grand Avenue in downtown Lansing, will be Lansing's first mixed-used affordable housing development, LHC Executive Director Doug Fleming says.

allow us to borrow," Gillespie said.

"In the past, you could figure out a business model," he added. "But right now, with costs being so high and interest rates up at the mid 7% to 8% range, you put those two together, and it's not a good combination to have a lot of explosive growth."

These factors have led to fewer de-

velopments, particularly for low-income renters.

"You're risking a lot to do some of these projects, so those variables can really swing on you quite a bit," Gillespie said. "With the market like it is now, it is almost impossible to build anything residential without having it be super high end."

This is a problem Fleming faces daily in his role with the Lansing Housing Commission, which helps facilitate the process of awarding Section 8 housing vouchers in Lansing. He said they'll accept applications for a five-day period once every 10 months, but that the demand far outpaces the number of landlords who accept those vouchers.

"Last year, we opened it right before Thanksgiving, and we had 2,800 people apply in five days. To get a workable number that we can get through in a timely manner, we have to lottery that down to 600," Fleming said. "Even if you're successful, it's still not immediate, because you could still be 10 months away from getting a voucher."

Again, he said, the quickest way to alleviate the pressures placed on renters is to build more units, which takes time. To do so effectively, Fleming stressed the importance of planning for the long haul.

"The conversation about affordable housing needs to be focused on what our needs will be in 2027 and in 2028," Fleming said. "Because that's just where we're at with affordable housing right now, and we're already behind."

— TYLER SCHNEIDER

**Jon Anthony  
FLORIST**

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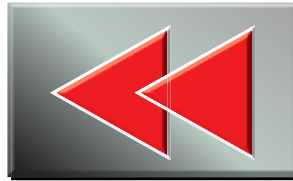
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# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES

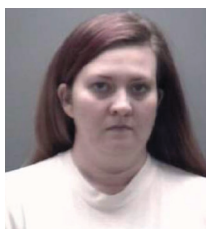


**Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum and her husband used “their local political influence” to get their son re-admitted to Mason schools after he was expelled for allegedly sexually assaulting a female pupil, a civil rights suit filed last week in federal court contends.** Byrum’s spouse, Brad Delaney, is a detective sergeant in the Ingham County Sheriff’s Department. They are named as co-defendants with the Mason Public School District, Mason High School Principal Lance Delbridge and Assistant Principal Nicholas Toodzio. For more on this story, go to [www.lansingcitypulse.com](http://www.lansingcitypulse.com).

**The Lansing Economic Area Partnership received nearly \$19 million from the Michigan Strategic Fund board to use in redeveloping the former Lansing Car Assembly plant on Verlinden Avenue.** LEAP will use the funds to remove underground utilities, demolish old structures and remediate the site. The Strategic Site Readiness Program, administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corp. on behalf of the Michigan Strategic Fund, has designated \$87.5 million for redevelopment projects statewide. The Lansing plant opened as Durant Motor Co. in 1920 and was purchased by General Motors in 1935. Production ended in 2004, and the factory was demolished in 2007.



... A 14-year-old boy was hospitalized Sunday after being shot in the leg in the 1200 block of Leslie Street in Lansing. Two suspects fled the scene, and the shooting remains under investigation. ... Two men, ages 45 and 31, suffered non-life-threatening gunshot wounds in an incident Sunday in the 2800 block of South Cedar Street in Lansing. No arrests have been made.



**Elysa Kelemen, 32, was arraigned in Eaton County District Court on Friday on one count of open murder in connection to the death of her 6-year-old stepson, Kyron Kelemen.** Police found the child injured at the Travelodge by Wyndham in Delta Township on Jan. 12. He died at a hospital later that day. Documents obtained by WILX state that he was covered in bruises and suffered lacerations to his liver and pancreas due to blunt force trauma. A hearing has been set for Feb. 20 to determine whether Kelemen should stand trial.

**The First Presbyterian Church of Lansing Sunday presented a \$40,303.18 check to the Justice League of Greater Lansing, part of a \$100,000 pledge it made “for reparation of the sins of slavery, the aftermath of gross human rights violations and complicity in the misbelief of white supremacy.”** The church last year made an \$18,000 payment to the Justice League and expects to cover the rest through congregant pledges. The 2-year-old Black-led organization has now raised more than \$400,000 of endowed reparations to fund scholarships and grants, home ownership and entrepreneurship.



**Ingham County Prosecutor John Dewane announced Tuesday he will run as a Democrat for the four-year term that begins in 2025.** Dewane was appointed in December 2022 to replace retiring prosecutor Carol Siemon. Dewane, 58, of Williamston, is the only candidate listed for the Aug. 6 primary election on the Ingham County Clerk website. “From day one, my office brought a renewed emphasis to the prosecution of serious, violent and gun-related crime, especially when committed by repeat and habitual offenders,” he said.



**Mason Police Chief Mark Wriggelsworth has resigned, effective Feb. 9.** He submitted his resignation, which did not include a reason for leaving, on Jan. 19. City Manager Deborah Stuart said a timeline for filling the position has not been determined, that the city is recruiting potential candidates and that the opening may be posted. Wriggelsworth is the brother of Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth.

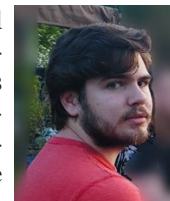
**Michigan State University Vice President and Chief Safety Officer Marlon Lynch is leaving for an associate vice chancellor position in a new Division of Public Safety at the University of Colorado Boulder.** Lynch’s last day at MSU is March 3, after which Doug Monette will take over, MSU Interim President Teresa Woodruff said in a Feb. 2 statement. Lynch served for three years at MSU.



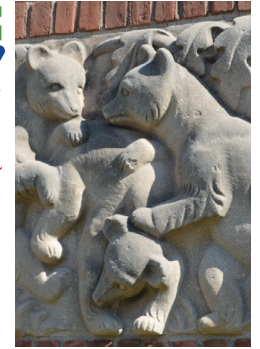
**Police believe six suspects of a Jan. 22 smash-and-grab robbery at Kay Jewelers in the Lansing Mall were also responsible for several other similar robberies in Michigan and Ohio.** The six men, Courtez Lawrence, Deshawn Hammonds, Jasmine O’Neal, Eric Lambert Bennett, Desean Hall and Andre Jackson, were arrested Jan. 24 after a Sterling Heights robbery. They were sent to the Macomb County Jail. Police have since recovered \$170,000 worth of stolen jewelry.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Elijah Peterson (pictured), 24, was found dead Friday at Lake Lansing Park North following a police search lasting several hours after he was reported missing and endangered Friday. No cause of death has been reported, and an investigation is ongoing, the Meridian Township Police Department said.



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**Three Bears**

An observant Lansing resident, Karla Barber, was driving by Willow Elementary School in Lansing recently when she noticed cranes parked in front. She reached out to City Pulse to what was going to happen to the Three Bears sculpture, by Leonard Jungwirth, which is near the entrance.

Jungwirth is best known for his sculpture of Sparty on the MSU Campus.

Barber was concerned that the sculpture would fall to the wrecking ball.

“I’m happy to let you know the three bears statue has been located and the district has instructed construction crews to save it,” Ryan Gilding, the district’s communications manager, emailed me.

Now, the question is what will happen to it. The best plan would be to reinstall it at the school that will replace Willow Elementary, preferably on the inside to protect it from further deterioration.

Jungwirth also made the architectural embellishment on the west side of Lansing City Hall. His works can be seen as well on several locations on MSU’s campus, and he also completed a wooden “Corpus” at St. Johns Church in East Lansing. Jungwirth taught for more than 23 years at Michigan State College. Some less-seen sculptures of his are on the second floor of the Union depicting the legend of Paul Bunyan.

**- BILL CASTANIER**

Public Art of the Week is a new feature that rotates with Eyesore of the Week. If you have an idea for either, please email [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call (517) 999-6704.

### Local control an issue in Eagle

Good article in the January 10, 2024 about Airbnb's in greater Lansing (To Airbnb, or not to Airbnb?).

However, I find Mayor Schor's comments hit home for me as a rural dweller. Here is the mayor of Lansing concerned about losing local control.

My concern? The governor has already signed a bill that takes local control away from Michigan rural areas for wind and solar project development. The wind and solar legislation was also "pushed" by industries.

As a resident in a rural area, I am disgusted that the governor is making this happen. The rules read that rural areas either follow the lax wind and solar limitations as created by the State of Michigan, or our local control is forfeited and the State takes over. That sure

sounds like the ultimate "my way or the highway" mentality. Oh, and oops, it seems many people are taking the highway, and then the governor wonders why Michigan is lacking workers.

Whereas I am sympathetic to Schor's concern, I am sad that this type of action is happening on multiple fronts. There is a precedent being set. It is not good for Michigan rural residents nor for Michigan city residents. Big money has too much power in politics, much to the detriment of regular citizens. Schor says, in your article, "The community should have that ability to protect residents". We rural citizens feel the same way. Do not take local control away from us, any of us. We know our local areas better than any officials in an office far away. One size rule does not fit all of Michigan.

**Dennis Strahle  
Eagle**

#### Letter to the editor

#### Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

Now you have two ways to sound off:

##### Write a letter to the editor.

- 1 • E-mail: [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com)  
• Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912  
• At [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com)  
• 250 words or less.  
• Include your name, community of residence and daytime phone number

##### Write a guest column.

- 2 Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com) or (517) 999-5061. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.

## Four things last week's fundraising reports told us about Michigan's political races

There's no clearer crystal ball into future political results than campaign finance reports.

I know, it's easy to get lost in the numbers, trying to figure out what it all means.

Luckily for you, I'm here to sort it all out ... well, for the U.S. Senate and congressional races that will be on mid-Michigan ballots, anyway.

Here's what I've got:  
1. Nobody raises money in Michigan like Elissa Slotkin. Like, nobody. Ever.

She raised piles of money when she was running for the House. As a U.S. Senate candidate, her prowess is magnified by at least a power of two.

She raised \$2.7 million when most people's heads were in Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, in that order. The total is more appreciated in context:

When Gary Peters was making the jump from being a member of the House to a U.S. senator in 2013, he raised about \$1 million in a comparable time frame. In 2017, U.S. Sen Debbie Stabenow, as a three-term incumbent, raised \$1.7 million. Add those together, and you have what Slotkin has pulled in.

While her main primary opponent, "The Good Doctor" actor Hill Harper, spent more than he raised last quarter, Slotkin squirreled away \$6 million. Her cash-on-hand total is more than what the other 13 Michigan U.S. Senate candidates accumulated by Dec. 31, multiplied by two.

I'm not saying (yet) that Slotkin is going to be Michigan's next U.S. senator, but nobody is going to outspend her. Certainly not in the primary, and probably not in the general, either. Business executive Sandy Pensler is wealthy, but his odds of winning the GOP primary aren't great, as I'll touch on later.

2. Just as there's an exception to every rule, there's an exception to this rule.

U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib. When war erupted between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Tlaib was censured in the U.S. House for her passionate defense of the Palestinian community.

She ran counter to the traditional pro-Israel script in Washington, and Arab Americans across the country

opened their checkbooks. Seemingly unsolicited, Tlaib raised \$3.6 million in mostly small donor contributions from roughly 6,500 people in three months.

Again, here's the amount in context: She raised more money between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31 than the next 10 U.S. House incumbents and challengers running in Michigan combined. She raised four times more money in the last three months than she did in the previous nine months.

All this came despite her not having an announced primary opponent. After this past quarter, it's safe to say that the odds of her getting a serious Democratic primary challenge just went down. A lot.

3. Ignore whatever poll you're looking at. Former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers is the clear frontrunner to be the Republicans' nominee to face Slotkin in the fall. Only a colossal screwup will prevent it.

Former President Donald Trump isn't endorsing in this race. He learned last cycle what a high-risk, low-reward deal the endorsement game is. Besides, every Republican politician who wants to win is kissing his ring. Why bother?

For further proof that Rogers is bound to win, look at these figures:

Rogers doubled what the other eight Republican U.S. Senate candidates who filed reports gathered in the prior quarter. His campaign reported that 5,129 individuals gave him money. Former U.S. Rep. Peter Meijer reported 184. Former Detroit Police Chief James Craig reported 20. The aforementioned Pensler had 2.

Enough said there.

4. Take a guess. Who raised more money last quarter? Two-time Republican U.S. Senate nominee John James or our own MI-7 congressional candidate Curtis Hertel Jr.?

Not only did Hertel raise more than James, his \$550,000 was more than the 30-some other Michiganders raising money for a congressional race, incumbent or challenger, except Tlaib.

Hertel's likely Republican opponent, Tom Barrett, didn't do badly. His \$405,000 is sixth-most of all Michigan's congressional candidates. It's just that Hertel is doing that well.

If it wasn't clear before, it is now. There won't be a competitive primary for either Republicans or Democrats in MI-7.

(Email Kyle Melinn of the Capitol news service MIRS at [melinnky@gmail.com](mailto:melinnky@gmail.com).)



KYLE MELINN

#### Opinion

POLITICS

### Informational open house (in-person)

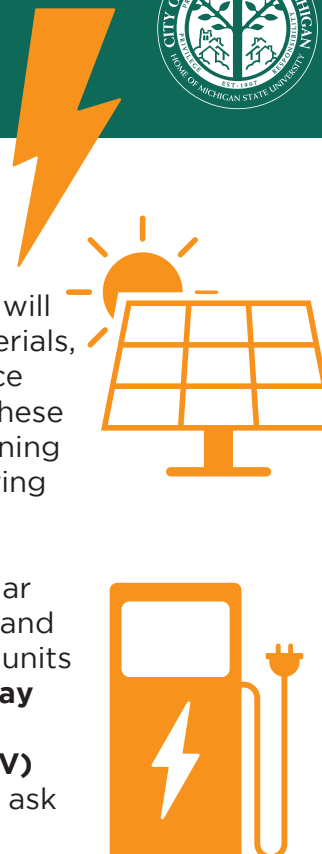
## ZONING AMENDMENTS FOR ALL THINGS ELECTRIC



Monday, Feb. 12, 2024, 6 - 8 p.m.

East Lansing Public Library,  
950 Abbot Road

Staff from the Planning Department will be available, along with printed materials, to explain proposed zoning ordinance amendments related to electricity. These amendments will go before the Planning Commission for an initial public hearing on Feb. 28, 2024. The amendments are focused in particular on **solar energy systems** (such as rooftop solar panels), **outdoor lighting** standards and brightness levels, lighting levels and units of measurement for **electronic display signs** and clarification of the City's requirements for **Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers**. All are welcome to attend, ask questions and make suggestions.





# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Sweeping away the gray Vocalist Jazzmeia Horn lights up MSU Jazz Studies

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Despite a January eternity of gray days, you heard it here first: There will be sunshine in East Lansing all of this week.

Ebullient, inspirational vocalist Jazzmeia (pronounced “jazz-ME-ah”) Horn emits radiant beams in all directions, from traditional gospel, blues and straight-ahead jazz to spoken word, neo-soul, hip-hop and beyond.

At her core is a mastery of lyric interpretation and nonverbal artistry in the tradition of jazz icons like Sarah Vaughan and Ella Fitzgerald. But with three Grammy-nominated albums behind her, she’s already taken that tradition into new realms of expression.

The minute she called City Pulse to talk about her residency this week at Michigan State University Jazz Studies, the sun came out. A half-hour later, they were both elsewhere.

“I’ll bring the sun with me, how about that?” she promised.

A Friday (Feb. 9) concert with MSU’s jazz nonets will wrap up the residency. Along with the sunshine, Horn will bring arrangements from her growing body of original music, including her latest album, “Dear Love.”

The story behind the making of “Dear Love” vies with the music itself in inspirational power.

In 2020, pandemic or no pandemic, Horn was on the rise — and in no mood to compromise her vision. In 2015, she won the high-profile Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz International Vocals Competition and snagged a plum three-album contract with the prestigious Concord Records.

Her first album, 2017’s “A Social Call,” pumped new life into classic jazz, gospel and neo-soul tunes and mixed celebration with social commentary, earning a Grammy nomination. Her second album, 2019’s “Love & Liberation,” upped the ante by featuring eight original compositions and was again nominated for

a Grammy.

She was determined to take a third big step and bring her unique vision to a big-band setting, but she ran into a wall.

“The record company told me they didn’t have the budget for a big-band project,” she said.

The plum deal with Concord shriveled into a prune. Horn hired a lawyer to extricate her from it.

“Companies are in business,” she said. “They either don’t have the budget or don’t want to spend the budget.”

She wrote and self-published a book, “Strive From Within: The Jazzmeia Horn Approach.” With chapter titles like “Sing Your Own Song” and “My Stage Is My Altar,” she offers practical advice on singing, shares her own experience as a woman in a male-dominated industry and weaves together multiple threads of knowledge and expertise.

Book sales took off around the world. More than 300 people asked Horn for private lessons.

To make a long story short, she set up an online course, started her own label and made the record she wanted to make: “Dear Love,” with Jazzmeia Horn and Her Noble Force. Of course, it was nominated for a Grammy.

By now, Horn fans know better than to ask questions. Just press play, open your ears and your mind and let her take control.

“Let Us (Take Our Time),” a standout track from “Dear Love,” decelerates the velvety, baritone-sax-soaked saunter of big-band icon Count Basie into a suspended moment in the sun.

Underneath the tune’s easygoing tempo is an almost radical message, at least in 2024. The song imagines two lovers untethering themselves from a demanding world and reclaiming their lives.

“Taking time doesn’t necessarily mean slowing down,” Horn said. “It means pay attention, focus. It means to take back your time away from social media, to take back your mind from things people are telling you to do. You poke at the phone, and they’re telling you what to

buy, how to dress, what to watch, who to be. I want to make that message relatable, no matter what your journey is.”

“Where We Are” is a tender, inspirational anthem, a limpid well that surges with a gospel undertow.

Both tracks have spoken-word segments in which Horn lays out a determined, confident manifesto of self-affirmation and love.

Horn’s musical journey began before she was born. She got her unique name from her grandmother, who wanted to sing jazz and blues but couldn’t because she was the organist at the Golden Chain Missionary Baptist Church in southeast Dallas, where Horn’s grandfather was pastor.

Horn’s grandmother was bound to the church’s traditionalist approach, but she planted a seed for some spectacular future developments by naming her granddaughter Jazzmeia, with the stress on the middle syllable, pronounced “me.”

Among Horn’s early idols was 2004 “American Idol” winner Fantasia Barrino. Horn sang Barrino’s arrangement of “Summertime” at her audition for Dallas’ Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. While at the school, one of Horn’s instructors was Roger Boykin, a multi-instrumentalist, radio DJ and all-around pillar of the Dallas jazz scene.

Boykin gave Horn a selection of jazz vocal CDs to check out. She became so obsessed with Sarah Vaughan that she learned every song Vaughan recorded by heart. After a while, she realized imitation could be taken too far, and she had her own story to tell.

“I think there’s enough room for everybody on this planet,” she said. “Everybody has their purpose. If you walk in that purpose, doing what you love to do and not worrying about what others think of you, you’ll do pretty well.”

In the 21st century, jazz has surprised many doomsayers by blending in thousands of glorious shades with other musical realms, from hip-hop vigor to modern classical rigor.

“It’s a beautiful time to be a musician,” Horn said. “It’s a beautiful time to be alive, period, because there’s so much



Courtesy photo

Along with plenty of sunshine, vocalist and composer Jazzmeia Horn will bring arrangements from her growing body of original music to MSU’s Jazz Studies program, culminating in a concert with the school’s jazz nonets 8 p.m. Friday (Feb. 9).

happening. People are becoming independent artists. Educators are branching out and doing projects with musicians all over the world.”

Horn said she’ll bring a “plethora” of tunes and arrangements from all three of her albums for the MSU nonets to play Friday. She also plans to bring some that have not yet been recorded.

Horn has known MSU Jazz Studies director Rodney Whitaker since 2015, when Whitaker played bass in the rhythm section at her Thelonious Monk Institute competition victory. (You can check out this stunning performance on YouTube.)

“We go way back,” Horn said. “He didn’t really know me, but he was kind of like an uncle then. He was very honest with me about my creativity. He was proud of me. He tried to help me, and he really looked out for me.”

She also watched with admiration as Whitaker conjured a strong and vibrant jazz community in the gray flatness of mid-Michigan.

“I hope to be a part of that community someday,” she said.

### MSU jazz nonets with Jazzmeia Horn, composer and vocalist

Friday, Feb. 9  
8 p.m.  
Murray Hall  
333 W. Circle Drive  
\$7-17  
517-353-5340  
music.msu.edu

# New series on World War II airmen stirs personal memories

By **BILL CASTANIER**

During World War II, nearly 2 million young men enlisted in the United States Army Air Forces, many to become “flyboys.” There was panache and glory in being a flyer. Many of these daring young men became “bomber boys” on the heavy bombers, the B-24 Liberator or the B-17 Flying Fortress. They would experience moments of absolute terror, and their missions into occupied Europe would have been more accurately called “suicide” missions.

The new series “Masters of the Air,” on Apple TV+, makes that apparent in the premiere as crew members of the 100th Bomb Group face German fighters, flak, frostbite from the extreme heights, terrifying wounds and early forms of what we now know as post-traumatic stress disorder.

The odds of returning to the States after the required 25 missions were astonishingly low, hovering at the height of air war in 1943 around 25%. Of the original members of the 100th featured in the series, only 14% flew 25 missions. As a point of reference, during the war more airmen were killed than Marines. You learn early on watching the series that survival was a crapshoot, a roll of the dice, and although these men underwent extensive training (up to a year) and

were extremely brave, a piece of flak cutting through the nearly paper-thin fuselage didn’t care. The American air warfare strategy required the bombers to fly right through the flak while holding formation. There were no fancy maneuvers. You just gutted it out and prayed flak wouldn’t tear into the plane.

The nine-part series is based on a 2006 book of the same title by historian Donald L. Miller that’s been reissued for the series. It is a great companion, and I’m reading it in conjunction with watching the series. The dramatization of the events that the book

describes, along with some of the major characters like Buck and Bucky, are pitch perfect and mirror what crewmen from those bombers told their children.

I’m one of those kids. Although my father, a bombardier/navigator on a B-17 in 1944 (his first mission was on D-Day) spoke little about his wartime experiences, he left behind a handwritten log of his bombing missions.

His perfect printing details the time, date and mission, along with results or lack thereof, but it is punctuated with details of flak, planes shot from the

sky and wounded airmen.

In one post, he details his experience losing two engines and writes, “Came back alone and really sweating it.” I now know after watching the series and read-



Courtesy of Bill Castanier

William Castanier Sr. (back row, far left), father of City Pulse books columnist Bill Castanier, was a bombardier/navigator on a B-17 in 1944.

ing the book that means the plane was a sitting duck.

The new series, produced by Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg, puts you right in the cockpit and the belly of Fortress planes as they are attacked by German fighters and flak-producing anti-aircraft guns on the coast of France and in Germany on missions that lasted up to eight hours.

The premiere shows a navigator coughing up his hearty breakfast in a paper bag, which my dad told me was common — except at higher altitudes, when flyers threw up in their oxygen masks the entire time.

The 10 crewmen on each plane also had to fight frostbite in order to hold on to their blazing guns. A Fortress looked like a bristling pincushion with guns sticking out from each side, the tail, the bottom, the top and the nose.

The book goes into much more detail than the series about the strategy of the bombing campaigns, like why the Brits flew at night and the Americans by day

and how the Brits’ strategy included bombing civilians while Americans focused on military or industrial targets.

I can say for certain that Fortresses sometimes dropped bombs on cities and German troops. My dad’s log indicated that.

In his book, Miller writes, “Those frontal assaults by German fighter planes put the fear of God in you,” quoting the pilot of the famous Memphis Belle, Robert Morgan

“It was bad in the cockpit, but the bombardier and the navigator were sitting in a big bay window open to the sky with nothing but a peashooter to defend themselves,”

Morgan said.

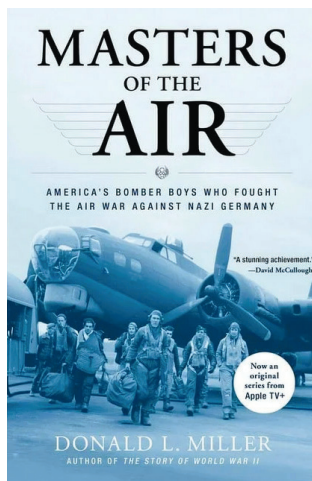
The series’ cinematography shows you exactly what that would feel like.

In the last couple of weeks, I’ve had conversations with other children of big-bomber crewmen, including one who went on a guided tour with Miller of a former airbase in England. Locals also gave her a tour of the base where her father was stationed.

On her tour was an astronaut, Nancy Jan Davis, whose father was a pilot on a B-17 and became a prisoner of war.

Resources on the air war in Europe abound on the web. Other good books on the air war include “One Last Look,” by Philip Kaplan and Rex Alan Smith, and “Luck of the Draw,” by Frank Murphy. To really get into the moment, watch the movies “Twelve O’Clock High,” “I Wanted Wings” or “Memphis Belle.”


I reached out to the author of “Masters of the Air,” and he emailed me back that we would have to talk later, stating, “I am overwhelmed.”



Courtesy photo

The new series “Masters of the Air,” on Apple TV+, is based on a 2006 book of the same title by historian Donald L. Miller.

## CRIMINAL DEFENSE



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# Local cannabis operators see rise in sales during Dry January

By CHRIS SILVA

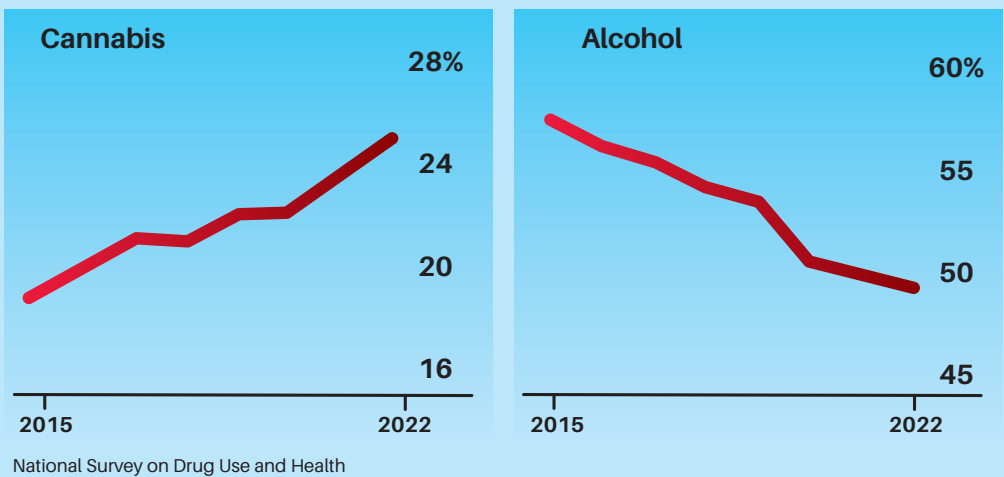
The term “Dry January” seemed to dominate the cultural nomenclature this year much more than years past. It was hard not to see references to the trendy monthlong alcohol fast on any of my social media feeds over the last month. A Jan. 29 report by Bloomberg News indicated that alcohol sales nationwide were down in January, with sales hitting a post-pandemic low at three of the country’s largest liquor chains. On the other hand, cannabis sales were trending up in some legal states, with revenues at national cannabis companies like Curaleaf Holdings Inc., Green Thumb Industries Inc. and Verano Holdings Corp. expected to increase about 6% on average in the first quarter of 2024.

“Anecdotally, we have a lot of people coming into our dispensaries that are saying they are not drinking for January and therefore are now upping their cannabis purchases,” said Matt Darin, CEO of Curaleaf.

January is often a slower month in the legal dope game. Retailers are gearing up for spring and summer upticks, and consumer spending has traditionally lagged as a result of increased spending during the holiday season. In addition, the legal cannabis industry is incredibly volatile and competitive. Many cannabis operators are slashing their marketing and sales teams, offloading unprofitable retail and cultivation locations or ceasing operations altogether — either on their terms or as part of the terms of their receiverships.

Roy Liskey, who owns and operates Laingsburg dispensary Local Roots

## Percentage of Americans ages 18 to 25 who reported cannabis or alcohol use in the past month



Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health shows cannabis use among 18- to 25-year-olds increased between 2015 and 2022, while alcohol use decreased. This could be caused, in part, by the perceived health benefits of swapping cannabis for alcohol.

Cannabis with his mother, Ronda, was able to offer some perspective on what, if any, financial benefit this monthlong fast from alcohol might have had for cannabis operators.

“January can be a scary time for a lot of retailers,” Liskey said. Winter weather and consumer spending slowdowns have long plagued the post-holiday months for retailers in many sectors, not just cannabis.

“Normally, this time of year is when we see an increase in what would be considered value products, with things like bags of shake becoming more and more popular,” he said. Cheap products like shake, mid-grade to low-grade flower and botanical or flavored distillate cartridges are ever popular during the post-holiday depression as stoners look to spread their dollars further while still getting high as often as possible.

This year, however, Liskey said Local Roots’ January sales were trend-

ing the strongest he’s seen in the few years the shop has been open. He also noted that customers seem to be using cannabis as a replacement for alcohol in social and recreational settings and appear to be keying in on the perceived health benefits of swapping cannabis for alcohol, including the lack of a hangover and other negative side effects associated with alcohol use. The Bloomberg News report concluded that, in addition to the many people ditching alcohol for cannabis during Dry January, there’s a growing trend of young people embracing cannabis over alcohol in general, with many pointing to health and wellness as a determining factor.

Liskey believes both new and veteran consumers have started to rely on cannabis more and more as access to and, more importantly, variety of



products has dramatically increased.

Representatives from local retailers The Botanical Co. and Pincanna echoed this claim, mentioning that even students, a demographic notorious for heavy alcohol consumption, seem to be making the switch to cannabis use in increasing numbers. However, they couldn’t say for sure that the Dry January phenomenon was driving up sales. Many retailers have been in business a year longer than they were last January and, by virtue of that, are running more smoothly and potentially creating more volume and revenue. That being said, the representatives backed up Liskey’s sentiment that mindsets seem to be shifting and many folks are choosing cannabis not just for its effects, but to mitigate alcohol’s negative impacts on health.

Our state is experiencing some of the cheapest retail pricing in its history. When you consider the minimal side effects of cannabis use and the amount of people participating in alcohol detoxes like Dry January, it’s easy to believe that what Liskey and other retailers are experiencing may be a growing trend of people who are looking to use cannabis to replace more expensive and harmful substances like alcohol. Retailers hope they will be able to retain these customers and convert them into long-term cannabis consumers. There’s hope that this demographic represents the remaining market share that’s left to be created and fought for in the state’s rough-and-tumble legal dope game. Only time will tell as retailers buckle up for what’s sure to be a bumpy 2024.

**CITY OF GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST**

The Election Commission will hold a public meeting at 3:00 p.m., on Thursday, 15 February 2024, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, to conduct a public accuracy test of the electronic tabulating equipment to be used in all City of Grand Ledge precincts at the Tuesday, 27 February 2024 election. The Election Commission invites anyone interested to attend and witness the public accuracy test.

Gregory Newman, City Clerk

**CP#24-384**

**B/24/098 ENCLOSED TRAILER** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site (www.Mitn.Info) until 2PM local time in effect on FEBRUARY 16, 2024. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Marilyn Chick at (517) 483-4282, or Marilyn.chick@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.

**CP#24-381**

**CITY OF EAST LANSING, INGHAM AND CLINTON COUNTIES MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW**

The City of East Lansing Board of Review will conduct its organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the Court/Council Conference Room of City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

2024 Tentative Factors:	
Commercial Real Property	1.00000
Industrial Real Property	1.00000
Residential Real Property	1.00000
Personal Property	1.00000

The Board of Review will meet for assessment appeals in the Court/Council Conference Room of City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 on the following dates:

**Monday, March 11, 2024:** 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday, March 12, 2024:** 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Written appeals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 12, 2024. For an appointment, call Marti Townsend (mtownse@cityofeastlansing.com) at 517-319-6880 by 1:00 p.m. on March 12, 2024.

**CP#24-361**

# Fantasia in Black

## Emerging artists make a bold mark at LookOut! Gallery



Courtesy photo

Hair with an epic life of its own plays a prominent role in artist Samantha Modder's imaginative vision.

### By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Friday afternoon (Feb. 2), the LookOut! Gallery, a cozy room tucked into the second floor of Michigan State University's Snyder-Phillips Hall, was bursting at the seams with more than 70 people.

East Lansing artist Elijah Hamilton-Wray circulated through the gallery, greeting friends and fellow art enthusiasts. People shot glances at his face, then again at the art.

Their expressions seemed to say, "Yes, it's the same guy."

In a series of striking self-portraits, Hamilton-Wray lovingly painted his own severed head, with a very surprised expression, in various grim settings — on a pike, at the end of a rope and so on.

Some people laughed. Some people gulped with discomfort. Others did both at once.

In the other wing of the gallery, visitors drifted past inky clouds of hair that billowed to the ceiling, curled around corners and stretched in all directions. On the walls, hundreds of tiny figures danced, exulted, dangled and lolled in the tumbling hair. Artist Samantha Modder escorted visitors through her epic sequence of drawings, a waking dream that sprang from pandemic isolation.

The gallery isn't easy to find, but by 6 p.m., it was packed with students, faculty and curious art lovers. MSU Broad Art Museum interim director Steven Bridges stopped by to check out the art and declared it "amazing."

Modder, 28, and Hamilton-Wray, 29, have partnered to present "Sam x Elijah: Making Space x Taking Space," the latest in a long string of provocative, engaging LookOut! Gallery exhibits that stretch back

to 2012. Modder takes the viewer on a ride through her imagination, where socks stretch for yards and hair takes on a life of its own. Hamilton-Wray does extreme violence to his own visage to pull the viewer through the window of traditional portraiture and into the other side.

### 'A ballpoint pen is my home'

Modder's epic, wall-sized images at the LookOut! Gallery begin with a fairy tale written on the gallery wall: "On a dull Monday in Massachusetts, a Black woman awoke to find she had grown a person out of her hair."

"This has been an obsession of mine since 2020," Modder explained. "It started at the beginning of the pandemic, when I was living alone in Salem, Massachusetts, and spending a lot of time by myself, as a lot of us were."

Born in Nigeria and raised in Sri Lanka, Modder graduated from New Hampshire's Dartmouth College in 2017 with dual degrees in studio art and engineering. She lives in Florida and teaches art at the University of Tampa.

The isolation of the pandemic reminded her of hours spent reading fairy tales and fantasies as a child.

Her work at the LookOut! is flavored with many such flights of fancy, from "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" to the tales of Dr. Seuss to "Gulliver's Travels."

"We were all looking for ways to escape, and I find a lot of comfort in drawing," she said. "A ballpoint pen is my home, in a sense. It's what I reach for."

Modder said that in her large-scale drawings, she wanted to recreate the wonder of childhood stories that "tower over you, make you feel small."

In Modder's narrative, the hair invites the woman to "go away" to a place "made up of just you and all you bring in."

"This character is alone in this world, just her," Modder explained. "Her nightdress, her socks, her hair. And it becomes an allegory for all the things I'm processing about the world around me."

Her character is ready for a solitary adventure. "Between a pandemic, a burning planet, and her pilates instructor learning that racism was still a thing, (she) was so done with other people," the narrative goes.

That's about as specific as Modder gets when describing her art. She wants viewers to interpret it in their own ways.

"What was my hair trying to tell me? That's the dream that's been going on for almost four years now," she told visitors at Friday's reception. "It's a lot of self-portraiture. If everyone else in the world disappeared and it was just me, would I do any better? The answer, so far, is..."

About 20 people

### Perspectives in Black: Emerging Visions

#### "Sam x Elijah: Making Space x Taking Space"

Through Feb. 23  
MSU Residential College in the Arts and Humanities  
LookOut! Gallery  
Snyder-Phillips Hall  
362 Bogue St., East Lansing  
FREE  
rcah.msu.edu



Artists (and mutual admirers) Samantha Modder paused for January while installing their work at the LookOut! Gallery in the College in the Arts and Humanities.



Courtesy photo



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

but he said it's also a reaction to people walking up to him and touching his hair.

Another portrait series, "Faces," takes a reductionist approach. The self-portraits are reduced to a few fully rendered features — a hat, a pair of glasses, a mask, a floating eyeball — with the rest of the space left blank.

The paintings are more, and less, than portraits. They are voids. They are puzzles. They are mirrors.

"I tried to see what the viewer brings to the paintings — what they'll assume about someone based on these minimal features," Hamilton-Wray said. "Ultimately, I want the viewer to think about their own individuality and what shapes who they are."

### Floating together

The LookOut! Gallery is shaped like a butterfly, with one wing devoted to each artist in the current exhibit. In the center is a glassy atrium where both artists' work surges upward on vertical columns — the thorax of the gallery.

"This is my favorite space," Wray said. "They're kind of floating together here."

Resplendent in striped socks and an air of wonderment, Modder's imaginary Black woman rides on great flying balls of hair, with Hamilton-Wray's severed heads dangling in between.

Here, the two artists' contrasting styles merge to create a joyous, violent, funny, defiant fantasia of Black hair, Black bodies and Black faces.

"There's something really powerful about the imaginary, about the Black imaginary, and what it means to create these powerful, comforting but sometimes confrontational stories," Modder said.

Hair, in the form of filaments, clouds, braids, lifelines, sunbursts and entire worlds, is a strong presence in both artists' work.

"Black hair is, and has been, a loaded symbol in this country, in terms of being dismissed and frowned upon," Wray said. "Here we have these two painters celebrating all different forms of Black hair and making it magical."

While the two artists were setting up the exhibit, Modder gently chided Hamilton-Wray.

"All you have to do is hang up your paintings," she told him.

See Fantasia, Page 14

Hamilton-Wray said he wanted to "stretch what a self-portrait means" in his "Faces" series. He used himself as a model for "Don't Say the Idiom" (right) and the other portraits in the series.

leaned forward to catch the next word. "...ongoing."

### Adding a twist

Jeff Wray, a film studies professor, screenwriter and filmmaker, is always looking for ways to spread the word about the arts.

In 2021, Wray was named MSU's Timnick Chair in the Humanities, with a sweeping mission to, in his words, "connect the dots between different aspects of the humanities."

"I'm a filmmaker, but I love art — painting, drawing, music, all of it — and a big part of our mission is to support emerging artists," Wray said.

He first saw Modder's work two years ago at a Midwest conference of Black artists, and he's been looking for a way to showcase it ever since.

To find a perfect complement to Modder's work, Wray didn't have to look far. Hamilton-Wray is his son. Jeff has been following Elijah's development closely, from his early interest in comic book heroes to Friday's big reception.

The work on display at the LookOut! was still a surprise to him.

"I hear a little bit about it as he's doing it, then when I see it finalized, it feels brand new to me," Wray said.

"So, in that way, seeing Sam's work and seeing Elijah's final work was the same thing to me — young Black artists who are doing very compelling work."

Hamilton-Wray started out as an avid fan of comic book heroes like Spider-Man and the Avengers. In grade school, he and five of his friends created an "Avengers"-style superhero comic in which they each had a superpower.

His superpower was ostensibly time travel, but it was really his ability to get the comic done.

"I ended up doing most of the work," he admitted.

Before long, he began painting portraits of his family and friends. He called portraiture the "most accessible" of art forms.

"We all know people and interact with people every day," he said.

When he took the bold step of blending portraiture with surrealism, Hamilton-Wray was partly inspired by Salvador Dali. But he also admires the epic, color-saturated work of Kehinde Wiley, who painted former President Barack

Obama's official portrait, and Kerry James Marshall, a celebrated Black artist whose paintings, sculptures and comic strips explode with vivid images of Black life.

"I love their attention to detail," he said. "They approach their craft with a delicacy that makes the viewing experience thought-provoking and impressive."

Hamilton-Wray's mysterious faces and quizzical, bloody heads pop with a distinctive, self-revealing energy Black artists have tapped into for decades that's lighting up many galleries in the 21st century.

Marshall defined that energy as a "tendency toward the theatrical," a strong sense of style "that seems to be so integral, a part of the Black cultural body."

Hamilton-Wray has concentrated on art since he got his master of fine arts in 2019 from Northern Vermont University in Johnson, Vermont. The portraits in the LookOut! show were made with acrylics and oils, his main mediums, but he also creates watercolors, prints and drawings.

Portraiture is still his bread and butter, but the self-portraits in the LookOut! exhibit have a lot more than that going on.

"I wanted to stretch what a self-portrait means to me," he said. "I added a twist."

He paused to relish the understatement.

"I removed my own head and put it in all these weird and strange positions, with all these facial expressions you wouldn't expect to see in that sort of situation."

In "Headrest," his head is planted at the point of a long spear. He was inspired, in part, by fantasy stories in which a brutal warlord demands the heads of his enemies, skewered on a pike.

However, the shocked expression on Hamilton-Wray's face in "Headrest" is more suited to a man whose phone just went down the toilet than a defeated enemy of Genghis Khan.

"I thought about what it would look like if I were to die in this brutal way, and how could I make it humorous," he explained. He added a dry laugh.

Another entry in the "Heads" series depicts a white hand grabbing Hamilton-Wray's hair.

The artist acknowledged the portrait's racial charge,



Courtesy photo

Elijah Hamilton-Wray and an informal portrait in work at the MSU Residential Communities' LookOut! Gallery.



Courtesy photo

Modder asked for precise measurements of the walls and columns of the LookOut! Gallery before installing her site-specific art.

# CityPULSE



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Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Hamilton-Wray wasn't kidding when he called "Headrest," from his funny and horrible "Heads" series, a "weird twist" on traditional portraiture.

## Fantasia

from page 12

Modder designed her wall-sized ink drawings to fit each of the gallery walls within fractions of an inch. Months before the exhibit opened, she asked gallery preparator Steve Baibak for pictures of the quirky space and exact dimensions of its walls, angles and cubbyholes.

"She was very professional to work with," Baibak said.

It didn't hurt that Modder is also a trained mechanical design engineer. Although she presently concentrates on art and teaching, Modder spent some years working with a nonprofit to develop construction methods and materials for low-resource areas like Haiti. (She also

devised an improved form of penile implants for men with erectile dysfunction and invented Fly Free, a magnetic clip that keeps bicyclists' skirts from blowing upward.)

In keeping with Baibak's vision of the LookOut! Gallery as an informal learning space, Modder worked with students to complete the complex installation. Although its imaginative shows are raising its profile in the community, teaching is still the core mission of the gallery, which is a part of MSU's Residential College in the Arts and Humanities.

"It's fantastic when an artist works alongside students," Baibak said. "They experience it right with the artist."

Baibak co-organized the current two-person exhibit alongside Tama Lynne Hamilton-Wray, an assistant professor of Africana film studies at the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities.

Baibak is a good man to know. He is not only an inventive artist and dedicated teacher; he's also the keeper of the vault of weird and wonderful artifacts that lurk in the hallways and corners of the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, including treasures culled from previous art exhibits.

In all, Baibak has installed 78 exhibits since he came to MSU. If you're nice to him, he'll take you on an informal tour through the halls, a gallery-within-the-gallery that's crammed with dozens of diverse artistic gems — so much that there's even art hanging in the break room, over the microwave.

One of the most spectacular works is a beautiful, poster-sized birch-bark sign by artist Dylan Miner from a 2016 protest against construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. There are also works by California artist Favianna Rodri-

gues, Lansing artist Bruce Thayer and New York City artist Brady Dever Treadaway.

Art exhibits at the LookOut! have often been wild and unpredictable. Baibak smiled at the memory of Treadaway and Italy-based artist Justin Randolph Thompson making a beeline for the MSU Surplus Store as soon as they arrived in 2015 to install a frantic multimedia exhibit, "Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics."

"They were like, 'Oh, you have a surplus store?'" Baibak recalled. "They spent the whole night in the gallery installing their own work. It was phenomenal — stuff hanging everywhere, they had fans blowing stuff. I still think about that show a lot."

When the World War I drama "War Horse" came to the Wharton Center in 2012, community members were invited to build life-sized horse puppets inspired by the props used in the play. Baibak raided the Surplus Store to build a spectacular warhorse with a wheelchair embedded in its hindquarters. At an auction of the sculptures, an unknown woman made the winning bid on Baibak's piece but never picked it up, so he got to park the massive beast a few feet from his office.

Baibak also loves to show students a chair civil rights icon John Lewis sat in during his 2014 visit to MSU. It's not exactly art, but to Baibak's mind, it all fits together. At the core of the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities' mission, and that of the LookOut! Gallery, is unlocking untapped potential for human expression, communication and action.

"How inspiring," Baibak enthused, gesturing at the chair with Lewis's portrait emblazoned on the back.

"This could be you, right?"

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., at Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823.

1. A public hearing will be held to consider an application from Larry Viles on behalf of George F. Eyde Family, LLC, for the property at 120 West Saginaw Street. The request is to remove approximately twenty-seven existing trees in addition to trees already removed.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1529, a conditional rezoning request from Michael Zawacki to change the zone district for 730 Grove Street from R-2 Medium-Density Single-Family Residential to RM-32 City Center Multiple-Family Residential, for use of an existing building as a bed and breakfast.
3. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1530, proposed zoning ordinance amendments related to electrical regulations. Specifically, the amendments are meant to facilitate the installation of solar energy systems, adjust regulations for outdoor lighting and electronic display signs in accordance with best practices, and to clarify regulations regarding Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations. An informational open house regarding the proposed amendments will be open to the public and held at the East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., on Monday, February 12, 2024 from 6-8 pm.
4. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1531, proposed zoning ordinance amendments meant to align local regulation of licenses for the retail sale of alcohol for off-site consumption (specifically SDM/Specially Designated Merchant licenses, which allow for the retail sale of beer, wine, and mixed spirit drinks, and SDD/Specially Designated Distributor licenses, which allow for the retail sale of spirits) with those of the State of Michigan.

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for each public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> and select the meeting date.

Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at [www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications). Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823, or by email to [coelplanningcommission@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:coelplanningcommission@cityofeastlansing.com).

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the Planning, Building, and Development Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at [rurdial@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:rurdial@cityofeastlansing.com).

**This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and published in compliance with the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, 2006 P.A. 110.**

Marie E. Wicks  
City Clerk

CP#24-383



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

A sculpture inspired by the World War I drama "War Horse," built by artist and LookOut! Gallery preparator Steve Baibak, is one of many pieces of art from previous exhibits that are tucked into the halls of the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities.

# A story of rising and falling stars

## Stephen Mark Lukas talks 'Funny Girl' revival tour

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

"Funny Girl," with a score by Jule Styne, lyrics by Bob Merrill and book by Isobel Lennart, premiered on Broadway in 1964 and quickly became a hit, earning eight nominations at the 18th Tony Awards and spawning a 1968 film. But it wasn't until 2022, nearly 60 years later, that the show saw a revival on Broadway, followed by a North American tour, which will stop at the Wharton Center Wednesday (Feb. 7) through Sunday (Feb. 11). Despite the time gap, the show's original score, and premise, remain deeply relatable to a contemporary audience, said Stephen Mark Lukas, who plays Nick Arnstein.

The semi-biographical script depicts the life and tumultuous marriage of Arnstein and Fanny Brice, played by Katerina McCrimmon, during Brice's formative years as an iconic performer, as well as a wife and mother. The real-life Brice has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. She was a successful Broadway actress and recording artist, and, later in life, she developed a comedic radio show starring a character called Baby Snooks. In 1999, she received a posthumous Grammy Hall of Fame Award for her 1921 recording of "My Man."

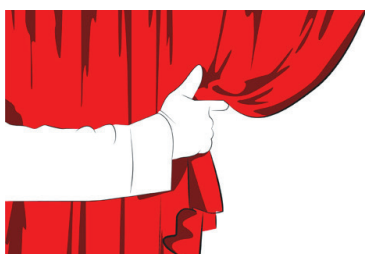
Lukas stated that his character's arc isn't what audiences will expect.

"As the show goes on, Fanny's star as-

cends and Nick's diminishes. He has to grapple with his demons. It all sort of unravels for him," he said.

Based on Brice's real-life second husband, the character of Arnstein is as relatable now as he was in the 1960s, because he's a partner to a woman who is finding herself and learning to own her power.

### BEHIND THE CURTAIN



"When we first meet Nick, he's mysterious and formal. He has everything put together, and everything is going for him. He's a real man of the time in the early 20th century — a playboy, a gambler. He bets on horse races and

boxing. He has it all figured out," Lukas said.

But by the end of the show, he said Arnstein has been "knocked down a peg."

"He starts coming from this place of vulnerability. What I love about the show is that it depicts their relationship not as a fairy tale like a lot of musical comedies. It delves into the trials and tribulations. It's not a perfect romance, and a lot of people see themselves in that. It's a bittersweet love story," he said.

The real-life Brice and Arnstein were married from the time Brice was 27 to 36 years old. Two years into the marriage, Brice released what would become her signature song, "My Man," for the Ziegfeld Follies, and she continued

to perform for the company into the 1930s.

"Funny Girl" is about a woman who must forge her own path, Lukas said.

"I think young women and young men can connect to the story of Fanny Brice. She has been told from a young age that she wouldn't succeed because she doesn't look right for the Follies. But by embracing her authenticity and that which makes her different, she's able to be very successful. And she won't take no for an answer," he said.

He called the role of Brice "humongous" and "a star-making performance."

The 1964 show was produced by Brice and Arnstein's son-in-law, Ray Stark, and made famous by Barbara Streisand's lead performance. But because the show hasn't been revived on Broadway since its original run, Lukas said, "Most theater lovers haven't seen a first-class production of this show. Especially not performed with an orchestra like ours."

Lukas was the understudy for Arnstein during the Broadway run last year.

"A Broadway audience is very specific," he said. "It's been a wonderful experience to bring this show to different parts of the country and see how different audiences respond."

Wharton Center public relations manager Bob Hoffman stated that he was "particularly eager to hear the remarkable Katerina McCrimmon live — her voice is truly extraordinary."

"The entire cast is of the highest caliber, promising a top-notch theatrical experience," Hoffman continued. "I'm beyond excited to see this production!"



Photo by Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade

Katerina McCrimmon and Stephen Mark Lukas as leads Fanny Brice and Nick Arnstein in the touring Broadway production of "Funny Girl."

"Funny Girl" will travel throughout the Midwest into March before heading to the West Coast and continuing around the country through the end of this year. It's the first time Lukas has been on this kind of schedule, but it's not his first Broadway tour. He traveled with "The Book of Mormon," which included a one-year engagement in Chicago and a tour of the United States.

When asked about his own journey to the Broadway stage and beyond, Lukas stated that he was actually a shy child.

"My parents put me in children's theater. I think they thought it might help me get out of myself," he said.

By the time he was in high school, he started to realize that musical theater could be his career.

"When I told my parents, they took a deep breath, but they have always been very supportive. On some level, I always knew this was what I wanted to do. I've been very fortunate ever since," he said.

## February and early March theater productions

### "Funny Girl"

Feb. 7-11  
7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday  
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Saturday  
1 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday  
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall  
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing  
whartoncenter.com

### "How to Defend Yourself"

Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.  
Feb. 8-11  
7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday  
Stage One Performing Arts Center  
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing  
peppermintcreek.org

### "Maytag Virgin"

Feb. 8-March 10

8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday; Feb. 28, March 6  
Williamston Theatre  
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston  
williamstontheatre.org

### "The Addams Family: School Edition"

All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre  
Feb. 9-11  
7 p.m. Friday  
3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday  
Hannah Community Center  
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing  
allofussepress.org

### "Stevie and the Real World"

MSU Department of Theatre  
Feb. 9-18  
7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday  
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday; Feb. 17

Fairchild Theatre  
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing  
theatre.msu.edu

### "The Exonerated"

Feb. 15-18 and 22-25  
7 p.m. Thursday  
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday  
Riverwalk Theatre  
228 Museum Drive, Lansing  
riverwalktheatre.com

### "Anastasia"

Feb. 23-25 and March 1-3  
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday  
Lebowsky Center  
122 E. Main St., Owosso  
lebowskycenter.com

### "The Thanksgiving Play"

LCC Performing Arts

Feb. 23-25 and March 1-2  
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday  
LCC Black Box Theatre  
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing  
lcc.edu/showinfo

### "The Boy Who Cried Wolf"

Feb. 24-25  
4 p.m. Saturday  
1:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday  
Wharton Center Pasant Theatre  
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing  
whartoncenter.com

### "Pipeline"

Ixion Theatre Ensemble  
March 1-2 and 8-9  
8 p.m.  
Stage One Performing Arts Center  
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing  
ixiontheatre.com

# Get comfortable with being uncomfortable

By **DANA DEMINK**

In a DIY self-defense class hosted by sorority sisters in the aftermath of a rape, seven college students confront their inner victims and violators. Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s production of Liliana Padilla's "How to Defend Yourself" is brutally honest, often funny and sometimes visceral.

Props to Peppermint Creek for bravely staging the production and entrusting this sensitive subject material with a first-time director. In choosing to explore the insidious ways sexual violence can steal one's sense of self, the theater company delves into themes that could risk alienating itself from some patrons. Regardless, the play is impeccably executed. It's evident that great care went into the choreography choices, the hard-driving rave-style dance music and the set,

which accurately looks like a break-out room in a school gym. While the play doesn't depict sexual violence, it discusses it with raw frankness. To that end, Peppermint Creek wisely made use of intimacy coordinators.

There are standout performances by Brittany Renee Bell as "wannabe" sorority girl Mojdeh; Carmen Zavala-Kelly as tough, gun-loving Diana; Elena Billard as objectified and edgy sorority sister Kara; Storm Kopitsch as earnest but vulnerable instructor Brandi; Rachael Stefens as self-effacing and terrified Nikki; TJ Kelly Jr. as nerdy and confused Eggo; and Adrian Wiseman-Rose as Andy, the occasionally opportunistic fraternity brother who plays at being an "ally."

If I have one criticism of the production, with no fault to Peppermint Creek, it's that the proscenium-style stage negates the intimacy the play was hoping to achieve. While the play may not have been written for theater in the

round, allowing the audience to have closer proximity to the actors from all angles draws us in to the shared blame of the normalization of sexual violence. This is a play that's meant to be loud and in your face, but unfortunately, with the audience so removed from the action, the sound is dampened. I felt distanced from the heartbreak of it all when I should have been drawn in with stinging immediacy.

Padilla's play explores the idea of rape culture, which is "perpetuated through the use of misogynistic language, the objectification of women's bodies and the glamorization of sexual violence," according to Southern Connecticut State University. (Yes, this definition was intentionally plucked from a college website.) Triggered by a horrific rape of one of their own by two of their own, every character in the story is grappling with their inner demons: fear of harm, fear of rejection, shame, deviancy, lack of power. But while the playwright cracks a window into the souls of seven college co-eds, their characters never seem to fully round



Photo by Trumpie Photography

The cast of Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.'s production of "How to Defend Yourself," running Thursday (Feb. 8) through Sunday (Feb. 11) at the Stage One Performing Arts Center in north-east Lansing.

out. There is no story arc — it's a problem without a resolution.

But instead of resolution, the play points a finger at our culpability. The strobed montage sequence at the end of the production highlights a middle school, high school and college party culture in which drinking and sexing are de rigueur. It culminates in a birthday party scene in which Susannah, the rape victim, is surrounded by friends that say, "What did you wish for, Susannah?" Such a loaded question.




Review

## "How to Defend Yourself"

Feb. 8-11  
7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday  
2 p.m. Sunday  
Stage One Performing Arts Center  
2200 Lake Lansing Road,  
Lansing  
peppermintcreek.org

City of East Lansing  
**All-of-us Express Children's Theatre**  
presents




**The Addams Family**  
SCHOOL EDITION

**Feb. 2 & 9**  
7 p.m.

**Feb. 3 & 10**  
3 p.m.

**Feb. 4 & 11**  
3 p.m.


For general information visit [www.cityofeastlansing.com/allofus](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/allofus).  
Tickets can be purchased at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, (517) 333-2580, ext. 0 or online at [www.cityofeastlansing.com/allofus](http://www.cityofeastlansing.com/allofus)



**Ticket Information\***  
\$12 adults  
\$8 youth

**East Lansing Hannah Community Center**  
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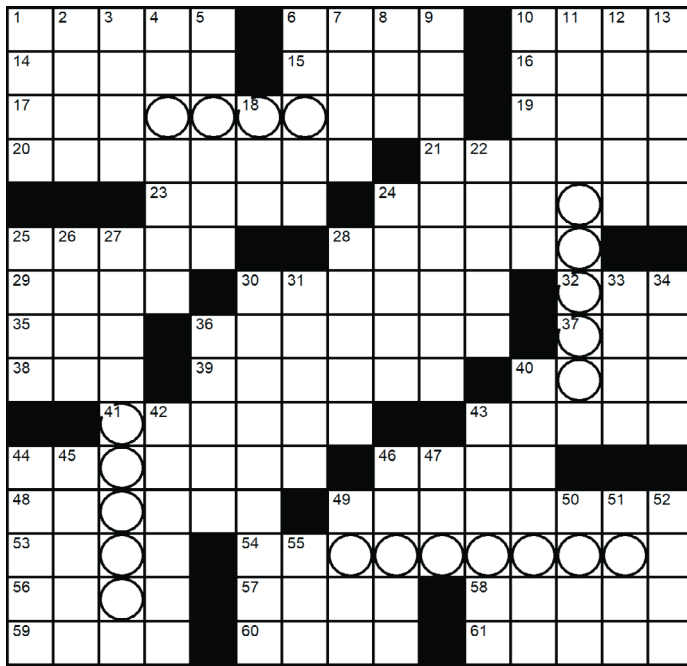
# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Strong Suits"-- dealing with another puzzle.  
by Matt Jones  
© 2024 Matt Jones

**ACROSS**

- 1. As of yet
- 6. Judge's seat, in law
- 10. "Ray Donovan" actor Schreiber
- 14. Jumper cable terminal
- 15. As well
- 16. Give the creepy eye to
- 17. Remove all the dirt and grime from
- 19. Server operating system
- 20. Release
- 21. Three-part vacuum tube in old TVs
- 23. "\_\_\_ Little Tenderness"
- 24. Becomes enraged
- 25. Double sextet
- 28. Borrower
- 29. 2001 high-tech debut
- 30. Apt answer for this clue
- 32. It had a hub at JFK
- 35. Keanu's "Matrix" role
- 36. What you may need to do to understand the four sets of circled letters
- 37. Talking computer in "2001: A Space Odyssey"
- 38. Slippery tree
- 39. Inquisition target
- 40. Clock feature
- 41. Kicks out
- 43. Injection also used to treat migraines
- 44. Gangsters' headwear, in old



- movies
  - 46. Tiger sound
  - 48. Cider fodder
  - 49. England-Scandinavia separator
  - 53. Golden State sch.
  - 54. They're unbiased and accepting, and not short-sighted
  - 56. Wine bouquet
  - 57. Expert pilots
  - 58. Rice-\_\_\_ ("The San Francisco Treat")
  - 59. Lawyer, for short
  - 60. Put a stop to
  - 61. "The Walking Dead" villain
- DOWN**
- 1. Rude response
  - 2. "Falling Slowly" musical
  - 3. Ticonderoga, e.g.
  - 4. Took on grown-up errands, so to speak
  - 5. Like a phoenix
  - 6. Lightweight modeling wood
  - 7. Out of the breeze, to a sailor
  - 8. Hush-hush govt. group
  - 9. In a satisfied way
  - 10. Thelma's cohort, in film
  - 11. "Disregard what you just saw ..."
  - 12. Avoid some syllables
  - 13. Bewildered
  - 18. Slyly shy
  - 22. Change color again
  - 24. Peasants of yore
  - 25. Feast
  - 26. European car manufacturer
  - 27. Went by quickly
  - 28. "One of \_\_\_ great mysteries ..."
  - 30. Locale in a Clash title
  - 31. "Everybody \_\_\_" (REM song)
  - 33. Home of Baylor University
  - 34. James Patterson detective Cross
  - 36. Hobbits' homeland
  - 40. Available to rent
  - 42. Tennis shot
  - 43. Role for Keaton and Kilmer
  - 44. Animals, collectively
  - 45. Disney World acronym
  - 46. "I Only \_\_\_ the Ones I Love" (Jeffrey Ross book)
  - 47. Airport code for O'Hare
  - 49. "Great British Bake-Off" co-host Fielding
  - 50. Make out in Manchester
  - 51. \_\_\_ Mode of "The Incredibles"
  - 52. "O \_\_\_ Oscar"
  - 55. "His Master's Voice" company

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Answers on page 21

# SUDOKU

# Beginner

		3	9					7
					7	3		
7	8	9			4	5		6
1	5	8			3			
	4	6				1		
3		7	4		6	8		5
6	9	2		3	1		4	
			8					
8	7							3

## Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:  
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

February 7-13, 2024

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** In honor of the Valentine's season, and in accordance with astrological omens, I offer you a love letter from an unpublished novel by an Aries friend. Consider saying something similar to a person who would be thrilled to hear it. Here it is: "We will seize the sexiest joy we can conjure. We will turn each other into boisterous deities in quest of liberation from all unnecessary limitations. We will tenderly shock each other with mysterious epiphanies and rivers of bliss. 'Wild' will be too mild a word for the awakenings we provoke in each other's futures."

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** "The greater the fool, the better the dancer." Composer Theodore Hook said that. Poet Edwin Denby agreed. He said, "There is a bit of insanity in dancing that does everybody a great deal of good." Choreographer Martha Graham added, "Dance is the hidden language of the soul of the body." I bring these thoughts to your attention because the coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to get freer, more sensuous and more unconstrained. Dancing your inhibitions into oblivion will be an excellent way to pursue these goals. So will doing everything with a dancer's abandon, including lovemaking.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Years ago, Salon.com asked various critics to name the most preposterous sex scene to appear in a recently published novel. I was honored that one of the vignettes selected was from my book "The Televisory Oracle." As I read the critic's review of my wild, funny and crazy erotic story, I realized he was a pedantic, macho prude who thought sex isn't sex unless it's dead serious and joylessly intense. The characters of mine he regarded as preposterous were in fact playing, laughing and having goofy fun. In the spirit of my novel's kooky lovers, and in accordance with astrological omens, I invite you to pursue uproarious amusement while enjoying the arts of intimacy — both in and out of bed. (PS: Playwright Rose Franken said, "Anyone can be passionate, but it takes real lovers to be silly.")

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** A psychic told me that in one of my past lives, I was Numa Pompilius, the second king of Rome. It's an intriguing theory that could help explain why my horoscopes are popular in Italy. What about you, my fellow Cancerian? Is there an aspect of your reincarnational history that aids your current destiny? Or are there past events in your current life that are becoming more influential? The coming weeks will be a good time to meditate on these possibilities. While you ruminate on your history, check in with the spirits of your ancestors and departed allies to see if they have any inspirational messages for you.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Kevin Kelly wrote the book "Excellent Advice for Living: Wisdom I Wish I'd Known Earlier." There, he observes, "Listening well is a superpower. While listening to someone you love, keep asking them 'Is there more?' until there is no more." Dear Leo, this is excellent advice for you in the coming weeks. I urge you to specialize in gathering the deep revelations of those you care for. Opening yourself to them in unprecedented ways will boost your soul power and enrich your wisdom.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Imagine you are walking on a hill at night. You are headed to meet a person you adore, who awaits you with champagne and chocolate. The weather is balmy. The moon is full. You are singing songs you both love, announcing your arrival. The songs tell stories about how much you two love to yearn for each other and how much you love quenching your yearning. When you arrive, dear Virgo, what will you tell your beloved to make them feel supremely understood and appreciated?

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Has your approach to togetherness become infused with habit or numbness? When was the last time you got extravagant for the sake of love? Has it been a while since you tried a daring romantic move or two? I bring these questions to your attention,

Libra, because now is an excellent time to rev up your imagination as you upgrade intimacy, companionship and collaboration. I hope you will authorize your fantasy life to be lush, unruly and experimental. Spur yourself to dream up departures from routine that intrigue your close allies.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Author W. Somerset Maugham (1874-1965) testified, "My own belief is that there is hardly anyone whose sexual life, if it were broadcast, would not fill the world with surprise and horror." Is that true about you, Scorpio? Even if it is, I'm guessing the horrifying aspects will be nonexistent in the coming weeks. There may be surprises, yes. There may be entertaining interludes. But from what I can tell, everything will at least be educational and colorful. What are your most exotic erotic fantasies? Now is a good time to ask a willing partner to explore them with grace and good humor.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** The Valentine's season is looming, and many of us are receptive to advice about togetherness. I'll offer some principles that I believe are essential to you Sagittarians as you nourish ALL your close relationships, including your romantic bonds. They are from novelist Graham Joyce. He wrote, "Two people in love don't make a hive mind. Neither should they want to be a hive mind, to think the same, to know the same. It's about being separate and still loving each other, being distinct from each other. One is the violin string; one is the bow."

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Lately, I have been intoxicated a lot. Not because I've ingested drugs and alcohol. Not because I have been doing three-hour meditations or studying sacred texts. I've felt so wildly free and euphoric because life has been dismantling some of my fears. It happened once when my psychotherapist spoke just the right curative words at a pivotal moment in our session. Another time, I came upon a very large hare while strolling in the woods and had an epiphany about how to heal a painful trauma in my past. On another occasion, I dreamed of a priestess doing a banishing ritual to exorcise my abandonment fears. There were three other similar events as well. I bring this to your attention because I suspect you may soon also get intoxicated through the loss of fears.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Reading through the annals of famous authors' quotes about love, I'm horrified by the relentlessness of their sour assessments. "Love is merely a madness," wrote Shakespeare. "Whoever is not jealous is not in love," said St. Augustine. "General incivility is the very essence of love," declared Jane Austen. "It is impossible to love and be wise," moaned Francis Bacon. "Real love always has something hidden — some loss or boredom or tiny hate," says Andrew Sean Greer. I am allergic to all that our noise! Personally, I have been entangled in a lot of romantic love during my time on Earth, and most of it has been interesting, educational and therapeutic. I am deeply grateful for ALL of it, even the heartbreaks. Any wisdom I have developed owes a great debt to my lovers. What about you, Aquarius? Where do you stand on these issues? I suspect the coming months will provide you with ample reasons to embrace my attitudes.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Have you discovered all there is to know about your sexual feelings and proclivities? Have you come to a complete understanding of what turns you on and how you might express it? I hope your answer to those questions is "no." Pisces. In my view, all of us should keep evolving our relationship with eros. There is always more to discover and explore about the mysteries of our desires. Always more to learn about what excites and inspires us. The coming days will be an excellent time for you to enjoy this research.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](https://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 4 p.m. Wednesday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Nicole at (517) 999-5066.

### Wednesday, Feb. 7

**17th Annual MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit** - Artists from mid-Michigan high schools showcase their work, hoping to earn votes. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 2, 3899 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. [msufcuart.com](https://msufcuart.com).

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by internationally recognized faculty at Michigan State University. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](https://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**"A Course of Love," Facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](https://unitylansing.org).

**Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids** - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Allen Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. [allenneighborhood-center.org/market](https://allenneighborhood-center.org/market).

**Artist Talk: Wendy White** - What do artists and athletes have in common? Join artist Wendy White as she draws parallels between the artist's studio and the field of play. 6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](https://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Bad Art Competition** - Compete to make the "worst" art using random materials we supply! Whoever is voted to have the "worst" art will win a special prize! Grades 4-12. 4 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. [eradi.org](https://eradi.org).

**Dementia Caregiving Series** - Three-session series for those caring for a person with dementia or Alzheimer's Disease. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email [histedc@tcoa.org](mailto:histedc@tcoa.org). 1:30-4 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. [tcoa.org](https://tcoa.org).

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. [meridian50plus.com](https://meridian50plus.com).

**"Funny Girl"** - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. [wharton-center.com](https://wharton-center.com).

**Global Day of Play** - Join us for all-day playtime! We'll supply toys, and kids of all ages can drop in and play. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. [charlottelibrary.org](https://charlottelibrary.org).

**Improv Acting Class** - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Jazz Dance Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp** - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. [lansingrollerderby.com](https://lansingrollerderby.com).

**Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle** - 9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. [lansingshuffle.com](https://lansingshuffle.com).

**LBCA Meeting** - 7:30 a.m. Pine Hills Golf Course, 6603 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg.

**MASH — REACH Open Studio** - Use REACH's space and tools for your creative endeavors. Bring your own supplies, as available materials vary from time to time. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [reachstudioart.org](https://reachstudioart.org).

**Mindfulness Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition** - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. [lancm.info](https://lancm.info).

**Movers & Readers Storytime** - Enjoy songs, rhymes and stories with Miss Lindsay. Ages 0-3. 10:30 a.m. Mason City Hall, 201 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. [cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason](https://cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason).

**Open Mic, Hosted by Rick Hansel** - Family-friendly, welcomes singers and musicians. No cover, all ages welcome. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. [urbanbeatevents.com](https://urbanbeatevents.com).

**Something with James at the Graduate Rock Bar** - 8 p.m. 133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing. 517-348-0900. [facebook.com/graduaterockbar](https://facebook.com/graduaterockbar).

**Tap II Class** - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Taylor Swift Trivia** - Assemble your team and call us at 517-371-2600 to make a reservation. 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. [lansingbrewingcompany.com](https://lansingbrewingcompany.com).

**Wednesday Night Worship Service** - Join Foundations in Faith Christian Church for worship. 6:30 p.m. Gier Community Center, 2400 Hall St., Lansing. [foundationsinfaith.church](https://foundationsinfaith.church).

### Thursday, Feb. 8

**17th Annual MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit** - Artists from mid-Michigan high schools showcase their work, hoping to earn votes. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 2, 3899 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. [msufcuart.com](https://msufcuart.com).

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by internationally recognized faculty at Michigan State University. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](https://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**"A Course in Miracles," Facilitated by Lisa Schmidt** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. [unitylansing.org](https://unitylansing.org).

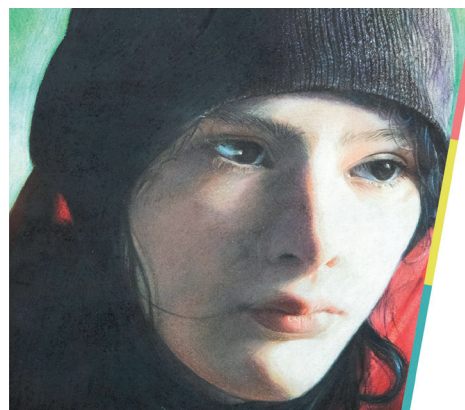
**Acting 101 Class** - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Acting Ensemble Class** - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Clay Play!** - We'll have several different kinds of clay to play with, from Play-Doh to Sculpey-type clays. Some creations can be oven-baked and taken home! 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](https://gladl.org).

**Crafty Vibes** - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse yourself in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](https://weaversoftheweb.org).

**"Funny Girl"** - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. [wharton-center.com](https://wharton-center.com).



### MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit Through Feb. 23

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday  
MSUFCU Headquarters Building 2  
3899 Coolidge Road, East Lansing

The 17th annual Michigan State University Federal Credit Union Student Art Exhibit, sponsored by 517 Magazine, is on display at the credit union's Headquarters Building 2 in East Lansing through Feb. 23. The juried exhibit features work by artists from 17 mid-Michigan high schools, ranging in medium from paintings and sketches to sculptures, photographs and animations.

The public can view the exhibition and cast their votes for the top entries either in person or online at [msufcuart.com](https://msufcuart.com), [facebook.com/msufcuart](https://facebook.com/msufcuart) or [instagram.com/msufcu\\_student\\_art\\_exhibit/](https://instagram.com/msufcu_student_art_exhibit/). The votes will help determine the People's Choice Awards and the School Spirit Award, which is given to the high school that draws the most votes overall. Additionally, the entry that receives the most likes on the exhibit's social media pages will win a Social Media Award.

The juried awards will be decided by four local artists. In addition to cash prizes for the top 13 entries, the Arts Council of Greater Lansing will place the winning entry on a billboard.

"The MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit is a unique platform for young artists to get exposure and take the next step in their artistic journey," said April Clobes, president and CEO of MSUFCU. "We are excited to support these students and to bring this exhibit to the Lansing area for everyone to experience."

**"How to Defend Yourself"** - 7 p.m. Stage One Performing Arts Center, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. 517-927-3016. [peppermintcreek.org](https://peppermintcreek.org).

**Jazz/Hip Hop II class** - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Karaoke Thursday** - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. [greendoorlive.com](https://greendoorlive.com).

**Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club** - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. [ladiessilverblades.org](https://ladiessilverblades.org).

**Laingsburg Farmers Market** - 5-8 p.m. First Congregational Church of Laingsburg, 401 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. [laingsburg-business.org/farmers-market-1](https://laingsburg-business.org/farmers-market-1).

**"Maytag Virgin"** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. [williamstontheatre.org](https://williamstontheatre.org).

**Ruhala Broadway Ensemble** - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. [ruhalacenter.com](https://ruhalacenter.com).

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly** - Weight-loss support group. Weigh-in 5:30 p.m., meeting 6-7 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. 800-932-8677. [facebook.com/HaslettTops](https://facebook.com/HaslettTops).

**Wilson Thicket** - Wilson Thicket has the acoustic soul of an Appalachian string band, but there's more to this Thicket than just a patch of bluegrass! 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. [tenpoundfiddle.org](https://tenpoundfiddle.org).

### Friday, Feb. 9

**17th Annual MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit** - Artists from mid-Michigan high schools showcase artwork, hoping to earn votes. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 2, 3899 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. [msufcuart.com](https://msufcuart.com).

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# Moka & Co.'s Yemeni coffee is a hit in East Lansing

## Owner plans to open additional locations in Okemos and Bath Township this year

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

Throughout his first decade living in Greater Lansing, Ahmed Sufyan would occasionally make the drive out to Dearborn, his hometown, to treat himself to a cup of Yemeni coffee.



### Moka & Co.

565 E. Grand River Ave., Suite 200, East Lansing  
8 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Monday-Thursday  
8 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday  
10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday  
10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday  
(517) 679-0533  
mokanco.com

“In our family, we grew up with these traditional coffee drinks. Unfortunately, they weren't found here,” he said.

With more than 14,500 Yemeni Americans living in Dearborn, according to a September 2023 report by the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit suburb has become a mecca for the craft.

“People argue that it's the origin of all coffee. It has a unique flavor, very aromatic,” Sufyan said. “I thought it was something our area would appreciate.”

For the past few years, the East Lansing-based plastic surgeon had been considering bringing a Yemeni coffee shop to Greater Lansing. In December, he opened Moka & Co. in a 2,700-square-foot space at 565 E. Grand River Ave. in downtown East Lansing. The shop held a soft opening in October, but it's now firing on all cylinders, with a formal grand-opening event slated for 4 to 8 p.m. Feb. 15.

“Many of these drinks have spices



The inside of Yemeni coffee shop Moka & Co. in East Lansing pays homage to its roots through its decor.



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

and other enhancers that are just not found in, let's say, a regular cup of American coffee,” Sufyan explained. “For example, if you go to some of the big-box names that are everywhere, it's more uniform — kind of over-roasted, bold, almost earth-flavored. Growing up, we never had that type of coffee. Our coffee was always lightly roasted or, sometimes, not even roasted. You would appreciate the flavor of the bean itself.”

Sufyan said his favorite drink on the menu is the Jubani, a blend of coffee and qishr, a traditional hot drink made with spiced coffee husks, cinnamon, ginger and cream. The drink takes its name from Juban, a small district in southwestern Yemen where Sufyan's grandparents once lived.

“It's made with an unroasted bean that's naturally green. If you've ever seen the coffee fruit, it's usually red. As that coffee fruit is dried, the shell is removed and discarded by every-

one else, except us. In this drink, we use the shell, or the unroasted bean, with a mixture of spices that really provides this very aromatic, robust, almost tea-flavored coffee drink,” he said. “For me, it's almost like a desert coffee. I love it. I get it without cream, which is the way it comes normally.”

To get his day started, Sufyan prefers the mofawar.

“It's a bolder drink that's very smooth and might be similar to that latte flavor, even though it's not espresso. Mofawar means 'steamed' or 'boiled.' It's just plain coffee beans, and it's cooked on a stovetop and boiled over, which gives a very smooth, robust, almost chocolaty flavor. And there's no flavorings added, just the beans,” he said.

Sufyan gets his beans straight from the source.

“All our coffees are organic, and we get our beans from local farmers, co-ops and a couple of cities in Yemen,”

he said. “Instead of buying it from a huge supplier, where there's markups on markups, we're able to go directly to the farmers. We'll sample the beans and make a claim for how much we want, and those are our beans for the whole year.”

Sufyan recently opened a second location in New York City and plans to open a third in Okemos, at 4738 Central Park Drive, within the next month. A fourth, in Bath Township, is still about six months away.

He hopes Moka & Co. becomes a destination spot for all four communities.

“We also have these great pastries that match up extremely well with our coffee, so for someone going out to have a little dessert after a meal, I think it's the perfect place. Our goal is to provide the best experience possible, and one that I think is unique. I hope people enjoy it,” he said.

## Events

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**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by internationally recognized faculty at Michigan State University. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**“The Addams Family”** - 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. allofusexpress.org.

**Broad Underground Film Series: “Accidental Athlete”** - Short documentary screening inspired by themes in “Resistance Training: Arts, Sports, and Civil Rights.” Q&A with filmmaker Kevin Jerome Everson to follow. 7 p.m. Wells Hall, 619 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Circulate Love: Red Cross Blood Drive** - Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code GLLibrary or GLADL) for more information or to schedule an appointment. 10 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**Cooper Johnson at Harrison Roadhouse** - 6 p.m. 720 E. Michigan Ave., East Lansing. 517-337-0200. harrisonroadhouse.com.

**Divination Roundtable** - Learn a new divination method, get a reading and compare notes with others in your field. All readings free, all systems of divination welcome. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

**DIY Coffee Scrub with Alesha** - Registration req. 5:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

**“Fitness Over 50” Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

**“Funny Girl”** - 8 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

**Geech at Mash Bar** - 10 p.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mashbar.net.

**“How to Defend Yourself”** - 7 p.m. Stage One Performing Arts Center, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. 517-927-3016. peppermintcreek.org.

**Lansing Shuffle Art Series: The Art of Ryan Holmes “Lansing Love”** - Join us in the main hall to celebrate our newest art installation with Ryan Holmes! 6:30-8 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

**Lovely Boozy Book Fair** - All books 10% off, romance titles 15% off. Valentine's-themed beverages \$1 off. 5-10 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. hookedlansing.com.

**“Maytag Virgin”** - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

**Messy Art** - Children ages 2-4 and their caregivers explore science through hands-on, inquisitive learning in a responsive, playful, exploratory environment. 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**Mid-Michigan Women's Expo** - Explore a variety of businesses through exhibits, activities and shopping tailored to women and their families. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. KohlerExpo.com.

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# Events

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**Brewer's Pairing Dinner** - Enjoy five courses, paired with five different LBC brews. Head brewer Chris Ward will provide you with details on each course and beer pairing. 21+. 6 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

**Fundamentals of Drawing — Eight-Week Class** - Discover the art of drawing fundamentals: shape, value and space. Ages 10-13. 4:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

**Intro to Acting/Improv for Kids** - Ages 5-12. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhala-center.com.

**LAGE Game Night East** - 6:30-11 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

**LAGE Game Night West** - 6:30-11 p.m. Frank's Press Box, 7216 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

**Level I Dance Class** - Introduction to theater dance using ballet, tap and jazz. Ages 5-8. 4:45 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhala-center.com.

**"Minecraft" Mania!** - An evening of fun and friendly competition. We'll have our "Minecraft" server set up and laptops ready to go. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**Oh, Shoot Again! Learn to Take and Edit Photos — Eight-Week Class** - Learn digital photography and Photoshop skills to enhance your images. 4:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

**On the Same Page Book Club** - Chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 7-12. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

**Preschool Family Storytime** - Join us for stories and literacy-enhancing activities, including songs and rhymes. Ages 1-6. 11 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

**"The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery" Book Study, with Rev. Sharon Ketchum** - 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 269-762-3189. unitylansing.org.

**StressBusters: Positive Mental Health for Kids** - 3 p.m. session for ages 3-6 and caregivers, 4 p.m. sessions for ages 7-10 and 11-14. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-346-8094. gladl.org.

**Trivia at Lansing Shuffle with DJ Trivia** - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

## Wednesday, Feb. 14

**17th Annual MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit** - Artists from mid-Michigan high schools showcase their work, hoping to earn votes. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters Building 2, 3899 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

**2024 Art, Art History, and Design Faculty Triennial exhibition** - An inclusive survey of work produced by internationally recognized faculty at Michigan State University. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**"A Course of Love," Facilitated by Lucille Olson & Bill Dietrich** - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

**Allen Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market.

**Coffee and Conversation** - Join us and learn about fellow Chamber members. 9 a.m. Grand Ledge City Hall Community Room, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com/coffee\_and\_conversation.php.

**Cocktail Class at Lansing Shuffle** - Tickets available at the bar or online. 6:30 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

**Dangling Participles Trio at One North Kitchen & Bar** - 5:30 p.m. 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 517-901-5001. onenorthdining.com.

**"Fitness Over 50" Senior Exercise Group** - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park Pavilion. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

**Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp** - Ten-week program. Ages 7-12. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

**Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle** - 9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

**Love is a Monster: An Anti-Valentine's Day Party** - Destroy all notions of this corporatized holiday with a party designed by the MSU Broad Art Museum Student Creative Council. 7-9 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**MASH — REACH Open Studio** - Use REACH's space and tools for your creative endeavors. Bring your own supplies, as available materials vary from time to time. 6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

**Mindfulness Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition** - All are welcome to join our weekly

practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lhamc.info.

**Movers & Readers Storytime** - Enjoy songs, rhymes and stories with Miss Lindsay. Ages 0-3. 10:30 a.m. Mason City Hall, 201 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason.

**Open Mic, Hosted by Rick Hansel** - Family-friendly, welcomes singers and musicians. No cover, all ages welcome. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213

Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

**"Stevie and the Real World"** - 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

**"The Way We Were" Movie Showing** - Watch "The Way We Were" with snacks and beverages! Intended for adults. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

**Williamstown Township**  
**Notice of Public Accuracy Test of Voting Equipment**

**To qualified electors in Williamstown Township:**  
The **Public Accuracy Test** for the February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary Election has been scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 9, 2024 at the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Road, Williamston, MI 48895. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to determine that the computer programming being used to tabulate the votes cast at the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by Michigan election law. The public is welcome to attend; enter through the Community Room entrance.  
Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC  
Clerk, Williamstown Township  
elections@williamstowntownship.com or 655-3193

**CP#24-386**

Our File #T981274

STATE OF WISCONSIN	CIRCUIT COURT	ROCK COUNTY
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PROGRESSIVE UNIVERSAL  
INSURANCE COMPANY  
AS SUBROGEE OF  
HEATHERLY A MILES

Case No. 23CV001176

Plaintiff,  
vs.  
LAKWANZA R SMITH  
THERESA D GREEN  
Defendants.

**PUBLICATION SUMMONS**

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN  
TO: THERESA D GREEN  
1130 DORCHESTER CIR 3  
LANSING MI 48910

You are hereby notified that the Plaintiff named above has filed a lawsuit or other legal action against you. The Complaint, which is also served on you, states the nature and basis of the legal action.

Within Forty (40) days after February 7, 2024, you must respond with a written answer, as that term is used in Chapter 802 of the Wisconsin Statutes, to the Complaint. The court may reject or disregard an answer that does not follow the requirements of the statutes. The answer must be sent or delivered to the court, whose address is: CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT, ROCK COUNTY, 51 S MAIN ST, JANESVILLE WI 53545 and the Kohn Law Firm, Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 735 N. Water St., Suite 1300, Milwaukee, WI 53202. You may have an attorney help or represent you.

If no Complaint accompanies this Summons you must respond within the said 40 day period with a written demand for a copy of the Complaint by mailing or delivering said written demand to the court and to the Plaintiff's attorneys at their respective addresses listed above.

If you do not provide a proper answer to the Complaint or provide a written demand for said complaint within the 40 day period, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Complaint, and you may lose your right to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Complaint. A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future, and may be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin January 31, 2024.

KOHNS LAW FIRM S.C.  
ELECTRONICALLY SIGNED BY:  
/S/JASON D. HERMERSMANN  
JASON D. HERMERSMANN  
State Bar No. 1049948  
Attorney for Plaintiff

**CP#24-387**

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 17

S	O	F	A	R	B	A	N	C	L	I	E	V		
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**SUDOKU SOLUTION**  
From Pg. 17

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6	9	2	5	3	1	7	4	8
4	3	1	8	7	9	6	5	2
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# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

# Chinese food you'll want to eat every day of the week

By LIZY FERGUSON

After my first visit to East Lansing's Everyday Authentic Chinese Cuisine for an epic feast with friends on a Saturday, I had to go back for more when tasked with bringing takeout to my dad's house for dinner the following Wednesday. The restaurant is located at the former site of the (Americanized) Chinese buffet my dad would frequently take me and my brother to as kids, so it seemed fitting. What's not fitting at all, however, is that it took me so long to discover the location's new occupant.



**Beef-brisket casserole with radish**  
\$20.95

**Chinese broccoli in garlic sauce**  
\$13.95

**Rice-noodle rolls with shrimp and chives**  
\$7.25

Everyday Authentic Chinese Cuisine  
1375 E. Grand River Ave.,  
East Lansing  
11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. daily  
517-337-1882  
everydaychinesecuisine.com

The menu is enormous and packed with dishes that will be unfamiliar to the uninitiated, but don't be intimidated. Everything is written out in English, and the staff members are happy to help. My friends and I shared the three-course Peking duck meal, which included crispy duck breast, duck fried rice and a heavenly duck bone-broth soup, but I figured that would be a bit much for a 5 p.m. takeout order, so I opted for the beef-brisket casserole with radish, Chinese broccoli in garlic sauce and rice-noodle rolls with shrimp and chives.

The word "casserole" here does not



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

East Lansing's Everyday Authentic Chinese Cuisine offers an expansive menu, packed with traditional dishes like beef-brisket casserole, Chinese broccoli and rice-noodle rolls.

mean your typical Midwestern casserole — it simply refers to the dish in which the food is cooked. In this case, hunks of tender beef and earthy, melt-in-your-mouth daikon radish. These are covered by a luscious gravy, which is made silky by the gelatinous beef fat and is flavored with star anise, ginger, clove, soy sauce and I'm sure much

more. The dish is rich and comforting and will remind the Western palate of an especially thoughtful homemade beef stew.

The perfect pairing to balance out all of this heaviness is the Chinese broccoli, which looks very different from the broccoli that might first come to mind, being much more similar to broccoli rabe. The long stems, thinner versions of typical broccoli stalks, are cooked al dente, with the attached leafy greens wilting perfectly in a very light gravy of garlic, soy and (I think) oyster sauce. Don't try cutting the broccoli with your fork — I recommend slurping it like a noodle.

To save the best for last, we now arrive at the shrimp rice-noodle rolls, much more elegantly known as ha cheung in Cantonese. A dim-sum classic, I can only imagine the complexity of preparing this heavenly variation on the dumpling. If you can imagine two very wide, thick blankets of rice noodles being filled with shrimp and chives before being gently steamed, you're at least part of the way there. The texture is sumptuous and silky and has to be tasted to be understood.

While I might not go every day, Everyday has surely secured a place in my regular out-to-eat rotation.

## TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

### TOP 5 CONEY DOGS

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2023 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

#### 1. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill

Casual American mainstay featuring handcrafted burgers and grill fare and sports on TV  
2803 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing  
517-374-0390  
dagwoodstavernandgrill-alternate.com  
11 a.m.-11 p.m. daily

#### 2. Lou & Harry's Grill & Bakery

Counter-service restaurant offering casual Mediterranean and American eats  
1429 W. Saginaw St., Suite 150, East

Lansing  
517-351-1066  
louhas.com  
11 a.m.-8 p.m. daily

#### 3. Nip N Sip Drive In

Old-school drive-through joint serving American classics like burgers, hot dogs, subs and shakes  
2603 N. East St., Lansing  
517-372-3734  
10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday

#### 4. Olympic Broil

Fast-food outpost with hefty burgers, Coney dogs, wraps and sandwiches  
1320 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing  
517-485-8584  
olympicbroil.com  
10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday

#### 5. Sparty's Coney Island

Old-timey diner known for Coney dogs and other American staples  
300 N. Clippert St., Suite 5, Lansing  
517-332-0111  
spartysconeyisland.com  
7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Saturday  
8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday

# A very vanilla Valentine's

By ARI LEVAUX

Chocolate steals the show on Valentine's Day, while vanilla plays the Cinderella. The rest of the year isn't much different. But there's an easy solution to this imbalance: double the vanilla. In your Valentine's Day chocolate, in your morning Cream of Wheat and any other dish where sweetness — or the flavor of sweetness — is dominant.

Vanilla gives unselfishly and helps its teammates succeed. Double the vanilla, and you'll double the shine. This is especially true for chocolate sauce. But if you add chocolate to vanilla sauce, the vanilla sauce disappears, replaced by the best chocolate sauce ever, and few will even notice the strong vanilla base.

Vanilla comes from the seed pods of orchids, which are chocolate brown. Yet, for some reason, this concentrated powerhouse of flavor is usually represented as white, like in vanilla ice cream, as if a flavor this big can simply be invisible. It may have a boring reputation, but the quiet penetration of vanilla has made our plain Cinderella the world's bestselling ice cream flavor.

A 2017 news release from the International Dairy Foods Association credited vanilla ice cream's popularity to its ability to enhance other desserts and treats.

"It tastes great topped by whipped cream and fudge sauce in a sundae, with root beer in a float or atop a warm slice of apple pie," said Cary Frye, the association's senior vice president of regulatory affairs.

The only time it's possible to add too much vanilla is when it's in the form of alcohol extract. In that case, the problem can usually be solved by adding sugar. For the purposes of doubling, and perhaps quadrupling, the vanilla, I prefer glycerin extract. Vanilla powder is also available in the baking goods section.

One morning, I tripled the amount of vanilla in the kids' French toast, and they didn't notice. The next morning, I doubled it again, and they said I could still add more. I ran out of bread before I reached their point of too much vanilla, so the next day, I added a tablespoon of vanilla to the batter for two servings of pancakes.

"I don't taste it," said boy No. 1, who was already done with his serving.

"It's good. But it needs more, actually," said No. 2, the cook in the family. He proceeded to arrange his pancakes into a sculpture, down which the maple syrup ran and pooled like a garden fountain.

I had enough batter left over for one more pancake. I added another tablespoon of vanilla. The consistency immediately became runnier, but since I make a thick batter, it was fine. The batter also darkened a shade.

The pancake emanated a pleasant vanilla perfume and had a chewier consistency, probably because of the glycerin. Son No. 1 was no longer finished. We tore it apart like hyenas on a carcass. The pancake clearly tasted sweeter because of the vanilla, even though it added no actual sweetness. The next morning, I added chocolate chips to the batter and skipped the maple syrup, resulting in roughly an equivalent amount of sugar in the pancakes and an extra-decadent feel.

After the kids got on the bus, things took a more adult turn. I started with a simple chocolate paste of cocoa powder, sugar and cream, mixed until stiff like truffle ganache. I then proceeded to double, and redouble, the vanilla, adding it like a drunk pouring liquor straight into a mixed drink. The chocolate got progressively richer. And stronger. As did my buzz. By the time I added coffee, my smile had pretty much turned into a circle.

The above process is half recipe, half science project and half journey of self-discovery. It's a way of finding out if there really is such a thing as too much vanilla.

Meanwhile, I'll leave you with an easy way to enjoy vanilla flavor straight from the pod, by extracting it yourself with sugar, which, more than chocolate, is the true soulmate of our Cinderella. Vanilla adds fragrance to sugar, while sugar adds a sweet body for the vanilla fragrance to inhabit.

The first step is to cut off both tips and split the pod from end to end, exposing the pungent little seeds.

For a simple sugar extraction, chop the split pod into manage-

able-sized pieces and add them to your sugar bowl.

Another great material with which to extract vanilla is bourbon. It's oaky caramel flavor dances nicely with the vanilla and can handle a little sweetness. Bourbon also contains alcohol (little known fact, I know), which is a great medium in which to extract vanilla flavor. Chop a split pod, add the pieces to some fine bourbon and wait a few days — or, ideally, a few weeks.



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

To add some extra flavor to your Valentine's Day treats, try extracting your own vanilla sugar from vanilla pods.



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**Don't Forget  
Valentine's Day  
Wednesday,  
February 14th!**

