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April 3-9 2024

CityPULSE

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**LANSING'S BIRTH LANDSCAPE IS LIMITED,
BUT EXPERTS HAVE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**

See Page 12



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Spring forward with City Pulse

As we welcome Spring to Greater Lansing, we continue the introductions of our staff and contributors, started during our March Madness campaign. **Your support means we can continue to enlist Greater Lansing's most talented and passionate writers and artists** to share their work with you, like these three:



Rich Tupica, contributor: *"This year marks 15 years I've been writing my local music column, 'Turn it Down,' for City Pulse. Having a local newspaper that values and stays committed to supporting the local music scene as much as City Pulse is a rarity these days. I am happy to help contribute to that. An added bonus: I get to listen to all sorts of brilliant Lansing area bands."*



Gabrielle Lawrence, contributor: *"Who doesn't love food? Working with the City Pulse over the past 10+ years has been a treat, pun intended. I have written reviews on hundreds of local restaurants, and while I haven't always loved them, I have always treasured the opportunity to promote local businesses and delve deeper into my community. Now if only Mediteran could come back..."*

CityPULSE



Dennis Preston, contributor: *"I really like illustrating City Pulse covers! I've been doing it for many years! I hope you enjoy them. There's an album on my Facebook group page (The Preston Page) that shows a majority of them."*

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The City Pulse team

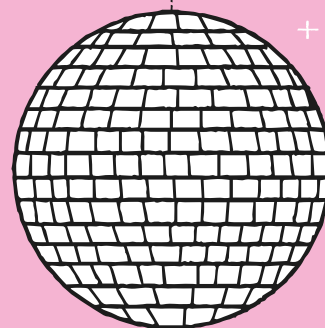
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Student art shows pop with variety, energy and earnestness

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THC potency: Numbers don't tell the whole story

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Dearborn-based Yemeni coffee chain expands to East Lansing

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Cover photo by Hanna Russo

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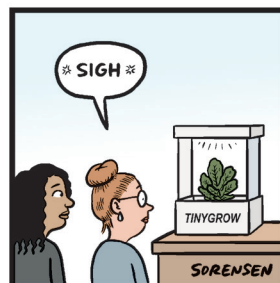
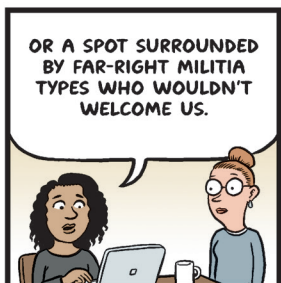
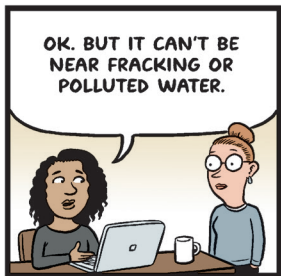
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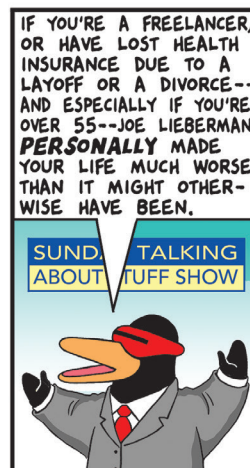
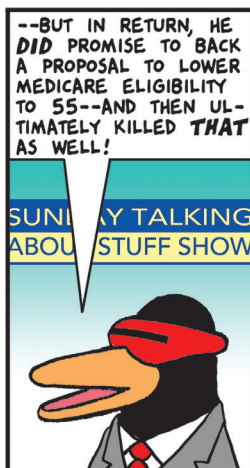
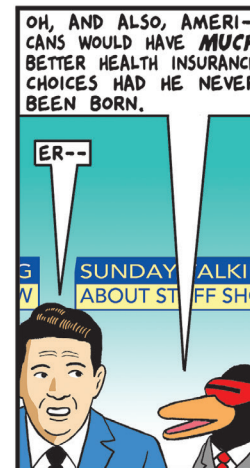
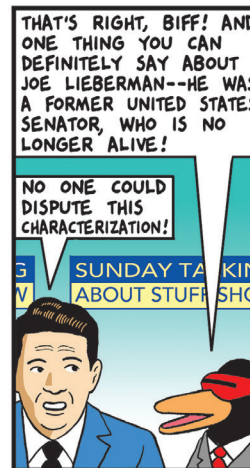
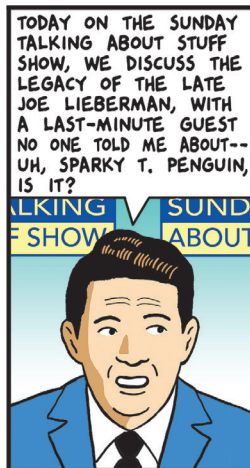
The Dirty Food Dilemma



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by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Lansing ramps up red-tag enforcement efforts despite staffing shortage

As the new director of Lansing's director of economic development and planning, Rawley Van Fossen has wasted no time trying to revitalize a Code Enforcement Office that's been dogged for years by inconsistent leadership and five staff vacancies, including one for a lead housing inspector.

Vacancies remain, but the uptick in red-tagged properties indicates he is having an effect.

Code Enforcement handed out 250 red tags — citations declaring properties unsafe — in February, a 46% increase over the total number at the end of January. As of March 1, the city had 794 red-tagged properties.

More are undoubtedly out there. "Without those positions filled, naturally things are going to be slower here because we have less people to respond — and that becomes a bottleneck in the system," Van Fossen said.

Van Fossen, 31, is the former executive director of the nonprofit Capital Area Housing Partnership. He is the department's third director in 15 months.

Van Fossen said the city recently made an offer to fill one vacant inspector position, but the task of hiring five qualified candidates has posed a challenge. Still, with the seven property inspectors who are on payroll, the department hasn't shied away from penalizing some of the city's largest landlords and management companies that have repeatedly avoided bringing their properties up to code.

More than 100 of those 250 new red tags were placed at Autumn Ridge Townhomes and Apartments, 900 Long Blvd., a 618-unit, multi-building complex on Lansing's south side with a history of noncompliance. Additional structures at the site, including parking garages, were also marked unsafe.

The city had entered into a previous agreement with Autumn Ridge's ownership group, Southfield-based OPV Partners LLC, in 2022. At the time, the city agreed to lift existing tags while repairs were being made. It expired last fall, just before Van Fossen took over.

"The ownership failed to achieve what they had agreed upon in that settlement. So, when the agreement ex-



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

One of the priorities of Rawley Van Fossen, the new director of the city of Lansing's Economic Development and Planning Department, is reorganizing the Code Enforcement Office. Despite vacancies, the office sharply increased red-tag citations for unsafe properties in February.

pired, we took additional actions permitted by the court," Van Fossen said. OPV Partners still owes the city for unpaid rental registration fees and has yet to schedule the inspections that could clear some of those units from the list, Van Fossen added.

OPV Partners disagrees. On Feb. 21, the management company filed a 700-page lawsuit against the city in the U.S. District Court's Western District of Michigan. In it, OPV claimed that the city improperly issued the tags at Autumn Ridge and denied OPV the opportunity to appeal. The suit also claims that the city's actions violated the terms of that 2022 agreement.

The group, which has owned Autumn Ridge since 2014, is seeking \$44 million through that pending litigation. While the company did not respond to a request for comment on this story, the property's general manager, Ric Colon, claimed in a March 26 statement that the city "violated the current agreement and its own housing code" and "wrongfully withheld certification on units that are in compliance with the code."

"Contrary to misleading media reports, there are only nine units that are currently not safe for rental and should be red tagged," Colon wrote,

adding that Autumn Ridge has "never rented a unit that is unsafe."

The suit named Van Fossen and deputy director Nicholas Montry as co-defendants along with the city.

"They're now trying to put a pause button on all of this through ongoing litigation, and the only folks who are being taken advantage of and disenfranchised are the residents who call Autumn Ridge home," Van Fossen said.

First Ward City Council member Ryan Kost, who has been critical of the Code Enforcement Office, praised Van Fossen's efforts. Kost's hope is that the recent tags at Autumn Ridge will send a message to other noncompliant landlords.

"Before I came in, it was a patchwork — especially when you're talking about landlords who own many properties. The city was getting skimped on fees by many landlords. The fees were not always being collected fairly or evenly. That has all changed."

Kost and Van Fossen agree that reform at the state level is needed. State regulations have prevented Code Enforcement from red-tagging individual units in multi-unit developments. Thus, a building with multiple non-compliant units can only be hit with a single \$150 monthly compliance fee, rather than separate fees for each.

"If we have a building with 32 apartments and we're able to tag the units at \$150 each, the city should get \$4,800 a month. Instead, we're getting \$150 for all of them," Kost said. "If we could fix that loophole, that would probably make Code Enforcement's work move a little faster, because if you don't hit these guys in the pocketbook, they're just not going to move."

Van Fossen said those fees are "definitely an area we struggle with," but he noted that a change there would have to be approved by the Legislature, which he said "hasn't adopted a new international property maintenance code or building code since 2015."

"There's a new version of that almost every year," he said. "From what I'm hearing, the Legislature should be adopting the code from 2021 this spring. Once that's official, then the local units can update their versions."

As that process plays out, the department has taken steps toward adjusting its red- and pink-tag — pink is for lesser code violations — fee structure for the first time in 15 years.

"Are our monitoring fees appropriate for large complexes? Are all our costs being covered? The answer we've decided internally is no, and that's what we want to address here," Van Fossen said.

The next step will be to present those findings and suggest fee adjustments to the Council's Committee of the Whole next week. From there, the Council can vote to adopt those changes for the 2025 budget.

In the meantime, Kost is using his position as chair of the Public Safety Committee to push noncompliant properties through the make safe or demolish process. Since the year began, there have consistently been about 30 on that list each month.

Kost said he has no intention of taking his foot off the gas.

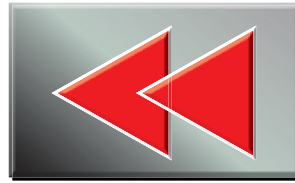
"Once the red tags start to clear up a bit, it's easy for us to claim victory and wash our hands of it. But the moment we start to relax, those numbers creep back up. We can't afford to let that happen," he said.

— TYLER SCHNEIDER

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



There were no homicides in Ingham County for the first quarter of 2024, said Prosecutor John Dewane in a statement Monday. He added that the number has declined from seven homicides in the first three months of 2021 and four in 2022. He called it is evidence Lansing and the county are bringing gun violence under control after a peak during the COVID pandemic. He didn't cite a number for 2023.



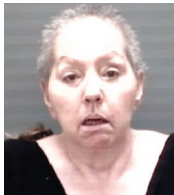
Ted Stewart, 56, owner of Metro Retro in Old Town, died in his sleep Saturday, friends said. His shop, at 304 E. Grand River Ave., celebrated its eighth year of business last month. The Old Town Commercial Association's Facebook page's announcement of Stewart's death garnered nearly 100 comments and 200 shares in fewer than 24 hours. Stewart was known as a thoughtful and inclusive member of the Old Town business landscape and an outspoken supporter of Greater Lansing's LGBTQ community who readily promoted his business as a safe space. Funeral and memorial information is forthcoming.



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The Lansing area is expected to get about \$3.5 million from the new MI Neighborhood grant program to help homeowners and developers repair an estimated 7,500 badly damaged homes and build new ones. Individuals cannot apply directly apply the funds but can do so through local housing agencies. The application process for the \$60 million available statewide opened Monday for 15 eligible regions. Lansing Mayor Andy Schor was among leaders who gathered Monday at the Neighborhood Empowerment Center to announce the program.



Beverly McCallum, 63, was found guilty Monday of second-degree murder and disinterment and mutilation of a body for a 2002 cold case killing of Roberto Caraballo in Charlotte. Caraballo's burned remains were found near an Ottawa County blueberry field in 2002. McCallum's oldest daughter, Dineane Ducharme, and Ducharme's friend, Christopher McMillan, were previously convicted on murder charges in Caraballo's death. Eaton County Circuit Judge Janice Cunningham set a May 23 sentencing date for McCallum, who faces up to life in prison.

Construction began on Michigan Avenue Monday as part of the city of Lansing's Michigan Avenue Rehabilitation project. Michigan is closed to through traffic from Pennsylvania Avenue to Mifflin Avenue, with no traffic from Mifflin to Howard Street until May 31. The dates of further so-called hard closures will be announced as the



project advances westward. Detours will be provided. The project will include road reconstruction and reconfiguration, tree removal, sidewalk replacement, traffic signal modernization and upgrades to utilities such as sewer and water main work. The city projects the project will last till fall 2025, barring delays.

Attorneys for MSU Trustee Rema Vassar asked the Faculty Senate in a March 18 letter to postpone any votes on the board's decision to censure her and Trustee Dennis Denno and refer them to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer for removal. The Rochester-based Miller Law firm wants the Faculty Senate to wait until the firm releases its review of the report that found Vassar and Denno had broken several of the board's bylaws and codes of conduct, including committing personal attacks against Faculty Senate Chair Jack Lipton. Lipton said Senate members perceived the letter as threatening and concerning.



Eric Tanner, 38, of Lansing, has been accused of coordinating a retail crime ring targeting area home improvement stores. He was arraigned March 27 in Charlotte on nine felony counts, including conducting a criminal enterprise and eight counts of organized retail crime. The theft ring employed individuals to steal a variety of merchandise from primarily Home Depot and Lowe's stores to be sold on a social media platform, the Attorney General's Office said. A hearing to determine whether Tanner should stand trial was set for April 15.



The MACOTTA Club food incubator project to bring six restaurants and 10 food concepts to the Knapp's Centre has been delayed, but it is expected to begin next month, the Lansing State Journal reported. Ensuring proper venting in the kitchen space and getting the design right has taken extra time, said Julie Reinhart of Downtown Lansing Inc. The incubator will provide operational space to startup eateries and food-based businesses for two years, plus the vendors will receive business and marketing education. The project's cost is estimated at \$7 million, about \$3 million more than nonprofit originally projected. Officials hope to open the club during the 2024 holiday season.

Public Safety

A fire heavily damaged a two-story home in the 1200 block of East Cesar Chavez Avenue Monday. The Lansing Fire Department said no one was injured and estimated \$155,000 of damage was caused. ... A 32-year-old woman and 34-year-old man were stabbed Sunday on Waverly Road near Grand River Avenue. Neither sought treatment at a hospital for minor wounds, but a 15-year-old boy known to police who was accused of the attacks was not taken into custody. ... A man fatally shot a dog on the 1000 block of North Cedar Street March 27 after it broke away from its leash and attacked him. The man was bitten and shot it in self-defense, police said.



Ryan Holmes' new works

To see Lansing artist Ryan Holmes' new collection of art work, you might need to stay overnight at a local hostelry. Holmes just completed a series of eight paintings with Lansing themes that are hung in four suites at the A.C. Marriott on Michigan Avenue. The 5-foot-by-3-foot monochromatic pieces represent Lansing people, things and places. The subjects are the Potter Park lion and rhinos; the Lugnut and the iconic baseball sculpture at Jackson Field, Stevie Wonder and the School for the Blind, and Mag-ic Johnson and Sparty at MSU.

"It was a great opportunity to tell stories and help travelers engage more in the community," Holmes said. "I also want to use monochromatic art and try something new."

The artist, who experienced a heart attack over the Easter weekend, said the health scare will not affect his art. "Although I may be more discerning about what I do," he said. However, Holmes did think about the irony of a current piece of art he is working on based on Lansing landmarks that shows a DeLorean pulling into a Hot 'n Now. "I'm thinking about that cheeseburger and fry-not so much," he said.

— 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 or call (517) 999-6704.

Lansing voters are now receiving absentee ballots for the city's May 7 special election, in which nine members of the new Lansing Charter Commission will be selected. The commission, you may recall, is the upshot of last November's narrowly approved ballot measure to reopen the city's foundational document for the first time since the current version was adopted in 1978.

Last September, we urged voters against this step, and we remain skeptical about its wisdom. Reopening and possibly rewriting the city charter isn't a task to be taken lightly. Wholesale charter revisions are an expensive — the city estimates easily more than

\$500,000 — and time-consuming process that diverts precious energy and resources from the city's innumerable challenges. Any shortcomings in the current charter can be addressed through specific amendments as the need arises, as voters have done seven times in the last 45 years.

Still, here we are. Having spoken, voters should use great care in choosing the members of a commission that will have the power to recommend fundamental changes in the structure and function of municipal government. Proposals set forth by the commission must win the governor's approval and then can be put up for a citywide vote, giving the people of Lansing the last word. The commission has three years to complete its work.

From a sprawling field of 36 candidates, winnowing it down to just nine is no small task. There are no formal criteria for serving. But when we think about who should have the privilege of rewriting the charter, we envision a collective of smart and sensible people, the sort of folks whose life experience has forged a keen sense of how things really work, and a better sense than most for how they should work.

That's why our endorsements lean in on the wisdom and insight of people with deep experience working in and around the public sector. They are de facto subject-matter experts whose informed perspective is essential to the commission's work.

Mixed into our choices are bright and passionate young people to ensure that multigenerational voices are embedded in the process. We purposefully struck a balance that reflects the city's diverse demographics, with proportionate representation, more or less, along the lines of gender, race and geography. Some of our preferred candidates are also endorsed by the Lansing Chamber/Organized Labor coalition, and some are aligned with the Lansing Community Alliance, a slate of progressive candidates who came together as a counterpoint to the business-labor slate.

We intentionally limited our endorsement of former City Council members to just one (three are running) and strongly recommend that voters avoid loading up the commission with past Council members who may bring ideological agendas and old axes to grind. We're not interested in commissioners of any stripe who come to the task with a baked-in agenda that's more about carrying water for a specific constituency than considering the best interests of

the city as a whole.

Along the same lines, we have also eschewed candidates who we suspect want to move the Lansing government to a weak mayor/city manager system. That goal may have carried the ballot measure to success in a low-turnout election through a quiet campaign organized by a handful of citizens with a

paranoic animosity toward the current mayor. City managers can and do work well in other communities, but we're generally satisfied with the steady leadership Lansing's strong mayor system has provided. Moreover, we prefer having the executive branch of government run by an official directly accountable to voters, not to the City Council.

With the foregoing rationale underpinning our selections, and without further ado, we endorse the following well-qualified candidates for the Lansing Charter Commission:



• **Jazmin Anderson** is the director of equitable economic development at the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP). Anderson brings a passion for building equitable and inclusive communities to the commission.



• **Layna Anderson** is a communications specialist at MSU, who previously worked at Downtown Lansing Inc. She brings a commitment to social justice and the fresh perspective of her generation to the commission.



• **Dedria Humphries Barker** is an author and educator who served on the LCC faculty for 18 years. (Full disclosure: She is also a City Pulse columnist.) Her insights and wisdom will be an invaluable asset to the commission.



• **Joan Bauer** served on the Lansing City Council for 11 years before winning election as Lansing's state representative. Her knowledge of the inner workings of government, along with her steady demeanor and thoughtfulness, will serve the commission well.



• **Liz Boyd** has worked at the highest levels of state government as an adviser to governors and other top officials and enjoys a distinguished

career as a public relations practitioner. She's smart, savvy and sensible — exactly what the commission needs.



• **Ben Dowd** is the associate director of the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan. His keen understanding of the city's socioeconomic landscape and commitment to creating shared prosperity make him a fine choice.



• **Guillermo Lopez** retired in 2014 after three decades as a city of Lansing employee. Combined with 24 years as an elected member of the Lansing Board of Education, Lopez brings a deep well of public sector knowledge and experience to the commission.



• **Derek Melot** is a former journalist (and longtime LSJ staff writer) who now works as the communications director for a statewide association. Melot has spent decades as a keen observer of government at all levels. His watchdog instincts and pragmatic perspective will benefit the commission's work.



• **Keith Williams** is a former MSU administrator and current leadership consultant who led the MSU Alumni Association for 13 years. His experience managing large, bureaucratic organizations gives him exceptional insight into what works and what doesn't.

We're sure that other candidates from the field of 36 would also do a fine job, but we had to pick just nine. Our second-tier candidates — all qualified and capable — include **Jerry Norris**, an entrepreneur and founder of The Fledge; **Mitch Rice**, a retired behavioral counselor; **Justin Sheehan**, executive director of the Lansing Promise; **Lori Adams Simon**, a diversity, equity and inclusion consultant; and **Corwin Smidt**, an associate professor of political science at MSU.

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- At lansingcitypulse.com

Write a guest column.

- 2 | Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061. (Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

Our choices for Charter Commission

The CP Edit Opinion

BWL rebates ease move toward energy efficiency through electrification

By JOAN NELSON

I recently installed a charger in my garage to accommodate one of my rooming house boarders who drives an electric car. I figured she wouldn't be the last person sharing my home who would own such a vehicle. Imagine my delight when I discovered that I would receive a \$500 rebate for doing this — covering a significant portion of the cost!

Rebates usually give me pause because they seem to involve lots of forms and more effort than they're worth. I'm here to report that the Lansing Board of Water & Light's residential electric charger rebate was as painless as I've ever pursued.

BWL offers several hefty rebates to encourage electrification and solar-powered energy. I learned about the newest of these rebates at a presentation to the Community and Economic Development Network re-

cently by Aileen Gow, a BWL energy analyst, and colleagues:

- **Electric bikes, or "E-bikes":** Rebates range from \$300 to \$1,200 (depending on income status) to reward you for helping to reduce traffic congestion and lower local emissions by biking. Note that E-Cargo Bikes are included.

- **Induction cooking equipment:**

Folks willing to convert from gas to electric conduction cooktops can receive a \$1,000 rebate. Induction cooktops can be pricey right now, so rebates are offered to ease the financial burden of switching until increased demand for these energy-efficient appliances grows sufficiently to bring the price down.

- **Electric lawn equipment:**

Rebates of \$25 to \$150 (more if you recycle your old lawn mower) may encourage people to switch from gas-powered equipment to battery-operated mowers, trimmers, chain-saws and blowers. Your neighbors might appreciate a

quieter and cleaner tool this summer. (Note: Rebates are also offered to commercial lawn care businesses.)

- **Electric forklift rebates** (commercial and industrial sector): BWL offers \$2,000 to \$4,000 to improve air quality in distribution centers and factories depending on the battery type.

Those are only the newest BWL incentives. They build on these long-standing programs:

- **Appliance recycling rebates:** I just got rid of an old, inefficient mini-refrigerator! Freezers, dehumidifiers, and room air conditioners also qualify. Rebates for purchasing and installing ENERGY STAR® appliances and LED Lighting have been popular for some time now.

- **Home energy visits:** I usually avoid these but found the one-hour visit well spent. I was surprised to find out how "leaky" my house is — wasting conditioned air in places I'd never imagined. I also received several LED bulbs for learning from the adviser how to save money by being more energy-efficient!

- **Distributed generation:** This involves installing your own solar array and receiving payment for excess energy returned to the BWL. You may also be eligible for a rebate of \$500 per kilowatt (kW), up to \$2,000. At roughly \$3,000 per kW for multiple roof panels, this is on my long-term wish list.

BWL offers several other incentives for residential customers and several offerings for commercial, industrial and nonprofit customers (www.lbw.com/energysavers). For instance, BWL has invested generously in the Allen Neighborhood Center to serve as a demonstration site for solar and electrification projects. As part of this effort, BWL recently installed electric vehicle charging stations and solar carports in the back lot of Allen Place. In addition, the 21-unit Allen Place



apartment building that opened in late 2021 is all electric. This initially presented challenges such as training our tenants to program heat pumps, which I expect to become more common as another way to meet clean energy goals.

Incentives, rebates, demonstration sites, charging stations, etc., result from the BWL prioritizing reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming carbon neutral by 2040. These ambitious and important goals will require significantly increasing wind and solar energy megawatts over the next couple of decades. If the BWL can engage enough large and small energy users, we can move toward these goals more reliably.

We are clearly in transition, locally and globally, and this complicated shift toward clean energy is taking longer than many would like. For instance, some local citizens want less reliance on natural gas, while the BWL tries to balance clean energy goals with affordability and reliability challenges.

I'm heartened by BWL's efforts — as well as Consumers Energy, which also offers rebates and incentives — to continue creating opportunities for individuals to participate in the solution. I encourage you to check out the BWL options available to you to save money and support clean energy. It may not be the most impactful thing you can do to address climate change, but it is something.

(Joan Nelson is the retired founding executive director of the Allen Neighborhood Center. Her column appears monthly.)



Opinion

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

A request from American Gas & Oil for a site plan and a special use permit approval for a new gas station at 100 E. Saginaw Street, replacing the existing station and car wash. The site is 0.90 acres and zoned B-2 (Retail Sales Business District).

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please visit the City's public meeting portal for electronic meeting access information or contact staff for more information:

Landon Bartley, AICP, Principal Planner
410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823
517.319.6930 or lbartley@cityofeastlansing.com
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

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. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to 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, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at 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#24-458

B/24/126 COMMERCIAL FABRIC SHADE SAILS & INSTALLATION for the Parks Department 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 APRIL 15, 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#24-462

Three issues that each side would like you focusing on

In bringing his road show to Grand Rapids on Tuesday, the opportunistic Donald Trump drove home the murder of 25-year-old Ruby Garcia, whose death, presumably, came at the hands of an undocumented immigrant.

Early indications are Brandon Ortiz-Vite spent a significant amount of his young life in the United States and the murder is more about domestic violence and gun control than creepy “illegal” immigrants hiding behind trees taking out young women.

But in politics, we don't let the facts get in the way of a good narrative, and that's exactly what Trump and Republicans have right now.

Immigration is the best issue Republicans have, based on just about every poll, so they might as well ride it. And considering Trump hasn't done as well in Grand Rapids as other Republicans, historically, Garcia's horrific death gives the presumptive Republican presidential nominee a relatable talking point.

With this, I'll launch into the three best issues Trump and Democrats each have at this stage in the 2024 presidential campaign.

GOP Issue #1: Immigration Among Republicans, I've seen polls showing immigration being the top issue for well over 30 percent of traditional Republicans. In most cases, it isn't even close.

American history is littered with examples of blaming the relative newcomer with crime, stealing jobs and general unsightliness, whether its Arab-Americans, the Irish, the Japanese, Eastern Europeans, whoever.

With President Joe Biden's comparatively lax immigration policies bringing in a record number of undocumented populations through the southern border, this is an easy one for Republican politicians.

GOP Issue #2: Electric vehicles Things are shaping up nicely for Trump on this one, too. American automakers need Chinese partners to make electric vehicles, which feeds into the hysteria that Red Communist China is taking over U.S. manufacturing.

Seeing videos of electric vehicles breaking down from the cold weather in Chicago, combined with with anxiety over mileage range, makes the fear of change a great political selling point.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Opinion

GOP Issue #3: Biden's age This issue is getting a little old, no pun intended. I mean, we've all seen videos of the president wandering offstage to look at a baby or falling off a bicycle. Yeah, the guy is old. We get it.

But for every time we hear Biden mumble something, we also hear Biden pop off a decent zinger or manage a strong speech, like his State of the Union address. Clearly, Biden has his good days and his bad days ... but that's not unlike Trump himself, who is only a couple years younger and is slipping, too.

Dem Issue #1: Threats to democracy Whenever this is polled, Democrats cite it as their top issue. Every time. People are genuinely frightened that Trump will take control of the government for his own purposes. We all saw what happened on Jan. 6, but beyond that, what is going on with all these criminal cases against Trump?

It makes you wonder if Trump is being prosecuted for running for office or if he's running for office to avoid prosecution.

Dem Issue #2: Abortion This really shouldn't be an issue in Michigan anymore with the passage of Proposal 3 making the right to an abortion a constitutional amendment, but ... along comes Michigan's old, old surrogacy laws.

Is it possible we were the last state in the union to outlaw surrogacy contracts between consenting adults? That in Michigan, a man and a woman had to adopt a child created from their sperm and egg because it was delivered by another woman?

The only thing more unbelievable than that is that nearly every legislative Republican voted against changing the law to fit with the modern advancements of 2024. Crazy.

Dem Issue #3. The economy isn't really that bad I mean, it's really not. Unemployment is as low as it's going to get. Anyone who wants a job can get one. The inflation created post-pandemic has slowed down. The whole Biden-omics moniker isn't great, but the economy didn't crash and burn after COVID. That's an accomplishment that isn't appreciated enough.

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, INGHAM COUNTY, NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent's Estate, Case No. 24-001380-DE-P33. Estate of Cora Lee Crump – Date of Birth: 07-25-1944. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Cora Lee Crump, died 09-15-2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Sharon R. Crump, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 04/03/2024. Personal representative: Sharon R. Crump, 216 N. Francis Ave., Lansing, MI 48912, 517-894-7722.

CP#24-459

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT, EATON COUNTY, NOTICE TO CREDITORS, Decedent's Estate, Case No. 24-59447-DE. Estate of James Wesley Carter, deceased – Date of Birth: 09/27/1951. TO ALL CREDITORS: Known and Unknown. NOTICE TO ALL CREDITORS: The decedent, James Wesley Carter, died 01/19/2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Scott Carter, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, MI, 48813, 517-543-7500, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 04/03/2024. Attorney: Benjamin L. Cwayna, #P70266, 11973 Sweetwater Dr., Grand Ledge, MI 48837, 517-622-1900. Personal representative: Scott Carter, 10601 Gandy Blvd. N #4102, Saint Petersburg, FL 33702, 615-613-6699.

CP#24-460

CITY OF GRAND LEDGE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT PLAN AMENDMENT, PROJECT 5825-01

The City Council will hold a public hearing during its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, 22 April 2024, to consider and receive public input on the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sanitary Sewer System Improvements Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project Plan Amendment, Project 5825-01. The purpose of the proposed project is to make improvements to the existing sanitary sewer collection system and wastewater treatment system. The improvements will allow for the continued treatment of sanitary sewage throughout the service area in accordance with the current NPDES permit.

Project elements include collection system improvements, a fine screening system, a grit removal system, a high-rate extended aeration secondary treatment system, tertiary filtration, an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection system, solids handling improvements, new equalization basin and conversion of existing tanks to wet weather storage, and ancillary improvements as required to provide a complete and functioning system.

Long term positive impacts from the project include improved reliability of the treatment system and improved treatment efficiencies. Short term impacts related to construction activities could include increased construction traffic and disturbances in the immediate vicinity of the Wastewater Treatment Plant site. Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements are estimated to require less than one acre on property adjacent to Fitzgerald Park.

The current total estimated project cost may be up to \$52,400,000. The project cost will be funded through a low-interest Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan.

Copies of the plan detailing the proposed project will be available for public inspection on and after 05 April 2024 at the City Clerk's office, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge, Michigan, between 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and on the City's website at www.cityofgrandledge.com.

The 22 April 2024 City Council meeting and public hearing on the proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant and Collection System Improvements project will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, as amended, and will also be livestreamed via Zoom for informational purposes only. The online stream can be accessed at <https://www.zoom.us> with the Meeting ID: 857 5918 5252, or by calling +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 305 224 1968 US, +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 876 9923 US (New York), +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 253 205 0468 US, +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 360 209 5623 US, +1 386 347 5053 US, +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose), +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose), +1 689 278 1000 US, +1 719 359 4580 US with Meeting ID: 857 5918 5252.

The City Council invites anyone interested to attend in person and offer comments at the public hearing. Written comments can be mailed or delivered to Elected or Appointed Officials to:

Gregory Newman, City Clerk
City of Grand Ledge
310 Greenwood St.
Grand Ledge MI 48837

or placed in the drop box in front of City Hall, or emailed to cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com. All written comments will be considered during the public hearing if received by 5:00 p.m. the day of the hearing. Written comments received before the hearing record is closed on 22 April 2024 will receive responses in the final project plan. Written comments should be sent to:

Please call (517) 627-2149 or email cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com for further information or to request accommodations for disabilities.

Gregory Newman, City Clerk

CP#24-456

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Schooled by the students

Two year-end student art shows put the pros to shame

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Whenever a student art exhibit comes along, many folks dismiss it, assuming the museum or gallery is just checking a box, dutifully fulfilling its educational mission.

These misguided souls obviously haven't experienced the Lansing Art Gallery's annual Ingham Student Art Exhibit, on display through April 27, or the Michigan State University Broad Art Museum's annual Master of Fine Arts Exhibition, running through May 26.

Taken together, these two colorful effusions of student art feature the work of astoundingly talented and imaginative young people ranging in age from kindergarten to graduate school.

Both shows pop with a variety, energy, earnestness and capacity for surprise that surpasses many other exhibits.

"I feel like with student art, you often see that they have such a large imagination, and they haven't been pounded down by the world," Lansing Art Gallery education coordinator Saebren Stevens said. "That allows them to be more creative in their work, to think about subject matter in a different way than an adult would. They aren't being pigeonholed, and they're able to just create whatever they like."

The Lansing Art Gallery exhibit showcases works by students from K-12 schools across Ingham County and participants of the young-adult special education program within the Ingham Intermediate School District service area. Teachers, parents and students were invited to submit works by Feb. 1. This year, the sole juror was local artist Jane Reiter, who winnowed more than 170 sub-

missions down to a more manageable 65.

Among the show's many highlights is a stunning watercolor portrait of a person looking into a hand mirror by second-grader Nora Tuyilingire. (Yes, you read that right: second-grader.) The subject of the portrait is looking away from the viewer, into the mirror, but the reflection is looking directly at the viewer with a haunting expression that's impossible to shake off.

The show is rich in portraiture, some of which is inventively assembled in mosaic format, but this year marks a resurgence of abstract images, according to Stevens.

"It's cool whenever we get a little more abstract stuff, especially from the younger kids," he said.

Several charismatic animals are on display, from a winsome woolly mammoth by first-grader Ryleigh Fesko to a sleek and curious otter, richly rendered in oils by 12th-grader Isabella Procopio.

There's also a fancifully patterned orange fish by 24-year-old Alex Torres, who was diagnosed with autism before the age of 3 and finds focus and calm in making art.

Although it's not part of the Lansing Art Gallery exhibit, Torres shared his newest work with City

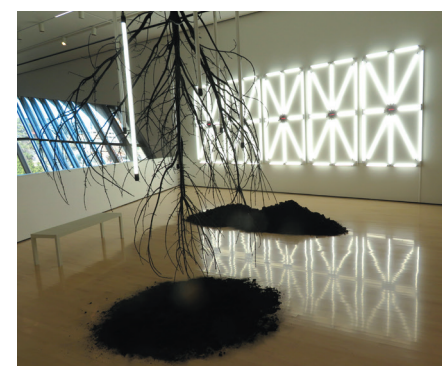
Pulse to mark Monday's (April 8) total solar eclipse.

Across town, the Broad's student art exhibit takes a different approach. Instead of displaying a multitude of artworks, each by a different artist, a select group of five master of fine arts degree candidates was given a generous amount of space.



Illustration by Alex Torres, courtesy of Angelina Ortiz

Alex Torres, 24, shared his newest work with City Pulse to mark Monday's (April 8) total solar eclipse. His illustration of a fancifully patterned orange fish is on display at the Lansing Art Gallery's Ingham Student Art Exhibit.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Patrick N. Taylor explores the impact of humans on the carbon cycle in his thought-provoking installation for the MSU Broad Art Museum's Master of Fine Arts Exhibition.

consumerist culture of the 1990s. The viewer is invited to plop into a beanbag chair, soak in all the input and meld minds with the artist. The testimony in the videos is both serious and trivial. (We learn that the artist hates laugh tracks on sitcoms and thinks the smell of cow manure is nostalgic.) The videos, along with a disarming display of childhood talismans like Care Bears and unicorns, make the viewer feel a fragile communion with the artist.

Two of the Broad artists find inventive ways to bring the sunlit world outside the museum inside its stainless-steel hide.

At the core of Patrick N. Taylor's thought-provoking installation is a real tree hanging upside down in a flashing cage of light tubes above a heap of carbon on the floor, only part of a striking visual realization of human impact on the carbon cycle.

Finally, there's a deceptive simplicity to Shirin Abedinirad's "Reflective Journey," an array of half-open doors, body-length mirrors and projected images of waves lapping at the seashore (with surf sounds to enhance the illusion). You peek into the doors, and there you are, at the seashore. Move a few inches, and you're back inside the gallery. That's the magic of student art.

The graduate students have been developing their styles and approaches for three years. By now, they all have a lot to say and unique ways to say it.

All the artists use the extra space and the unique contours of the second-floor gallery to spectacular advantage. Seven stupendous canvases by Gustavo Uriel Ayala depict wrestlers grappling at each other in eye-scalding fluorescent colors. Each canvas freezes the fluidity of a lightning-fast wrestling match, conveying the intensity, physicality and vulnerability of the combatants.

Adeline Newmann's "Corrupted Uncorrupted" is a wild spatter extravaganza in red and gold, riffing on the shapes of skeletons, torsos and human guts with an immersive installation of wall hangings, collages, light projections and even flipbooks. (It's stylized, not gross, but still a bit unsettling, especially when Newmann paints directly on the walls and floor.)

An epic display of glittery pink and yellow hangings, streamers, videos and embedded objects by Emily J. Burkhead plumbs the artist's childhood and coming of age as a queer and neurodivergent person in the

Saying yes: Andrew Brewer stars as the Duke in ‘Moulin Rouge! The Musical’

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

Just a few months before the world shut down in 2020, Andrew Brewer turned down an audition for “Moulin Rouge! The Musical.”

“I had listened to some of the music and thought, ‘There’s absolutely no way I can sing that, so I’m going to say no,’” he said.

The following year, Brewer was out of work and had a lot of time during the COVID shutdowns to evaluate his career.

“I even looked into other jobs. So many people in our industry sat down for so long. It gave you time to think, ‘How bad do I really want this?’”

Fortunately for East Lansing theater lovers, as the entertainment world started to open back up, Brewer made the decision, as he put it, to “go whole hog” and say yes to every audition that came in post-pandemic. He said he’s decided to prioritize theater for at least a few more years.

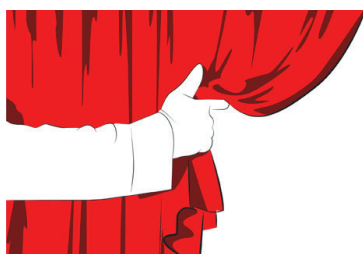
“I’m getting into my late 30s, and I want to start a family,” he said. “So, it’s time to do or die.”

Because the original touring production was delayed due to the pandemic, the audition for “Moulin Rouge” came around again, and this time, Brewer said yes immediately. The casting process was quick, and he’s been on the road with the show for almost two years. About 10 months into the tour, he moved up from the ensemble and took over the role of the Duke of Monroth.

“Moulin Rouge! The Musical” is based on the 2001 Baz Luhrmann film, which stars Ewan McGregor as Christian, an English poet obsessed with

“truth, beauty, freedom and love” who travels to the Moulin Rouge in Paris. At the notorious cabaret topped with a red windmill, he meets and falls in love with actress and high-class courtesan Satine (Nicole Kidman), and much PG-13-style drama, love and tragedy ensue. Upon its release, the film was celebrated for its postmodern aesthetics like collage and juxtaposition, its meta-narrative (it’s a musical about producing a musical) and its many musical medleys.

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



Brewer was in high school when the film came out and said it was a “big hit” among his age group.

“I had just started getting into singing, and around that time, *NSYNC and the Backstreet Boys were clearly get-

ting lots of interest from the young ladies. Theater was just becoming something I wanted to get into,” he said.

The movie features a pastiche of songs by artists like Madonna, Nirvana, Elton John and the Police. Brewer said it was “a big channel into a lot of older music — and I’m putting quotes around ‘older’ — but stuff I hadn’t been exposed to. That started a love of a different era of music.”

Like the film, “Moulin Rouge! The Musical” celebrates more than 160 years of music — from Jacques Offenbach to Lady Gaga. It features many of the iconic songs from the movie and also includes more recent hits released since the movie premiered. In 2021, the show took home 10 Tony Awards, including best musical. It was also awarded two Drama League Awards, five Drama Desk Awards and 10 Outer Critics Circle Award honor citations.



Photo by Matthew Murphy for MurphyMade

Andrew Brewer as the Duke of Monroth in the North American tour of “Moulin Rouge! The Musical,” running at the Wharton Center Wednesday (April 3) through April 14.

Brewer’s character, the Duke, is obsessed with Satine and will stop at nothing to have her.

“The very first thing I sing is, ‘I got money, that’s what I want.’ But of course, it’s not just about the money for him. It’s about the power and the ability to own things,” he said.

The Duke is of a different class; when he attends the Moulin Rouge, he’s, as Brewer said, “stooping” into the underworld. He wants to help the club with financing, “yet he’s there because he has been promised Satine. She’s supposed to be the best courtesan in all of Paris. Those kinds of things drive the Duke. He wants to have something that no one else has,” Brewer said. “He wants to own things. Not caring for them in the traditional meaning of love but putting them on a pedestal. He wants to have these things around him, and he knows they’re his.”

For being cast in such a dark and

complicated role, Brewer said he’s “actually a very plain, boring guy in real life.” He said his first “look” in the show is his favorite because it’s completely unlike his personality.

“It’s fun for me to put all that on and express this very ostentatious person with chains, rings, fur, leather — and the boots! It’s the full regalia.”

Like the movie, which is known for its incredible production design, Brewer said the technical aspects of the stage show are “overwhelming, in a good way.” He cited the amount of time and effort put into the design as integral to immersing the audience in the world.

“They really spared no expense and have given everything to this idea. From the bohemians that are ragtag and patched up to the mood lighting, the opulent furniture and the costumes that have so many different feels and fabrics — it’s all designed to give you an experience that’s unforgettable.”

April theater productions:

“Moulin Rouge! The Musical”

April 3-14
7:30 p.m. Tuesday-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

“Spring Awakening”

April 5-14
7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday; April 13

Wharton Center Pasant Theatre
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu

“My Emperor’s New Clothes”

LCC Performing Arts
April 5-6 and 12-13
7 p.m. Friday; April 6
2 p.m. Saturday
Dart Auditorium
500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing
lcc.edu/showinfo

“Moonglow”

April 11-14 and 18-21
7 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday

Riverwalk Theatre Black Box
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
riverwalktheatre.com

“Alabama Story”

April 18-21 and 25-28
7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
peppermintcreek.org

“Bright Half Life”

April 11-May 19
8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday; Saturday (beginning April 20); May 8 and 15
Williamston Theatre

122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
williamstontheatre.org

“Murder on the Orient Express”

April 19-21 and 26-28
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts
122 E. Main St., Owosso
lebowskycenter.com

“The Wind in the Willows”

April 26-28 and May 3-5
7 p.m. Friday
3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing
aloffusexpress.org

What is the future of birth in Lansing?

Despite a tumultuous local history, obstetricians and midwives aim to move forward and collaborate



Photo by Hanna Russo

Amanda Trojan holds baby Nathanael following his water birth at Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital in Ann Arbor on June 25, 2022, attended by certified nurse-midwife Kayla Joy Jasman.

By TESSA PANETH-POLLAK

When Kendra Ouillete found out she was pregnant just one month after moving from Florida to Mason in December 2020, she knew she didn't want a home birth. She hoped she would be able to deliver at a birth center, which she imagined as "a more homey environment compared to a hospital."

Instead, she found she had only one choice to make: She could deliver at E.W. Sparrow Hospital or McLaren Greater Lansing Hospital. She gave birth to a daughter, Ellis, at Sparrow on Oct. 4, 2021.

Mitzi Montague-Bauer, who has worked as a birth doula in Greater

Lansing for more than 35 years, said Lansing has "very few options" when it comes to childbirth. This sets it apart from similar-sized cities in mid-Michigan, like Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo.

An alternative to hospitals, found in several locations in Michigan, are freestanding birth centers staffed by certified professional midwives, who train through apprenticeships to assist with out-of-hospital and home births, or certified nurse-midwives, registered nurses who undergo additional training to practice midwifery in hospital settings. However, there hasn't been a freestanding birth center in the Lansing area since the closure of Okemos' Greenhouse Birth Center in 2012. The

closest birth center is the Village Birth House in Fowlerville, which opened in 2023.

Another option is midwifery practices inside or adjacent to hospitals. Through the Michigan Medicine Certified Nurse-Midwife Service, midwives at health centers in Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Brighton and Canton manage the full spectrum of patients' reproductive care, including prenatal, labor, birth, postpartum and ongoing gynecologic care, with all deliveries taking place at Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital in Ann Arbor. Joanne Motiño Bailey, director of the service, said midwives "offer a philosophy of care that centers the birthing person and their family based on respectful,

shared decision-making, honoring the physiologic process and providing judicious intervention as needed."

Lansing has one private-practice certified nurse-midwife, Dominique Phelps of A New Beginning Obstetrics and Gynecology in Haslett, who has delivery privileges at McLaren, but she can't assist with every labor. There's also no full-scope midwifery practice in Lansing. According to Bailey, the area's healthcare systems most often employ certified nurse-midwives in various "assisting roles within the hospital" rather than offering midwifery as a full "model of care."

That means most people who want a midwife to handle their care from the

See Birth, Page 13



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lcc.edu/seriousfun



Lansing Community College is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer.

Birth

from page 12

prenatal stages through delivery will have to head out of town. A few options exist within driving distance: Patients can travel to one of the Michigan Medicine health centers, eventually delivering at Von Voigtlander, or to the Trinity Health Birth Center in Ypsilanti. In west Michigan, Corewell Health employs 34 certified nurse-midwives across its system at Grand Rapids-area clinics and hospitals, 31 of which deliver babies at Corewell hospitals in Grand Rapids, Ludington, Fremont, Greenville, Hastings and Zeeland.

Noble attempts and false starts

Lansing's shortage of options hasn't been for lack of trying.

Several local birth professionals interviewed by City Pulse recalled a notable attempt in the early 1980s by the former St. Lawrence Hospital to open a hospital-adjacent birth center in a two-story house nearby. But the center was shuttered shortly before its scheduled ribbon cutting.

Sources were unclear about the reasons for the birth center's last-minute closure. Myra Bayes, St. Lawrence's head labor and delivery nurse at the time, couldn't be reached for comment.

The house "had all been set up to be a freestanding birth center," said Sameerah Shareef, a certified nurse-midwife who delivered babies at McLaren for 15 years and now provides prenatal and gynecological care at McLaren-owned Okemos Women's Health. "I remember going over to look at it. Right before the grand opening, it got shut down. It never opened."

Following the failed St. Lawrence attempt, Lansing gained a reputation in the national freestanding birth center

movement as an area where opening a non-hospital birth center — whether freestanding or hospital-adjacent — was likely to be an uphill battle.

Montague-Bauer remembers traveling to Pennsylvania around 2001 with the late Barbara "Kip" Kozlowski, a Lansing-area midwife, to attend a workshop led by the late Kitty Ernst, "guru" of the birth center movement. When the women told Ernst that they were from Lansing, Montague-Bauer said a look spread across Ernst's face. She recalled Ernst saying, "You ladies in Lansing should probably just go back and work on legislation and education."

Despite Ernst's cautions against opening a freestanding birth center, Kozlowski did just that. Greenhouse opened in Okemos in fall 2002. However, in 2012, the center was forced to close following a lawsuit filed by a family whose baby died after being injured when midwives attempted to deliver him in the breech position.

Brie Largent of Okemos, a mother of four, received prenatal care at Greenhouse through the first and second trimesters of her pregnancy in spring and summer 2012. She "vividly" remembers learning that the center was closing late in her second trimester.

"They were very gentle about it, and they were devastated about it. I was just stunned," she said.

A few months later, in December 2012, she gave birth to a daughter, Elsa, at Sparrow.

"A story of repression and competition"

Greenhouse's closure underscores the challenges for freestanding birth centers without the protections of state licensure or broad-based support from local medical systems.

The legal landscape for freestanding midwifery practice remains unclear in Michigan. While certified professional midwives became licensable in 2017, Michigan is one of only nine states that don't license birth centers, meaning Medicaid isn't required to cover care, according to Birth Detroit, a nonprofit organization working to open a community birth center in Detroit.

Connie Powe-Watts, a retired certified nurse-midwife who worked at a Sparrow Medical Group practice until 2019, said



Photo by Jessica Mehu

Local doula Mitzi Montague-Bauer attends to Niky McCollom as she labors with baby Will at E.W. Sparrow Hospital in 2018.

the history of midwifery in Lansing is "quite a story of repression and competition with obstetricians for the low-risk delivery dollar."

Powe-Watts co-owned Circle of Life Midwifery, a full-scope midwifery practice in Williamston, for a brief period between 2000 and 2003. The practice delivered babies at Sparrow.

"According to the American College of Nurse-Midwives' bylaws, our model of care delivery was associated with a high-risk obstetrics practice that would be appropriately involved should the need arise," Powe-Watts said. "We also benefited, as might our patients should the need arise, from the Sparrow practice of always having a high-risk obstetrician in-house."

The practice closed, Powe-Watts said, because it "fought for the right for insurance coverage" from Physicians Health Plan, among other insurance companies, "and lost."

Bailey explained, "If you ever create models of care where the midwives and the physicians are competing for the same healthcare-dollar pie, midwives will always lose." This is partly because "you can run a hospital without midwives, but you can't run a hospital without physicians. So, the physicians have the power."

For a midwifery model to work within the medical model, physicians "have to be willing to relinquish some of that power to the midwives," she said.

Collaboration is key

There are risks inherent in any birth. And there are some circumstances that make out-of-hospital birth especially risky.

But physicians, midwives and doulas generally agree that those risks can be mitigated in a system or culture in which there are relationships of mutual trust and collaboration between types of providers — where midwives know the limits of their scope of prac-

tice, and obstetricians trained to deal with high-risk situations can provide backup care.

If a concern arises during a midwifery patient's care at Michigan Medicine, Bailey said, "We partner very closely with our physician colleagues for optimum care and circle of safety to address it."

Bailey attributed the success of Michigan Medicine's midwifery service, which launched in 1983, to nursing leadership's "very strong support for nurse-midwifery over most of our history here," as well as "an obstetrics and gynecology department that values our contributions, recognizes what we bring and has supported us in growing our program."

Bailey noted two other factors in the program's success. The state legislature made certified nurse-midwives licensable in the state of Michigan through a change to the Public Health Code in 1978, before which midwifery was essentially outlawed. There was also a letter-writing campaign to the hospital in support of establishing a midwifery service.

Montague-Bauer emphasized the importance of collaboration and communication between midwives and doctors.

"If we can figure out a way to foster a collaboration, then we'd go a long way for patients," she said, adding that "in an ideal world, healthy women should have the choice of a midwife."

She also said it's crucial that midwives be able to discern circumstances where it's necessary to transfer a patient into the care of a high-risk specialist.

"But," she underlined, "it takes mutual respect to have that."

Bailey echoed that sentiment, saying that Michigan Medicine's midwifery service is made possible, most fundamentally, by "mutual respect and rec-

See Birth, Page 14



Photo by Mark Largent

Montague-Bauer holds baby Elsa Largent after assisting her mother, Brie Largent, in labor at Sparrow in December 2012. Brie Largent received prenatal care at the Greenhouse Birth Center until its closure in fall 2012.

Birth

from page 13

ognition of the value midwifery brings to maternity care services across the board” at “every leadership level.”

Based on her work with “hundreds of women,” Montague-Bauer believes a similar model would appeal to most pregnant people in Greater Lansing.

“Women tend to want autonomy, they want some say in their birth, but they also want this umbrella of protection” from the medical system to be accessible if needed, she said.

Dr. Abigail Ramseyer, a maternal and fetal medicine specialist at Sparrow Health System, said midwives bring to the table a unique set of skills in low-intervention services.

“We know they help improve vaginal delivery rates and decrease cesarean section rates,” she said.

However, she noted that “collaborative care” is important “to be able to give patients the birth experience they’re hoping for in a safe place and in a safe way.”

For years, she worked collaboratively on labor and delivery with midwives at the Naval hospital in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

“I’ve been part of a system where it works really well,” she said.

With the merger between Sparrow Health System and University of Michigan Health, Ramseyer said, “We’re excited at Sparrow about the opportunities the new partnership brings down the road for expanding collaboration with midwives.”

Birth centers combat racial disparities

Shareef said she became a certified nurse-midwife because “the

nurse-midwifery model of care is holistic.”

She favors a community-based approach to medical care. Somewhere along the way, she said, “we had this idea that we should centralize healthcare, meaning we make everybody come to the big building with all of the practices. Now, I’m old enough to remember neighborhood healthcare.”

As a child growing up in Detroit, Shareef recalls her healthcare experiences were primarily community-based. She remembers “nice ladies in starched white dresses with little pointy hats” coming to her elementary school to give immunizations and physicals.

Now, Shareef sits on the board of Birth Detroit, which is set to open its birth center in May. It has worked to establish relationships for patient transfer to Henry Ford Hospital when necessary.

Birth Detroit’s argument is that community birth centers play a crucial role in eliminating racial disparities in maternal health. According to its website, “Birth center care improves birth outcomes, increases satisfaction and, if it is culturally responsive, can make a life-or-death difference for people of color by reducing disparities in care.”

Shareef said, “The model they have put together for this freestanding birth center in the community is wonderful, and it could be studied, examined and duplicated.”

Bailey said that Birth Detroit is “making a reality something that most of us could only dream of.”

Navigating the medical model

For her second pregnancy, Ouillette decided to give birth at Sparrow again. But this time, she approached it differently.

She hired doula Abby Sumbler,



Courtesy of McLaren Greater Lansing

A birthing suite and connected bathroom with a bathtub at the Birthplace at McLaren Greater Lansing.

whom she met through the Expectant Parent Organization’s Baby Café. Ouillette gave birth to a second daughter, Bennett, on March 12, 2024.

Ouillette said one of her goals in hiring a doula was to ensure more “one-on-one” attention.

“It was really nice having somebody in my corner the whole time,” she said.

The newly rebranded University of Michigan Health-Sparrow is “exploring the idea” of establishing an “in-house midwifery program, but no final decisions have been made,” said John Foren, director of media relations and corporate communications.

Meanwhile, McLaren intends to build a team of certified nurse-midwives at the Birthplace at McLaren Greater Lansing, according to Sarah Barber, the hospital’s manager of marketing and communications. The hospital is in the process of hiring at least one more midwife in addition to Shareef so she can begin delivering again.

Additionally, McLaren is working to “increase access to non-pharmacological comfort measures,” according to Melissa Baird, manager of patient care services at the Birthplace. Later this spring, the Birthplace will roll out the

Empower Tower, a cart that offers laboring patients “sound machines, light machines, massage balls and aromatherapy options,” plus “verbal affirmations and links to guided imagery and meditation,” Baird said.

While doulas like Montague-Bauer are encouraged by hospitals’ efforts to expand care, they’re wary of hospitals simply “relabeling their labor and delivery units.”

“A birth center in words and a birth center in actuality are two very different things,” Montague-Bauer said. “For me, a fundamental part of a birth center is that the midwifery model is there.”

Largent said it was “the community and the warmth,” as well as ongoing postpartum and breastfeeding support, that drew her to Greenhouse. She would “love to see Sparrow or McLaren have some sort of birth center” like Michigan Medicine, offering full-scope midwifery care.

Ouillette, for her part, would like to see “more postpartum support” in Lansing. She says she found it on her own because she was looking for it. But otherwise, “You’re just set loose in the wild.”

Second time around: Kendra Ouillette navigates the medical model at Sparrow



Photo by Abby Sumbler

Matt Theiss supports wife Kendra Ouillette through contractions the night of March 11 at E.W. Sparrow Hospital.



Photo by Abby Sumbler

Once her daughter’s head and shoulders had been born, Kendra Ouillette lifted the baby onto her chest for some skin-to-skin contact, which helps with an infant’s ability to regulate temperature and blood sugar and decreases stress for both the parent and baby.



Photo by Abby Sumbler

Kendra Ouillette cuts the umbilical cord, welcoming her second daughter, Bennett, into the world in the early morning hours of March 12 at E.W. Sparrow Hospital.



Photo by Abby Sumbler

At Kendra Ouillette’s request, Dr. Renee Stevens shows her the placenta and educates her about the different parts of the organ.



Photo by Abby Sumbler

Kendra Ouillette and Matt Theiss spend the first hours after the birth of baby Bennett gazing at her in the labor and delivery unit before moving to a recovery room.

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BioBlitz

April 1-30 | 10 AM-4 PM



Discover the biodiversity at your local park, nature center, natural area, backyard, or any nature near you through iNaturalist. Download the iNaturalist app and visit our website for more information

Experience A Wild Evening at Potter Park Zoo

April 5 | 5-8 PM

Potter Park Zoo



Come explore the wild science behind our natural world and the animal kingdom during a free night at Potter Park Zoo!



APRIL 3

Time	Event	Location
12:00-1:00 pm	Wellness Wednesday Workshop #5: Weed Tea	W.J. Beal Botanical Garden Outdoors

Play with Nuclear Scientists at Impression 5 Science Center

April 3 | 6-8 PM
Impression 5 Science Center



Enjoy FREE admission to Impression 5 to explore the SMASH exhibit along with nuclear scientists from the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams!



APRIL 4

Time	Event	Location
6:00-8:00 pm	Artist Talk with Kayla Mattes	MSU Broad Art Museum
7:00-8:30 pm	Taking the Fast Out of Food: A Conversation on the Environmental Consequences of the Food We Eat at MSU	MSU Museum
7:00-9:00 pm	Biology on Tap (21+)	Mac's Bar

APRIL 6

Time	Event	Location
10:00 am-12:00 pm	Dig in! Help Root Out Invasive Plants at Baker Woodlot	Baker Woodlot and Rajendra Neotropical Migrant Bird Sanctuary
10:00 am-2:00 pm	The Best Way to Kick off the Day: Building Miniature Soccer Balls to Understand Catalysis and Confinement	Plant Biology Laboratories Plant Research Lab
12:00-4:00 pm	Biosystems Engineering Open House: Solving Problems in Food, Health, Energy, and Environmental Systems	Farrall Agricultural Engineering Hall 129A
1:00-3:00 pm	Inside the MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory: Disease Detectives at Work	MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Room 101

APRIL 9

Time	Event	Location
5:00-7:00 pm	The Building Blocks of Matter: Atoms or LEGO?	Hooked

APRIL 10

Time	Event	Location
12:00-1:00 pm	Wellness Wednesday Workshop #6: Spring Ephemerals	W.J. Beal Botanical Garden Outdoors

APRIL 11

Time	Event	Location
5:30-6:30 pm	Intersection Conversation: Stellar Connections between Art and Science	Facility for Rare Isotope Beams Auditorium
7:00-10:00 pm	Astronomy on Tap with Special Musical Guest: Normal Mode (21+)	Mac's Bar

sciencefestival.msu.edu



Statewide Astronomy Night

April 12

Explore the wonders of the universe at your planetarium or observatory! View the full schedule and a list of participating locations online.



STEAM Expo Weekend

April 13 and 14 | 10 AM-4 PM
STEM Teaching and Learning Facility



Let your curiosity go wild as you explore over one hundred hands-on activities, talks, and demonstrations at the festival's STEAM Expo Weekend!

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES: Grow Bismuth crystals, play in an AR Sandbox, build robots, meet reptiles face-to-face, and let your curiosity go wild as you explore over 100 interactive programs.

TOURS AND OPEN HOUSES: Take a behind-the-scenes look at MSU's museums, gardens, and research facilities across campus.

DAZZLING DEMONSTRATIONS: Prepare to be dazzled by science with demonstrations like Chemistry in Action, Rocket Science 101, and Edible Ice Cream Aquifers.

TALKS WITH THE EXPERTS: Learn from experts across the STEAM disciplines as they explore topics like rainforests, marine life, robotics, and more!



APRIL 13

Time	Event	Location
10:00 am-2:00 pm	Lights, Camera, Action!	Communication Arts and Sciences Room 134
10:00 am-2:00 pm	Tour the MSU Pollinator Performance Center	MSU Pollinator Performance Center
10:00 am-3:00 pm	Explore Medical Laboratory Science!	North Kedzie Hall North Lobby
10:00 am-4:00 pm	Laser Tweezers: Reach Out and Grab Bacteria!	Biomedical Physical Sciences Room B149
10:00 am-4:00 pm	Slick Science: From Lotus Leaves to Non-Stick Pans	Engineering Building Room 2570
10:00 am-4:00 pm	Spring Skies Over Michigan	Abrams Planetarium
11:00 am-12:00 pm	From Seaside to Bedside: Learn About Light-Emitting Marine Organisms and Insects	MSU Museum Science on a Sphere Gallery
11:00 am-12:00 pm	Unique Trees from Around the World	W.J. Beal Botanical Garden
11:00 am-1:00 pm	Get an Inside Look at Beaumont Tower!	Beaumont Tower
12:00-2:00 pm	Explore the Rachana Rajendra Bird Sanctuary	Baker Woodlot and Rajendra Neotropical Migrant Bird Sanctuary Outdoors
12:00-4:00 pm	Earth Bash @ MSU Recycling	MSU Recycling Center
1:00-2:00 pm	Native Trees of Beal	W.J. Beal Botanical Garden
1:00-2:00 pm	Red Cedar River Historical and Ecological Walking Tour	MSU Main Library Main Entrance
1:00-3:00 pm	Get Wet in the Woods with Vernal Pools!	Baker Woodlot and Rajendra Neotropical Migrant Bird Sanctuary Main Entrance
1:00-4:00 pm	Blood, Bones, and Brains: Inside the Body with the Anatomage 3D Table at MSU Libraries	MSU Main Library Digital Scholarship Lab
1:00-4:00 pm	Hollander Makerspace Open House	MSU Main Library Hollander Makerspace
3:00-4:00 pm	Unique Trees from Around the World	W.J. Beal Botanical Garden

APRIL 14

Time	Event	Location
11:00 am-12:00 pm	Tall Tree Tales	W.J. Beal Botanical Garden
11:00 am-1:00 pm	Get an Inside Look at Beaumont Tower!	Beaumont Tower
12:00-4:00 pm	Lights, Camera, Action!	Communication Arts and Sciences Room 134
1:00-2:00 pm	Native Trees of Beal	W.J. Beal Botanical Garden
3:00-4:00 pm	Tall Tree Tales	W.J. Beal Botanical Garden

APRIL 17

Time	Event	Location
7:00-7:45 pm	Particle Journeys: From Deep Space to Deep Underground	Abrams Planetarium
7:00-9:00 pm	Developing Film with Beer: Alternative Analog Photography (21+)	Hooked

APRIL 18

Time	Event	Location
5:00-7:00 pm	"King Corn" Film Screening	MSU Museum
7:00-9:00 pm	The Sounds of Science: Inspiring Connections (18+)	Mac's Bar

APRIL 19

Time	Event	Location
10:00 am-1:00 pm	Earth Day Weekend Volunteer Day	W.J. Beal Botanical Garden

Night at the MSU Museums

April 19 | 6-8 PM

MSU Museum and MSU Broad Art Museum



Enjoy an all-ages evening of science + art-inspired activities offered in celebration of the MSU Science Festival. Jointly hosted by the MSU Museum and the MSU Broad Art Museum, activities range from behind-the-scenes tours to art making!



APRIL 20

Time	Event	Location
10:00 am-2:00 pm	Lights, Camera, Action!	Communication Arts and Sciences Room 134
1:00-2:00 pm	Tour the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams	Facility for Rare Isotope Beams
1:15-2:00 pm	Get a Backstage Pass to the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams (FRIB)	Abrams Planetarium

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge And The Teachings Of Plants



April 20 | 6-8 PM

Join featured speaker **Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer** and learn how to cultivate a reciprocal relationship with the living world. Listeners are invited to consider what we might learn if we understood plants as our teachers, from both a scientific and an indigenous perspective.

Tickets are sold out but this event will be livestreamed. Visit the website for more information.



APRIL 21

Time	Event	Location
2:00-4:00 pm	SpARTan Wellness: Mini Plant Terrariums	MSU Broad Art Museum
4:00-4:45 pm	Particle Journeys: From Deep Space to Deep Underground	Abrams Planetarium

APRIL 24

Time	Event	Location
7:00-9:00 pm	Science or Science Fiction? (18+)	Hooked

Continued on back page

APRIL 25

Time	Event	Location
7:00-9:00 pm	Infinity in the Palm of Your Hand: How Poets See the Universe (18+)	Mac's Bar

APRIL 27

Time	Event	Location
9:00 am-1:00 pm	Ecology Extravaganza at Corey Marsh	Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center
1:00-4:00 pm	Celebrate the Recovery of Endangered Species with Printmaking and Poetry	MSU Museum Science on a Sphere Gallery

Campfire Science Night

April 26 | 6-9 PM
Woldumar Nature Center



Gather around the campfire for a fun evening of science in nature, hosted by Woldumar Nature Association and Graduate Women in Science Mid-Michigan.



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Cannabis market's obsession with THC has gone too far

By CHRIS SILVA

If you've spent time in a dispensary over the past few years, you're likely familiar with cultivators' endeavors to bring the most THC-rich flower to the market for the lowest possible price. This proverbial arms race is fueled by the bleak but harsh reality that consumer pressure is making any cannabis flower with a THC concentration of less than 20% a non-starter to dispensary purchasing managers. There's a widely held misconception that the THC level of flower is the single determining factor of quality, price point and overall desirability.

Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, more commonly known as THC, is the compound that gives cannabis its psychoactive effects. So, it seems reasonable to assume this is the most important factor to consider when choosing between strains. However, cannabis has numerous cannabinoids, terpenes, flavonoids and other compounds that are found in great abundance. We haven't even determined what all these compounds are yet, let alone how their interactions with THC could generate different effects.

The term those in the know use to describe the interactions between these compounds is called the entourage effect. However, there's only been a small amount of real research into this due to cannabis' federal illegality. We probably won't fully understand what interactions are taking place and what effects they may have for many years. In the interim, operators and consumers have taken something they can put a numerical value on and decided to run with it. The result is a marketplace that's hyper-



Kitreal/Shutterstock

THC levels in cannabis flower are skyrocketing in Michigan, but many in the industry have reservations about the accuracy of potency testing, believing some labs are purposely heightening the reported concentration of THC in samples.

cused on THC levels above other traditional hallmarks of quality, like smell, taste and how the plant was grown. Because of this, strain diversity in the legal marketplace is starting to seriously slip. We're seeing more and more of a focus on strains with THC concentrations of 25% or more, like Wedding Cake and GMO crosses.

In my opinion, this really kills cannabis culture and has also made it difficult for the ever-shrinking but nevertheless significant population of medical cannabis users. Low-THC, CBD-heavy strains that might be useful for specific medical ailments don't have the same market potential as a 30% THC Wedding Cake strain grown in a greenhouse. This is why we don't see a lot of the classic strains anymore, like Trainwreck, Northern Lights, White Widow or one of

my personal favorites, Danny Trevino, a particularly terpene-rich and funky-tasting cross of AK-47 and Super Silver Haze. Before the legal market and state-mandated potency testing were established, this strain was one of the hottest and most sought-after in Lansing. Today, most stores would have to discount it to even get it to move.


Potency testing is important for consumer safety, and I'm glad the government requires it. A lot of folks in cannabis still have some reservations, though. There seems to be a lack of standardization among testing companies, and a lot of operators feel pressured to work with labs that produce higher potency results. Many claim these labs use different sampling and testing methods to raise THC levels.

The longstanding legal war between the state Cannabis Regulator



ry Agency and Viridis Laboratories has muddied the waters even more. The agency seems to be in constant conflict with the lab about its standard operating procedures and lack of accountability and transparency. There's hope a state-run reference lab would help bring about more standardization in the testing market. With the option to independently audit high-THC flower, we might see the state work to create a standard of best practices around potency testing. Recently, California introduced new testing standards, resulting in a 7% drop in median THC potency among cannabis flower, according to a report by San Francisco news website SFGATE.

Consumers are being misled in many cases, and it's making the obsession with THC levels even worse. Ask any old head you know: A lower-THC strain with top-shelf genetics that wasn't grown in salts and was cured properly will probably yield a more pleasurable high than some of the dried-out, rushed-to-market, pre-remediated Wedding Cake strains of today. My hope is that as consumers obtain more information and their tastes and preferences develop a little more, we'll see more demand for flower that achieves more of the hallmarks of quality than just potency.




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The Big Water story is so big it will take two books

Tales of the Au Sable River, told by one who knows it well

By BILL CASTANIER

The body of literature on the Great Lakes would fill a library. Still, in his new book, “The Big Water,” Thomas Buhr takes us inland to the Au Sable River, a 138-mile-long ribbon of delight that nearly bisects Michigan’s lower peninsula from Kolke and Bradford creeks to Lake Huron at Oscoda.

Buhr is among many enthusiasts drawn to the AuSable to fish for brown trout, an elusive fish that has spawned stories for more than a century and a half.

For “The Big Water,” Buhr only examines the history of the lower half of the AuSable as it courses from Mio to its mouth, bordered by national and state parkland. The author is working on a second book that will trace the Au Sable from its source to Mio.

Early on, Buhr decided that the first book would be a companion piece to the 1960s book “The Old Au Sable,” written by Hazen Miller.

Buhr said Miller’s book mainly focused on the Upper Au Sable and that since it was published in the ‘60s, it

missed significant events since then.

Buhr clarifies what the Big Water means: The Au Sable becomes a “different animal” as it moves downstream from the Parmalee Bridge near Mio. The river speeds up and widens as the land grows more remote and wild.

Buhr begins his journey where he should: with the indigenous population and their early interaction with Lewis Cass and Henry Schoolcraft as their land was stripped away through treaties.

Buhr follows the region’s history through the timber clear-cutting era, from when loggers blew off steam and sought out women in the small-town saloons to the arrival of homesteaders who were lured by cheap land and deceptive advertising.

Buhr also fills readers in on the major fires that consumed the area and the subsequent success of the Civilian Conservation Corps, an FDR program in the 1930s and ‘40s that saved natural resources on federal, state and local land.

Buhr doesn’t duck not only how rapacious capitalists destroyed the forest and land but also how the Grayling, once a common fish

found in the river, was overfished to extinction. (It has recently been reintroduced.) He also retells the story of the passenger pigeon hunted to extinction by professionals.

A history of the lower river would only be complete with an in-depth look at the five dams built between 1912 and 1924 to power modern Michigan.

Although the dams are not the size



Courtesy photo

Author and lifelong fishing enthusiast Thomas Buhr has been exploring the Au Sable River since he was 10, when his father gave him a three-horsepower, 10-foot-long boat and said, “See you at dinner.”

of those in the western United States, they are massive in the context of the Au Sable and provide the power needed downstate. They also fundamentally changed the Au Sable, creating massive backwaters and lake-like artificial natural areas.

When I was a child, my parents took me fishing below those damns because that’s where massive small-mouth bass lurked. I once caught a near-record bass below Cooke Dam and landed on the legendary Mort Neff television show. We ate it for din-

ner.

As the recreational canoe industry flourished and mostly drunken revelers thrashed downstream, the dams were barriers that needed to be portaged.

“The situation with recreational canoeing has ratcheted down,” Buhr said. He attributed that to the public’s rejection of the proposed 2020 alcohol ban on the Au Sable.

Buhr also tells us about the gangsters from the Purple Gang who would go to the Au Sable area. “Having a hideout in the sticks is a cliché straight from every gangster movie of the era, but in this case, the cliché was based in reality,” he writes.

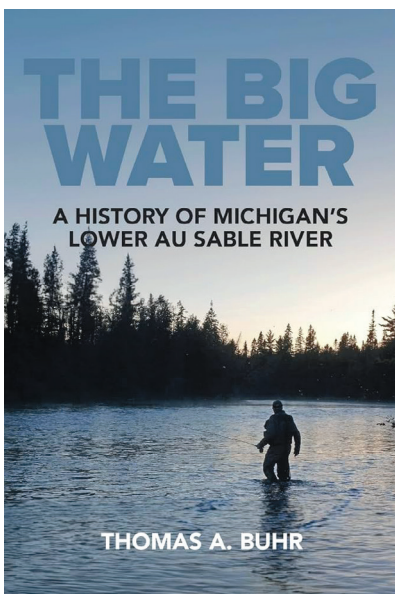
Buhr said he has been exploring the river since he was 10, when his father gave him a three-horsepower, 10-foot-long boat and said, “See you at dinner.”

Like most dedicated fly fishing enthusiasts, Buhr will talk your ear off about flies, hatches and legendary fly fishermen.


“You have to pay close attention to nature to be successful,” he said. “You have to know when the various hatches occur, for example.”

In one chapter, Buhr also delves into the state’s role in contributing to the pollution of the Au Sable and its cleanup. He delves deeply into the roles of the bureaucracy and the influence of Govs. William Milliken and John Engler, and environmental issues emanating from PBBs, Camp Graylin, and PFAS plumes from the airbase at Oscoda.

He said his experiences on the river have gotten him much closer to nature, and as a result, the book’s proceeds will be donated to conservation on the Au Sable.



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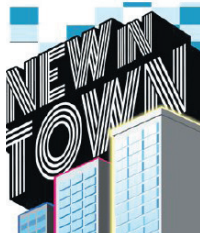
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Haraz Coffee House's rapid growth reaches East Lansing

By TYLER SCHNEIDER



Haraz Coffee House

501 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
8 a.m.-10 p.m. daily
(517) 657-7034
harazcoffeehouse.com

Troy resident Dina Elhout wasn't always a coffee drinker, but something about the offerings at Haraz Coffee House, a Dearborn-based Yemeni coffee chain, piqued her interest.

At first, she only stopped in to grab coffee for her husband.

"After picking up his drinks several times, I decided I was going to try it myself. When I did, there was no looking back," she said.

Elhout, a dentist, would joke that she was going to own her own Haraz location someday. Her jests turned to action after she met with Haraz's founder and CEO, Hamzah Nasser, who opened the first location in Dearborn in 2021.

"It was supposed to be his only shop, but based on feedback he's gotten from some customers trying to help, including myself, it's now grown into a nationwide

franchise," Elhout said.

The business has expanded to two other locations in Michigan, Detroit and Warren, as well as Texas, California, Illinois, Kentucky and North Carolina, with more slated to open soon across the country.

Nasser told Elhout he was also looking to open locations in college towns in Michigan and that East Lansing seemed like a perfect market.

Elhout decided to go for it. She began scouting potential locations last fall and settled on a 2,400-square-foot space at 501 E. Grand River Ave. After nearly six months of renovations, the shop hosted its grand opening event on March 23.

Elhout said the response so far has been "overwhelming."

"Honestly, I didn't think we were going to get the feedback that we've gotten. It's very exciting," she said. "Customers have thanked us for being here, which blows my mind because I thank them for coming."

The menu features traditional Yemeni coffee drinks, including mufawar, which is made with cardamom and cream, and jubani, a light roast flavored with ginger, cinnamon and ground coffee husks. The



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Dearborn-based chain Haraz Coffee House opened its East Lansing location on March 23. It's one of dozens of new locations popping up nationwide.

shop also serves French-, Turkish- and Saudi-style coffee, espresso drinks, teas and a variety of cold beverages.

Its Yemeni coffee is made from beans sourced directly from a family farm in Yemen, Elhout said.

"The majority of our ingredients come from overseas, which I think plays a role in distinguishing the flavors that we have in our drinks and food. We're also not just a coffee shop. We have amazing deserts that we make in-house as well," she said.

Haraz is the second Yemeni coffee

shop to open in East Lansing in the past four months. In December, Moka & Co. opened at 565 E. Grand River Ave., just a three-minute walk from Haraz.

"Customers have already been mentioning that we're different, and I think there's plenty of business to go around for everybody," Elhout said. "Anyway, I don't think that I have competition. I'm always thinking about how I can be better than I am now. So, really, I'm competing with myself."

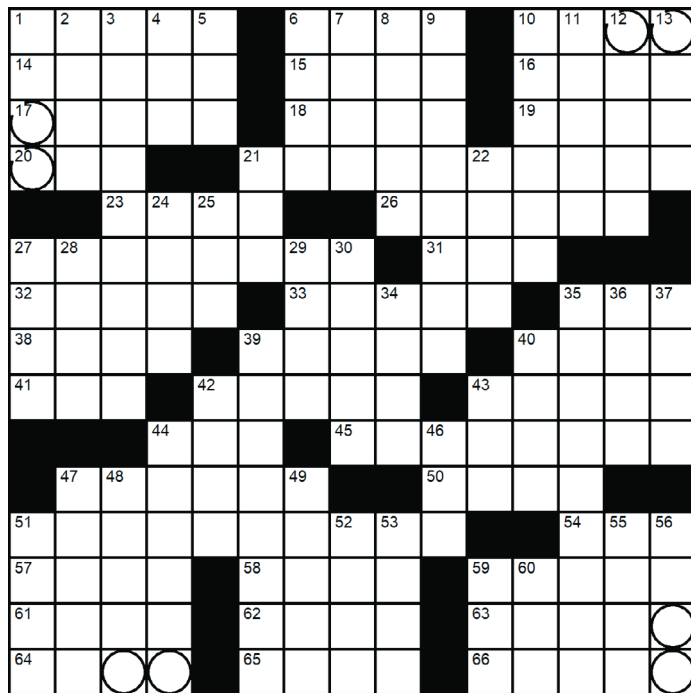
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"State of Uncertainty" -- we miss the whole thing. by Matt Jones © 2024 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. "Come Away With Me" singer Jones
- 6. Declines, as support
- 10. Former Queen of Jordan (and a hint to what's missing from 21-Across)
- 14. Final Greek letter
- 15. "Consarn it!"
- 16. Lhasa ___ (breed from Tibet)
- 17. Paris 2024 prize
- 18. Taunting remark
- 19. "Buenos ___!"
- 20. Oh's predecessors
- 21. Investment returns not realized because of factors like expenses and fees
- 23. "Insecure" Emmy nominee ___ Rae
- 26. After-dinner party
- 27. Like many eruptions
- 31. Voters' choices
- 32. Best case
- 33. Playground equipment
- 35. Method
- 38. Word of caution
- 39. Most high school students
- 40. Nursery rhyme trio
- 41. Gallery work
- 42. Peek at the answers, say
- 43. Jordanian ruins site
- 44. Three in Italy
- 45. Simultaneously
- 47. Of a heart chamber
- 50. Cookie with a 2024 "Space Dunk" variety
- 51. Stank up the joint
- 54. Wayside lodging
- 57. "Take ___ from me ..."
- 58. In the thick of



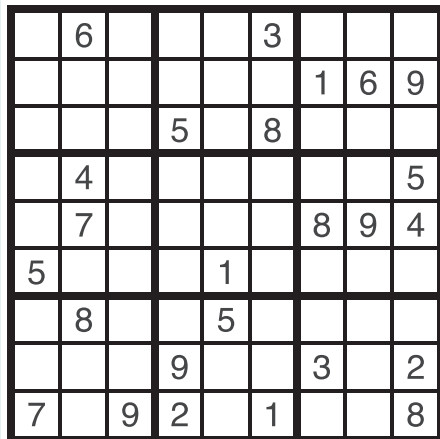
- 59. "We can relate"
 - 61. Prefix for rail or chrome
 - 62. Chess play
 - 63. Gambling mecca near Hong Kong
 - 64. Former Domino's Pizza mascot (and a hint to what's missing from 51-Across)
 - 65. Small wallet bills
 - 66. "... I'll eat ___!"
- DOWN**
- 1. Alaska gold rush city (and a hint to what's missing from 3-Down)
 - 2. "The ___" (1976 Gregory Peck horror film)
 - 3. Didn't say anything
 - 4. Palindromic Ottoman official
 - 5. "2001" computer
 - 6. Outer limit
 - 7. Runny French cheese
 - 8. Rum cakes
 - 9. Banned substances
 - 10. Lowest points
 - 11. Speak your mind
 - 12. "August: ___ County" (Meryl Streep movie)
 - 13. Monica's brother on "Friends"
 - 21. Enthusiast
 - 22. Pool ball with a yellow stripe
 - 24. Jazz vocal style
 - 25. ___ Paradise ("On the Road" narrator)
 - 27. "Livin' La ___ Loca" (Ricky Martin hit)
 - 28. Product of pungency
 - 29. "Understood"
 - 30. Golf shoe gripper
 - 34. Enjoying
 - 35. Smoothly, as a successful plan
 - 36. Real estate developer's unit
 - 37. Rookie of the ___
 - 39. Destination in "Pee-wee's Big Adventure"
 - 40. Dole (out)
 - 42. Baby's night spot
 - 43. KPH part
 - 44. Camera mount
 - 46. Amount of gunk
 - 47. "Star Wars" droid, familiarly
 - 48. Neighbor of a Tobagonian, informally
 - 49. Citrus with a zest
 - 51. Kendrick Lamar Pulitzer-winning album
 - 52. "___ Talkin'" (Bee Gees #1 hit)
 - 53. Pindaric poems
 - 55. Hurricane-tracking agcy.
 - 56. In-___ Burger (and a hint to what's missing from 35-Down)
 - 59. Steak-___ (frozen beef brand)
 - 60. Speak

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Answers on page 28

SUDOKU

Advanced



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 Breznsy

April 3-9, 2024

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Aries author Eric G. Wilson claims, "Darker emotional states — doubt, confusion, alienation, despair — inspire a deeper and more durable experience of the sacred than contentment does." I disagree. I know for a fact that an exquisite embrace of life's holiness is equally possible through luminous joy and boisterous triumph and exultant breakthroughs. Propagandists of the supposed potency of misery are stuck in a habit of mind that's endemic to the part of civilization that's rotting and dying. In any case, Aries, I'm pleased to tell you that in the coming weeks, you will have abundant opportunities to glide into sacred awareness on the strength of your lust for life and joie de vivre.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Will humans succeed in halting the decimation of the environment? Will we neutralize the power of fundamentalism as it fights to quash our imaginations and limit our freedoms? Will we outflank and outlast the authoritarians that threaten democracy? Sorry that I'm asking you to think about sad realities. But now is an excellent time for you to ponder the world we are creating for our descendants — and resolve to do something in loving service to the future. Meditate on the riddle from Lewis Carroll's book "Through the Looking-Glass": "It's a poor sort of memory that only works backwards."

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The genius polymath Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) contributed much treasure to science and engineering. One encyclopedia sums up his legacy: "He was the father of observational astronomy, modern-era classical physics, the scientific method, and modern science." Unfortunately, many of Galileo's ideas conflicted with the teachings of Catholicism. The church fathers hounded him for years, even arresting him and putting him on trial. The Vatican eventually apologized, though not until 350 years after Galileo died. I expect that you, too, will generate many new approaches and possibilities in the coming months, Gemini — not Galileo-level, of course, but still sufficiently unprecedented to rouse the resistance of conventional wisdom. I suspect you won't have to wait long to be vindicated, however.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Now would be a perfect time to prove your love. How? You might begin by being extra considerate, sensitive, sweet and tender. I hope you will add sublime, scintillating touches, too. Maybe you will tell your beloved allies beautiful truths about themselves — revelations that make them feel deeply understood and appreciated. Maybe you will give them gifts or blessings they have wanted for a long time but never managed to get for themselves. It's possible you will serenade them with their favorite songs, write a poem or story about them or buy them a symbol that inspires their spiritual quest. To climax all your kindness, perhaps you will describe the ways they have changed your life for the better.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Leo naturalist and ornithologist William Henry Hudson (1841-1922) said, "I am not a lover of lawns. Rather would I see daisies in their thousands, ground ivy, hawkweed, and dandelions with splendid flowers and fairy down, than the too-well-tended lawn." I encourage you to adopt his attitude toward everything in your life for the next few weeks. Always opt for unruly beauty over tidy regimentation. Choose lush vitality over pruned efficiency. Blend your fate with influences that exult in creative expressiveness, genial fertility and deep feelings. (PS: Cultural critic Michael Pollan says, "A lawn is nature under totalitarian rule.")

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I praise and celebrate you for your skills in helping other people access their resources and activate their potentials. I hope you are rewarded well for your gorgeous service. If you are not, please figure out how to correct the problem in the coming months. If you are feeling extra bold, consider these two

additional assignments: 1. Upgrade your skills at helping yourself access your own resources and activate your own potentials. 2. Be forthright and straightforward in asking the people you help to help you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I don't regard a solar eclipse as a bad omen. On the contrary, I believe it may purge and cleanse stale, old karma. On some occasions, I have seen it flush away emotional debts and debris that have been accumulating for years. So, how shall we interpret the total solar eclipse that will electrify your astrological house of intimate togetherness in the coming days? I think it's a favorable time to be brave and daring as you upgrade your best relationships. What habits and patterns are you ready to reinvent and reconfigure? What new approaches are you willing to experiment with?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): At your best, you Scorpios are not invasive manipulators. Rather, you are catalysts. You are instigators of transformation, resurrectors of dead energy, awakeners of numb minds. The people you influence may not be aware that they long to draw on your influence. They may think you are somehow imposing it on them when, in fact, you are simply being your genuine, intense self, and they are reaching out to absorb your unruly healing. In the coming weeks, please keep in mind what I've said here.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In my astrological opinion, it's prime time for you to shower big, wild favors on your beautiful self. Get the fun underway with a period of rigorous self-care: a physical checkup, perhaps, and visits with the dentist, therapist, hairstylist and acupuncturist. Try new healing agents and seek precise magic that enhances and uplifts your energy. I trust you will also call on luxurious indulgences like a massage, a psychic reading, gourmet meals, an emotionally potent movie, exciting new music and long, slow lovemaking. Anything else, Sagittarius? Make a list and carry out these tasks with the same verve and determination you would give to any important task.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The coming days will be a favorable time for you to wrestle with an angel or play chess with a devil. You will have extraordinary power in any showdown or collaboration with spiritual forces. Your practical intelligence will serve you well in encounters with nonrational enigmas and supernatural riddles. Here's a hot tip: Never assume that any being, human or divine, is holier or wiser than you. You will have a special knack for finding compassionate solutions to address even the knottiest dilemmas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your featured organ of the month is your nose. This may seem beyond the scope of predictable possibilities, but I'm serious: You will make robust decisions and discriminating choices if you get your sniffer fully involved. So, I advise you to favor and explore whatever smells good. Cultivate a nuanced appreciation for what aromas can reveal. If there's a hint of a stink or an odd tang, go elsewhere. The saying "follow your nose" is especially applicable. PS: I recommend you take steps to expose yourself to a wide array of scents that energize you and boost your mood.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): When is the best time to ask for a raise or an increase in benefits? Can astrology reveal favorable periods for being aggressive about getting more of what you want? In the system I use, the time that's 30 to 60 days after your birthday is most likely to generate good results. Another phase is 210 to 240 days after your birthday. Keep in mind that these estimates may be partly fanciful and playful and mythical. But in my philosophy, fanciful and playful and mythical actions have an honored place. Self-fulfilling prophecies are more likely to be fulfilled if you regard them as fun experiments rather than serious, literal rules.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsy'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. 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, April 3

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

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.

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

An Evening with Holocaust Survivor Irene Miller - Miller, an author, speaker and educator, shares a firsthand account of her family's attempt to escape Poland during the Holocaust. Registration req. 7 p.m. DeWitt City Hall Community Room, 414 E. Main St., DeWitt. dewitt.librarycalendar.com.

Book Gardens - Turn upcycled books into a garden scene! Grades 4-12. Registration req. 4 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.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.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz Dance Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

Lansing Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Ten-week program. Ages 12-17. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Meridian Historical Village Speaker Series: Mitch Lutzke - Hear excerpts from the new book "Stories from Williamston's Past: Volume 2," by author, local history expert and retired teacher Mitch Lutzke. 10 a.m. Village Chapel, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-347-7300.

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. lamc.info.

"Moulin Rouge! The Musical" - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

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.

Solar Eclipse STEAM Science Night - Create eclipse crafts, try different eclipse-viewing activities, learn more about the solar eclipse on April 8 and pick up FREE eclipse glasses. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Tap II Class - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-

0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Walk-in Wednesday: Paper Making - Free, all ages welcome. 4:30-6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Weaving the Web: Earth - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, April 4

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

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Artist Talk: Kayla Mattes - Mattes discusses the intersection of analog and digital in her handmade weavings that unravel our digital addiction. 6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Beginning Cha-Cha Group Dance Class - A lively and energetic ballroom dance. Seven-week class. Registration req. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

Beginning West Coast Swing Group Dance Class - Partner dance with roots in Lindy Hop. Seven-week class. Registration req. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. sparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

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.

Foundations in Faith Christian Church Thursday Night Prophetic Prayer Gathering - 6 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 517-292-4093. foundationsinfaith.church.

Fundamentals of Drawing — Eight-Week Class - Learn the fundamentals of drawing, including shape, value and space. Ages 6-9. 4:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.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.

Karaoke Thursday - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. 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. ladiesilverblades.org.

Laingsburg Farmers Market - 5-8 p.m. First Congregational Church of Laingsburg, 401 E. Grand

The Poetry Room Presents: Me & My Friends, featuring Neil Hilborn

Friday, April 5
6 p.m.
Grewal Hall at 224
224 S. Washington Square, Lansing



According to Lansing Poet Laureate Masaki Takahashi, the Poetry Room, a series of open-mic poetry readings and other poetry-related events in Lansing, is "a space for people to tell their story as they hope to have it told." The Poetry Room has invited Neil Hilborn, known nationally for his poem "OCD," which has received more than 75 million views online, to share his story 7 p.m. Friday (April 5) at Grewal Hall at 224. The event will open with readings by seven area poets, including Takahashi, allowing attendees to "immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of local talent," Takahashi said.

Hilborn's poetry often details his experiences and struggles with mental illness, which will be a theme for the evening.

"This event promises to be a poignant exploration of mental health and human emotion through the medium of poetry," Takahashi said. "The local poets that I picked, they have very unique stories to tell that should be heard. And they really go well with what I think Neal represents — those stories and emotions that people don't talk about openly."

But Takahashi noted that the evening will offer moments of levity as well. "Hilborn's unique ability to blend vulnerability with humor leaves audiences deeply moved, often eliciting both tears and laughter," he said. "It's a very great place to be because it's still very entertaining, even though it's emotional."

DJ Metro Melik will provide the musical backdrop for the evening, spinning an eclectic mix of songs between sets to "set the stage for an atmosphere of creativity, connection and community," Takahashi said.

Overall, Takahashi is most excited to show those who aren't as immersed in the poetry world how "accessible and exciting" the art form can be.

"They're definitely going to have a good time. I hope they learn. They're going to laugh, they're going to cry. The art of listening is really learning to be a better human and being more compassionate," he said.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at hall224.com.

River Road, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. laingsburg-business.org/farmers-market-1.

"Moulin Rouge! The Musical" - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

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.

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.

Friday, April 5

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

Craft Club Jr. - Make kaleidoscopes! Grades 1-3. Registration req. 4:15 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.

Hot Club of Cowtown - America's premiere hot jazz and Western swing trio. 7:30 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

"Moulin Rouge! The Musical" - 8 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

"My Emperor's New Clothes," by Larry Shue - A theatrical adaptation of the famous children's story, filled with funny lines, hummable songs and fast-paced action. 7 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Night at a Living Museum - Explore select animal exhibits at twilight and get up close and personal with our animal care staff to discover the magic of the zoo in a whole new light. Free. 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. sciencefestival.msu.edu.

Events

from page 23

The Pickle Mafia - This New York trio has garnered nationwide attention for its groundbreaking, unique brand of arena jazz fusion. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

"Refuge Recovery," A Buddhist Path to Recovering from Addiction - Peer-led group meeting with a 20-minute meditation and a reading from the book "Refuge Recovery." 6:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

Science of Spring - 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.

University Choral and State Singers - Presenting music reflecting feminine viewpoints, composed by Joanna Marsh and Andrea Clearfield, and folk songs from various traditions. 8 p.m. Fairchild

Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Saturday, April 6

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

2024 MFA Exhibition Opening Reception - Celebrate the creative and scholarly research of MSU Department of Art, Art History, and Design MFA candidates. Registration encouraged. 6-8 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Afternoon: English Country; Evening: Contra & Square Dance - English country dance 2-5 p.m., potluck 5:30 p.m., beginner workshop 6:30 p.m., evening dance 7-10 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Barbara Wagner Chamber Music Competition Showcase - The juried competition concludes with this energetic showcase of the finalists and an announcement of the winners. 6 p.m. Cook

Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Brns, Beards, and Brews: A Lumberjack Festival - Feats of strengths competitions, regional beard competition, street games, vendors, music and LOTS of beer and booze to keep you in the spirit. 21+. Noon-5 p.m. Turner Street, Old Town. iloveoldtown.org.

Clay Handbuilding — Eight-Week Class - Get creative using pinching, texturing, rolling, modeling, sculpting and your imagination as you hand-build with ceramic clay. Ages 10-13. 10 a.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Creative Beginnings — Eight-Week Class - Work on open-ended projects that focus on learning new skills and techniques in a variety of 2-D mediums. Ages 6-10. 11:15 a.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Family Day: IMAGINE - Your imagination can create anything! Join us as we crumple, bend, build and layer to create something new. Registration encouraged. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Intermediate Ballet class - 11 a.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Kanin Wren's Taylor Swift Experience: Unplugged - With fun choreography, multiple costume changes and spot-on musical delivery, Wren's tribute to Taylor Swift is a must-see act. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Live Music with Mix Pack at LBC - Mix Pack is a cover band from right here in Lansing! From R&B to '80s rock hits, they've got a sound you're sure to love. 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansing-brewingcompany.com.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - Find our winter market in the JCPenney wing of the Meridian Mall. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

"Moulin Rouge! The Musical" - 2 and 8 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

MSU Trombone Alumni Concert - Former students of MSU trombone Professor Ava Ordman perform a variety of works written for trombone choir. 3 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

"My Emperor's New Clothes," by Larry Shue - A theatrical adaptation of the famous children's story, filled with funny lines, hummable songs and fast-paced action. 2 and 7 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Red Cross Adult & Pediatric CPR w/AED Training - Learn CPR, AED, first aid and emergency procedures like rescue breathing and the Heimlich maneuver. Registration req. 10 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Teen Clay Wheel (A) — Eight-Week Class - Turn lumps of clay into pieces of art using basic pottery wheel skills, including centering, throwing, trimming and glazing. Ages 12-18. 6:30 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Teen Clay Wheel (B) — Eight-Week Class - Ages 12-18. 11:30 a.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Tiger and Dragon Kenpo Martial Arts Training - Based on a variety of martial arts systems, Tiger and Dragon Kenpo is designed to develop self-confidence in the warrior. 1 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Village Crafters Mason Crafter-to-Crafter Sale - Crafters will sell new and gently used craft supplies. We'll collect personal care items for veterans, and lunch will be available for purchase. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mason VFW, 1243 Hull Road, Mason. villagecrafters.net.

Sunday, April 7

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

Bottle and Can Collection for Eastern Ingham Farmers Market - 11 a.m.-1 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. 517-618-1630. easterninghamfarmersmarket.org.

CSA Fair - Community members are invited to meet local farmers and learn more about community-supported agriculture! 1-5 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/events/lansing-area-csa-fair.

Euchre - 6 p.m. Esquire Bar, 1250 Turner St., Lansing. 517-487-5338.

See Events, Page 25

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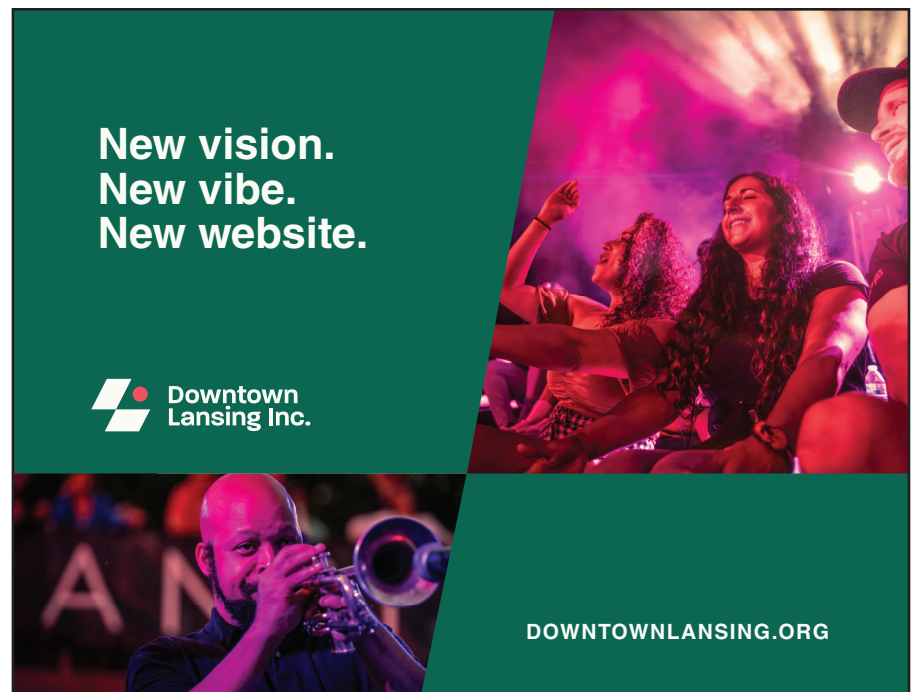
Closed Monday -- call for tours: 517-908-9950

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Events

from page 24

GLAD Drum Circle - All ages and experience levels welcome. 2-4 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-803-2392. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

Ingham Festival Chorale Spring Concert: "Day Is Breaking" - Presenting a wide range of works, from Brahms, Rossini and Puccini to contemporary works by Derrick Fox, Craig Hella Johnson and Shawn Kirchner. 4 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/inghamfestivalchoralemi.

Lansing Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Ten-week program. Ages 12-17. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Let's Dance: Square Dance Workshop - Wear comfortable shoes and clothes you can easily move in. Ages 7+. 1:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

"Moulin Rouge! The Musical" - 1 and 6:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Red Cedar Quaker Friends Worship - 10:30 a.m. 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org/join-us-for-worship/.

"Twelve Powers": The Power of Wisdom, with LuAnne Champion - Champion will explore "WISDOM" as one of the "Twelve Powers." 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

Monday, April 8

Ballet II for kids - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Best Newborn Care class - Learn everything you need to know about taking care of and feeding your newborn from professional childbirth educators and infant feeding specialists. 6 p.m. Willow Tree Family Center, 1141 N. Pine St., Lansing. 517-887-7000. epobaby.org.

Burger Night - Choice of hamburger, cheeseburger or olive burger, plus fries. Dine in or take out. \$8. 5-7 p.m. Columbus Hall, 5300 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing. 517-321-2209.

Con Amore: Puccini and More - Experience operatic works and arias by Puccini and other great composers. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Eclipse Livestream Viewing - Come to the library to view the eclipse and make some crafts. 1 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.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz Dance Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jump Into Reading - Join Ms. Erin for stories, songs, activities and therapy dogs. Ages 0-5 with caregivers. 11 a.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

LIBRARY BOARD - 7 p.m. City Hall, 114 S. Woodhull Road, Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

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.

Tuesday, April 9

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

"Minecraft" Mania! - An evening of fun and friendly competition. We'll have our "Minecraft" server set up and laptops ready to go. 6-8 p.m.

See Events, Page 26

Does everything feel just a little too real?



Sometimes the world is overwhelming.

We're here for you when it is.

Call 517-394-3560 to schedule an appointment.*



LAAN
Lansing Area AIDS Network
IN MEMORY & IN HOPE

*Services available to LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, couples, & families, & to those who are HIV+ & their loved ones.



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Events

from page 25

Mosaic and Singing Spartans - Mosaic performs contemporary treble choral music, while the Singing Spartans explore tenor and bass music. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

"Moulin Rouge! The Musical" - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

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.

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, April 10

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

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.

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

Capital City Film Festival 2024 - Annual festival showcasing an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive media and more in Michigan's capital city. For schedule, visit capitalcity-filmfest.com/schedule.

Coffee and Conversation - Join us to learn about Chamber of Commerce members. 9 a.m. City Hall Community Room, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge. grandledgechamber.com/coffee_and_conversation.php.

"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.

Future Folders - We'll provide an accordion file folder for you to decorate and label, plus a list of the important documents you might need to start saving as you become an adult! Grades 4-12. 4 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz Dance Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

See Events, Page 28



ShesUnCovered Spring Charity Gala

Saturday, April 6

7 p.m.

Turner-Dodge House
100 E. North St., Lansing

ShesUnCovered, a Lansing-based nonprofit that supports women and girls struggling with hair loss, will hold its annual Spring Charity Gala 7 p.m. Saturday (April 6) at the Turner-Dodge House. Hosted by Ebony Jean, a Michigan-based alopecia advocate and beauty influencer, this year's festivities will include live music, dancing and hors d'oeuvres.

ShesUnCovered plans to use the funds it raises to offer monthly support group sessions, give away free wigs and continue to support women and girls impacted by hair loss in Greater Lansing. The organization also offers confidence coaching, connections to mental health resources and wig consultations.

"Many of the women and girls dealing with hair loss experience depression, self-loathing, hopelessness, loneliness and even suicidal thoughts," ShesUnCovered founder Nekeyta Brunson said. "We are committed to helping these women and girls realize their worth and value beyond hair."

Individual tickets are \$60, and a package of two tickets is \$80. To reserve tickets, visit eventbrite.com/o/shesuncovered-11380224819.

A WIN-WIN

The next pet adoption ad appears
April 17th.

Call by April 11th to be included.

For 20 years, City Pulse has donated hundreds of dollars a year to the Ingham County Animal Shelter thanks to pet adoption ads sponsored by our readers. Thank you!

Won't you join them in 2024? An ad is \$35, and \$6 goes to the shelter so it can do its important work in placing dogs and cats in permanent homes.



Please help City Pulse help the Ingham County Animal Shelter. Call Publisher Berl Schwartz at (517) 999-5061 or email him at publisher@lansingcitypulse.com with "pet adoption" in the subject line. You'll be helping City Pulse and the shelter at the same time.

**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
FY2024, 7/1/2024 – 6/30/25
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLACE: Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers,
10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI

DATE/TIME: Monday, April 15th, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing to solicit public input on the proposed funding allocations for the City of Lansing's FY 2024 Annual Action Plan which covers the time period July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, HOME AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAMS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY'S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION FOR FY 2024 (7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025)

PLEASE NOTE – Entitlement Grant Awards for FY 2024 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025) have not been announced by HUD as of the date of this publication. Amounts proposed herein for FY 2024 CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are based on prior year entitlement awards. If the grant amounts HUD actually awards to the City of Lansing for CDBG, HOME and ESG are different from the amounts shown above, pro-rata adjustments will be made to the budget amounts proposed for each activity.

Further information regarding this issue, Barb Kimmel, Development Manager, Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Avenue, Suite D-1, Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 483-4053 or barb.kimmel@lansingmi.gov

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in these meetings should contact the City Council Office at 517-483-4177 (TDD (517) 483-4479) 24-hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.

If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., before 5 p.m. on the day of the Public Hearing, at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

**SUMMARY OF
FY 2024 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN
FOR THE CITY OF LANSING, MI
DRAFT MARCH 5, 2024**

Background

The City of Lansing's federal Annual Action Plan (AAP) details the funding strategy for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs each year. The Annual Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2024 for the City of Lansing has been prepared in response to a consolidated process developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) program. The Annual Action Plan is a document for the City, which outlines how program funds will be expended during the funding cycle, and it provides a basis for assessing performance. The 2024 Annual Action Plan directs funds primarily toward meeting the national objective of benefiting low/moderate-income persons.

The City of Lansing anticipates an *estimated* funding allocation of \$2,070,597 in CDBG funding, \$833,394 in HOME funding and \$181,593 in ESG funding for the 2024 program year which begins on July 1.

Proposed Project Allocations

The projects listed herein are based on an *estimated* funding allocation and are subject to change when the Department of Housing and Urban Development releases the final allocation amounts (expected in March 2024). The funding estimates are based on previous allocations over the last five years. The City is proposing to fund the following projects during the 2024 program year (July 1 – June 30):

Project Name	Estimated Funding Amount	Project Description
Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$1,434,121	Loans and grants for rehabilitation and Emergency Repair of owner-occupied housing units through city sponsored programs, and rehabilitation in conjunction with affordable housing efforts sponsored by nonprofit housing corporations, public and private developers, and other state and federal agencies, as well as lead hazard reduction, emergency housing rehabilitation, technical assistance to nonprofit housing corporations, ADA ramps, and hazard remediation.
Rental Unit Rehabilitation	CDBG: \$480,768	Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of rental housing units through city sponsored programs. Includes funds to meet healthy housing standards and/or lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures.
Blight Removal	CDBG: \$1,000	Includes acquisition, maintenance and security of properties acquired through programs, and activities related to acquisition, disposition, relocation, and clearance of dilapidated and blighted structures. Funds may also be used to acquire and clear properties in the flood plain. Includes staff time associated with this activity.
Public Services (limited to 15%)	CDBG: \$310,589	Includes services for low- and moderate-income individuals such as: education, youth and senior programs, neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, home repair classes. Services are for low- and moderate-income individuals and/or those in CDBG-eligible areas located within the Lansing city limits.
Economic Development & Business Technical Assistance	CDBG: \$30,000	Loans, technical assistance, and training to low- and moderate-income owners of and persons developing micro-enterprises within or planning to locate within the Lansing city limits. Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, and façade improvement loans/grants. Creation of jobs to benefit low and moderate-income city of Lansing residents. Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, façade improvement loans/grants, market analysis, business promotion, referrals for the attraction of new business and expansion of existing business within CDBG-eligible areas of Lansing.
CDBG General Administration (limited to 20%)	CDBG: \$414,119	Includes staff and other costs associated with preparation of required Consolidated Planning documents, environmental clearances, fair housing activities and citizen participation activities associated with the delivery of CDBG, HOME and other state and federal programs. Includes planning and general administration costs associated with delivery of CDBG and other state and federal programs. Includes indirect administrative costs and building rent paid to the city.
Down Payment Assistance	HOME: \$100,000	Funds provided to homebuyers for down payment and closing costs for purchase of a single-family home located within the Lansing city limits. Up to \$15,000 will be available as a 0% interest second mortgage for homebuyers with income at or below 80% of median income. Assistance limited to first-time homebuyers. May include staff time and/or homeownership counseling fees associated with this activity.

CP#24-457 from Page 27

Homeowner Housing Construction and Rehabilitation	HOME: \$508,377	Includes funds for loans and grants for housing construction and rehabilitation with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs. HOME funds allocated for housing developed in partnership with the city, including Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Acquisition, Development and Resale (ADR) activities. Projects may include new construction and rehabilitation activities with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs. Funds may be used for staff time associated with these activities.
CHDO Set-Aside (15% minimum required)	HOME: \$125,009	Reserved for housing developed, sponsored, or owned by CHDOs in partnership with the city.
CHDO Operating (limited to 5%)	HOME: \$41,669	Funds reserved at option of the City to provide operating funds to CHDO's utilizing the City's HOME funds to produce affordable housing in the community.
HOME General Administration (limited to 10%)	HOME: \$83,339	Includes staff and general administration costs to deliver the HOME program.
Street Outreach	ESG: \$5,448	Street Outreach activities.
Homeless Prevention	ESG: \$59,926	Homeless Prevention activities.
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	ESG: \$5,448	Funds will be provided for HMIS and comparable database costs.
Shelter Operation	ESG: \$98,060	Funds provided to shelter providers to cover cost of maintenance, operations, insurance, utilities, and furnishings in shelter facilities.
ESG General Administration (limited to 7.5%)	ESG: \$12,711	Funds to offset the cost of administering emergency solutions grant program.

Public Process

The City of Lansing will provide a public notice on March 13, 2024, advertising a 30-day public comment period starting on **March 14, 2024**, and ending on **April 15, 2024**. Additionally, The City of Lansing is holding two public hearings for the above proposed project allocations on **Wednesday, March 5, 2024** at the City Planning Board meeting, and again prior to final adoption on **Monday, May 6, 2024** with the City Council.

Copies of the Annual Action Plan draft will be available for public review at the following locations:
The City of Lansing website: <https://www.lansingmi.gov/301/Documents-Resources>

1. City of Lansing, Lansing City Clerk's Office
124 W. Michigan Ave., 9th Floor, Lansing MI 48933
2. City of Lansing Development Office

316 N. Capitol Ave, Suite D-1, Lansing, MI 48933

Copies will be available beginning on **March 14, 2024**. Written comments on the above projects and proposed allocations will be received through before 5 p.m. on the day of the Public Hearing.

The City will provide technical assistance to citizens and groups representative of persons of low and moderate income that request such assistance in the review of program activities and program amendments. In addition, the City will make adequate and reasonable provisions to assist non-English speaking residents in interpreting program opportunities and provisions on a case-by-case basis, as well as provide auxiliary aides and services for individuals with disabilities.

Kitty Donohoe

Sunday, April 7
3 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
218 W. Ottawa St., Lansing

Ann Arbor-based singer-songwriter Kitty Donohoe will visit Lansing 3 p.m. Sunday (April 7) for a performance at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, across the street from the Capitol. The performance is free and open to all ages, with free parking available at the Roosevelt Parking Ramp northwest of the church.

Donohoe grew up as part of a large Irish family in Royal Oak, where she "started making up songs and playing the piano at a young age," according to her website. She picked up the guitar in high school and went on to master the cittern, a Renaissance-era instrument that resembles a large mandolin. She continues to play all three instruments, blending classical Irish sounds with contemporary pop and folk sensibilities. In her downtime, she also writes children's books.

For more information about the event, which promises to be "a relaxing afternoon of wonderful music and storytelling," according to the church, visit facebook.com/StPaulsLansing.



Events

from page 26

Lansing Junior Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Ten-week program. Ages 12-17. 6-8 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Meet the Author: Anne Curzan - Meet University of Michigan Professor and Michigan Public radio contributor Anne Curzan and hear about her newest book, "Says Who?" 7 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. hookedlansing.com.

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. lamc.info.

"Moulin Rouge! The Musical" - 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

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.

GCFF Opening Night Feature: CAMP RICSTAR - Documentary highlighting the camp of the same name that takes place in East Lansing each summer. Q&A with cast and crew to follow. 8:30 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. capitalcityfilmfest.com.

Swing Dance - Three jazz orchestras perform swing music and works from the repertoire of the great jazz masters. 7:30 p.m. Murray Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Tap II Class - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Weaving the Web: Manifestation - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, April 11

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

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Become a Citizen Scientist! - No matter what your interests are, find out how you can be a part of thousands of important research projects. Ages 12+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 22

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SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 22

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7	5	9	2	3	1	6	4	8

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Stateside's breakfast menu boasts a bangin' Benny

By LIZY FERGUSON

It's strange to discover that, in the area you've lived all your life, the breakfast you've been searching for has been waiting for you just across town. I knew Stateside Deli offered breakfast in addition to its gargantuan New York deli-style sandwiches, but I figured it was more of an afterthought. I'd heard good things about the quality, but I didn't imagine it would have many options beyond the most standard breakfast selections. Thankfully, my endless quest for a satisfying and stimulating breakfast took me to Okemos to prove myself wrong.

After perusing the vast and varied menu, I was torn between the eggs Benedict and the lox platter, so I compromised by getting the Benny but swapping out the Canadian bacon for Nova Scotia lox. Writing this review prompted me to look up how this brined salmon got its name, so

here it is: Lox comes from the Yiddish word "laks," which means — you guessed it — salmon. Jewish immigrants in New York City brought their traditional foodways with them, which eventually ended up in Jewish-owned and operated delicatessens that popularized and proliferated the glorious combination of bagels, cream cheese and lox, among so many other delicious things, many of which can be found on Stateside's menu.

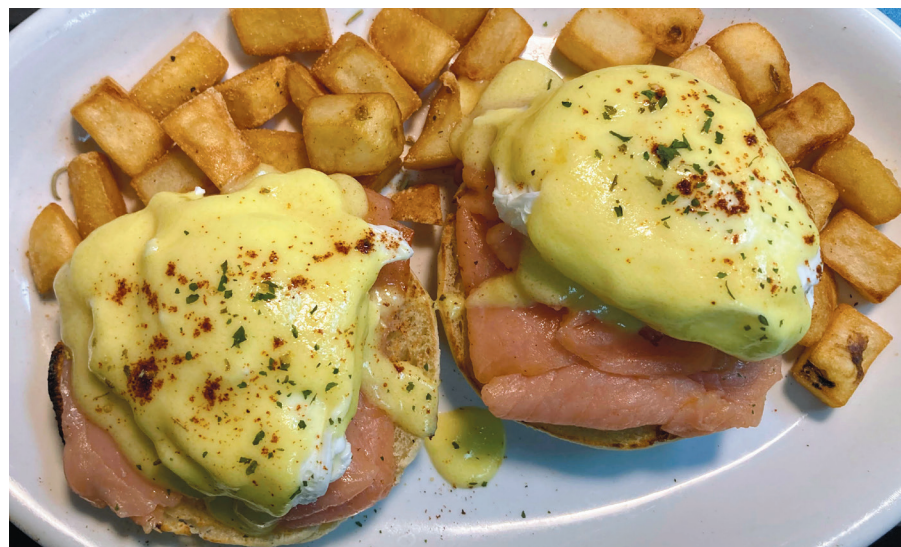
The lox was a \$4 upcharge but well worth it, working beautifully on Stateside's Benny. Resting upon halves of an impressively large English muffin, the salmon's silky texture contrasted nicely with the muffin's crispy, crunchy edges and blended with the runny egg yolk to create a melt-in-your-mouth situation at the center. Speaking of eggs, these ones were perfectly poached and laden with a generous portion of hollandaise. Due to its finicky nature, I find hol-



Eggs Benedict with lox \$19

Stateside Deli & Restaurant
3552 Meridian Crossing
Drive, Okemos
8 a.m.-4 p.m. daily
(517) 853-1100
statesidedeli.com

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Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

Stateside Deli's eggs Benedict comprises two halves of an English muffin topped with perfectly poached eggs and creamy, rich hollandaise sauce, but Lizy Ferguson suggests swapping the Canadian bacon for lox.

landaise quite intimidating, so I'm always impressed when it's done as well as Stateside's. The creaminess was perfectly balanced with the acidity of the lemon, light as air but still satisfyingly rich.

The Benny came with a side of rosemary home fries, which could have used a tad more rosemary and been

a little more rough-cut and "homey" for my taste, but they still offered a nice, crispy accompaniment. I look forward to an inevitable return visit to try the bagel served with the lox platter, enjoy some fantastic coffee and think about what other restaurants might have a section of their menu that needs exploring.

I'm just here for the palak paneer

By ARI LEVAUX

I've been celebrating the arrival of spring with ample helpings of palak paneer, an Indian dish of spinach and homemade cheese. The spinach sauce, supercharged with ginger, serrano peppers and Indian spices, holds the understated cheese in its green embrace, creating a dramatic, edible contrast. It's truly amazing how much spinach you can make disappear by cooking it this way.

Frozen spinach is in season, too, as food processors clear freezer space to accommodate the new crop and liquidate last year's leftovers. Although I don't usually buy frozen vegetables, I decided to try some of the frozen spinach on sale at my local supermarket.

Standing in the frozen food section, I shook a bag of spinach and could feel a loose mass of irregularly shaped material inside. I imagined ice crystals and freezer-burnt spinach and did not feel good about it. But I've heard freezer technology has come a long way in recent years. To cap it off, the recipe I was using called for frozen spinach. I didn't chicken out. At home, I was rewarded with bright green, frost-free nuggets of rolled spinach.

Palak paneer is often mistaken for saag paneer, a popular dish at Indian restaurants. The difference is that saag paneer can contain mustard, radish and turnip greens, while palak paneer contains only spinach.

It's a dish you'll find anywhere in India, which means there are variations.

Of those I've tried, my favorite comes from the blog Feasting at Home. It uses cashews, which add a subtle but rich creaminess, and calls for frozen spinach — but notes you can also use fresh.

So, if you're inundated with more spinach than you can handle, go for it. While you're at it, make a big batch and freeze the leftovers, with or without cheese, for later. But if your spinach supply is limited, save the fresh spinach for raw use and make palak paneer with frozen spinach.

Paneer, aka Indian cheese, is delicious and surprisingly easy to make. You get a grapefruit-sized ball of paneer



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Palak paneer, an Indian dish of spinach and homemade cheese, is so flavorful that it requires neither condiments nor garnishes.

from a gallon of milk. Press it into a disc and then cut it into cubes, which some cooks fry in ghee, or clarified butter, be-

See Flash, Page 30

Flash

from page 29

fore adding to the palak. Whether or not to fry the paneer cubes is a personal choice. A certain innocence is lost, but a distinct crunchiness is gained.

Unfried paneer is softer and decidedly creamier than its fried counterpart and blends blissfully with the creamy spinach sauce, unhindered by hard boundaries. The fried cheese, meanwhile, is stiffer, nuttier and sweeter, like a dense, chewy mascarpone with a thin exoskeleton.

I've modified the recipe, as I'm sure the blog's author, Sylvia Fountaine, did with the original recipe she found. Compliments to whoever thought to add the cashews.

Palak paneer

This flavor-packed dish needs no condiment or garnish and is lovely atop jasmine or basmati rice. For a vegan version, substitute tofu for the cheese and oil for the ghee. Skipping the cheese makes the preparation much simpler and faster.

Paneer:

1 gallon milk
6 tablespoons vinegar
mixed with 2 cups water
1/2 teaspoon salt
Cheesecloth

Palak:

5 tablespoons ghee
1 onion, minced
2 serrano peppers, chopped
2 garlic cloves, chopped
2 tablespoons chopped
ginger root
2 teaspoons cumin
2 teaspoons coriander
1 teaspoon mustard seeds
2 teaspoons garam masala
1 pound spinach, fresh or
frozen
3/4 cup yogurt
1/2 cup cashews

Pour the milk into a thick-bottomed pot. Heat on medium, frequently scouring the bottom of the pot with a rubber spatula to prevent buildup. When the milk is foaming and about to boil, about 20 minutes, turn off the heat and allow it to sit for 10 minutes.

Add the salt and vinegar water a splash at a time in as dispersed a manner as possible, stirring the pot in a slow circle. It should take about two minutes

to sprinkle in all the vinegar. Try not to break up the large curds that form.

Let the mixture cool to room temperature. As it cools, it will separate. You can ladle yourself a cup of curds and whey, a soothing and satisfying snack.

Lay a double layer of cheesecloth over a colander and set it over a pot or bowl. Carefully pour the curds through the cheesecloth, then pull the corners together and use them to tie up the hunk of cheese. Let it drain for an hour, then untie it and press it between two plates with a weight on top, draining the water that squeezes out. Save the whey for ricotta cheese or homemade protein powder or whatever else you fancy.

While the cheese presses, toast the mustard, cumin and coriander seeds on medium heat for four minutes. Add 3 tablespoons of ghee and the garam masala, onions, garlic, ginger and serranos. When the onions are translucent, about 12 minutes, add the spinach and a cup of water. Cook briefly, uncovered, until the spinach collapses. Frozen spinach, meanwhile, only has to melt.

Blend the cashews, yogurt and

spinach mixture in a blender.

Cut the disc of cheese into cubes. If you wish, fry the cubes in a tablespoon of ghee until brown on all sides. Heat the palak in a pan, diluting it with a little water if it's too thick. Add the cheese cubes and let them heat up with the spinach.



Parks & Recreation's Summer Camp is back! All four of community centers to include Gier, Foster, Schmidt, and Letts will be ready to go for campers with dates June 17th through August 9th.

Cost is \$80 per camper/\$85 non-resident each week, 7:45am-6pm, at our four community centers located throughout Lansing. Breakfast and lunch will be provided by Sodexo catering services. Spots fill up quick, registration for residents starts 4/8 and non-residents 4/15, at parksonline.lansingmi.gov!

parksonline.lansingmi.gov
lansingmi.gov/parks

[lansingparksandrecreation](https://www.facebook.com/lansingparksandrecreation)
[lansingparksandrec](https://www.instagram.com/lansingparksandrec)



Eagle Township, Clinton County Board Meeting Synopsis

March 21, 2024, at 6 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Trustee Strahle, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee M. Hoppes and 30 citizens.

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved bills for March 2024.
- 2) Approved redirecting ARPA funds to a fire truck for the Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority.
- 3) Approved sending a letter to Clinton County regarding redirection of ARPA funds.
- 4) Approved reimbursement for meals purchased for the Board of Review.
- 5) Adopted a lawyer policy.
- 6) Approved updated assessor At-Will Employment Agreement through March 31, 2028.
- 7) Approved contract for re-appraisal services through March 31, 2028.
- 8) Approved Account Engagement proposal for accountant services.
- 9) Adopted Interim Zoning Ordinance Amendment Ordinance 02-2024.
- 10) Approved a contribution to the Tri-County Metro Narcotics Unit.
- 11) Approved a contribution to the Clinton County Historical Society.
- 12) Approved following the current Board Policy for stipends for annual communication and copy expenses for FY 23-24.
- 13) Approved renewing Michigan Township Association Premium Pass training subscription for FY 24-25.
- 14) Approved paying an invoice for township hall maintenance services.

Board Meeting Budget Workshop Synopsis

March 21, 2024, at 9:56 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Trustee Strahle, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee M. Hoppes and 5 citizens.

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved budget amendment for North Eagle Cemetery expenses for FY 23-24.
- 2) Approved budget amendment for General Funds Board of Review expenses for FY 23-24.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is April 18, 2024, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownship.org for latest updates.

Prepared by: Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Eagle Township Clerk
Approved by: Troy Stroud, Eagle Township Supervisor

CP#24-461



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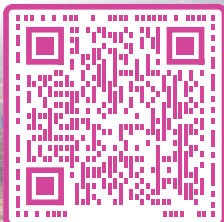
PRESENTS

420 BLOCK PARTY

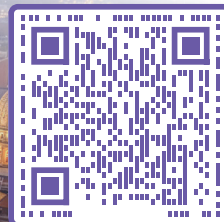
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WARNING: USE BY PREGNANT OR BREASTFEEDING WOMEN, OR BY WOMEN PLANNING TO BECOME PREGNANT, MAY RESULT IN FETAL INJURY, PRETERM BIRTH, LOW BIRTH WEIGHT, OR DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS FOR THE CHILD.

As far back as we can remember,

Jeffrey Brown's always wanted to be a

Grifter

Lansing City Councilman Jeffrey Brown isn't a **Goodfella.**

Jeffrey Brown: **Grifter?**

- Lansing City Council ordered Brown to take ethics training after he allegedly pressured developers and the Lansing Housing Commission to make rent payments for friends.
- Brown owed more than \$45,000 in unpaid wages to employees of the non-profit The Inspiration Center.
- Brown's 2015 bankruptcy revealed \$23,000 in unpaid taxes.
- While Brown stiffed workers and evaded taxes, he borrowed \$35,000 to buy a Cadillac. He wouldn't even make the payments. The car was repossessed and a local credit union sued him for \$20,000 he still owed.

For Jeffrey Brown, City Council isn't an opportunity to serve Lansing.

It's like a license to steal. It's a license to do anything.

Lansing deserves better.