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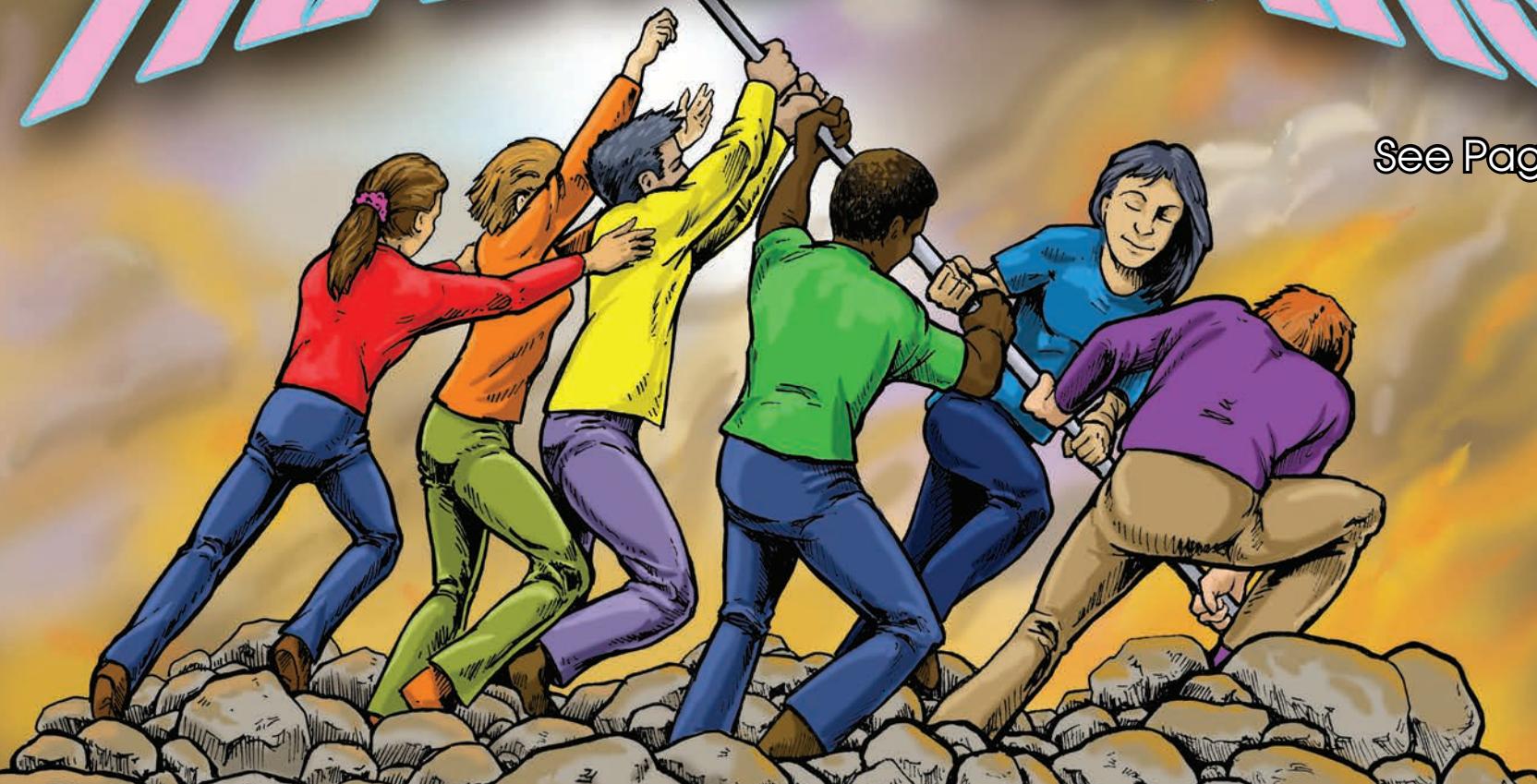
CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us.

April 27- May 3, 2022

TRANS WARS

See Page 13



ABOOD
 LAW FIRM 1956
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sidebar
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 East Lansing



Absolute GALLERY

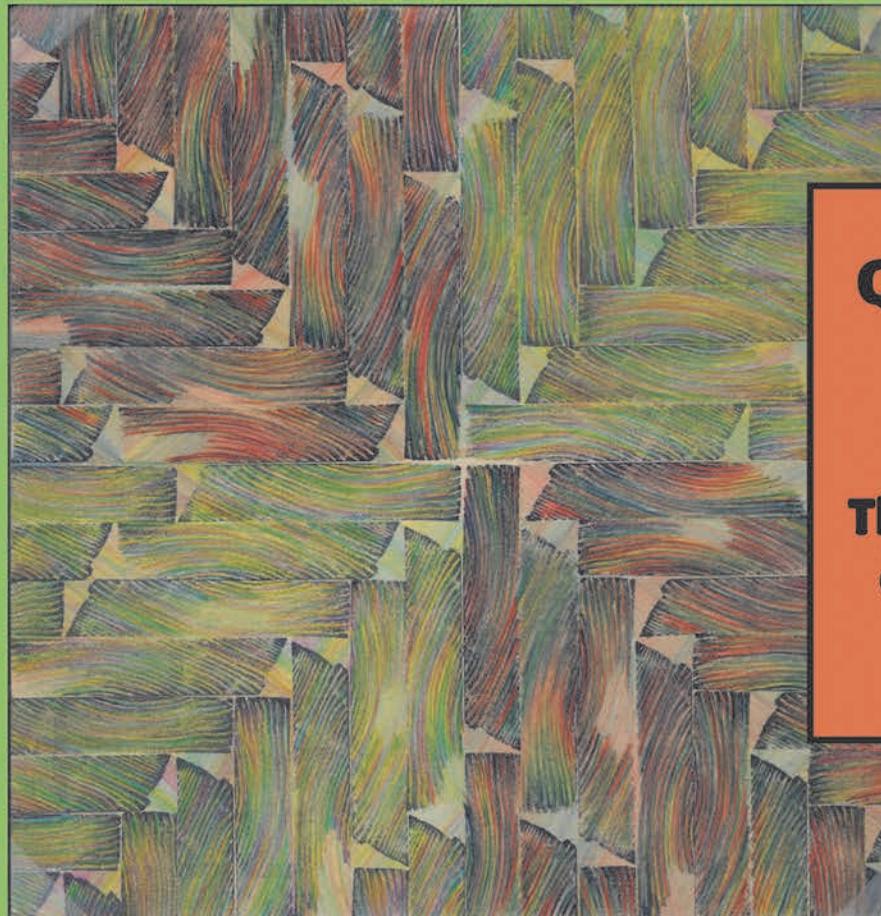
AND CUSTOM FRAMING

Mother's Day is Sunday,
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Old Town
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5-8 PM



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. BRENDA JONES-HARDEN

Children and Families Expert



Dr. Brenda Jones-Harden is the Alison Richman Professor for Children and Families, at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. She directs the Prevention and Early Adversity Research Laboratory, where she and her research team examine the developmental and mental health needs of young children who have experienced early adversity and toxic stress, particularly those who have been maltreated, are in foster

care, or have experienced other forms of trauma. A particular focus is preventing maladaptive outcomes in these populations through early childhood programs. She has conducted numerous evaluations of such programs, including early care and education, home visiting services, parenting interventions, and infant mental health programs. Dr. Jones-Harden is a scientist-practitioner who uses research to improve the quality

and effectiveness of child and family services and to inform child and family policy, especially in the area of child welfare. She is currently the Vice President of the Board at Zero to Three, and serves on various federal, state, and local advisory boards. She received a PhD in developmental and clinical psychology from Yale University and a Master's in Social Work from New York University.

CityPULSE

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Slain man's mother counters Pulse editorial.

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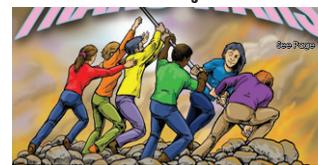
Lansing's new poet laureate making moves.

PAGE 11



MSU's student jazz orchestra makes it 'there.'

PAGE 17



Cover by Nevin Speerbrecker

Cover Art

Highly Selective Health Nuts

MANY ON THE RIGHT ARE INTO "HEALTHY LIFESTYLES"—WITH SOME CONTRADICTIONS.

I ONLY EAT ORGANIC.

AND I HATE ENVIRONMENTALISTS.

I DON'T TRUST MAINSTREAM MEDICINE OR BIG PHARMA BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL ABOUT PROFITS.

ALPHA BOAR PLUS

NAD ZAPPER 9000

UNLIKE THESE PRODUCTS, WHICH EXIST SOLELY FOR THE GOOD OF HUMANITY.

I LIFT TO MAKE MY BODY STRONG SO I CAN DEFEND MYSELF.

I ALSO OPPOSE MASKS, SEAT BELTS, HELMETS, GUN CONTROL, SPEED LIMITS, HEALTHCARE REFORM, AND SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR KIDS.

IT'S ALL ABOUT INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY!

I DON'T WORRY ABOUT POLLUTION SINCE I'M DOING A KOLA NUT CLEANSE.

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on the **AIR**

NOW AT 10:00 A.M.
SUNDAYS on

WDBM
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN TO CHECK IN ON...

PARALLEL EARTH

A WORLD VERY MUCH LIKE OUR OWN--YET STRANGELY DIFFERENT!

PARALLEL DONALD TRUMP TOOK THE PANDEMIC SERIOUSLY FROM THE VERY START.

WE'RE AT FIFTEEN CASES NOW-- BUT THIS THING COULD EASILY SPREAD EXPONENTIALLY! WE'VE GOT TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES-- AND I DON'T GIVE A DAMN IF IT COSTS ME POLITICALLY!

ONCE IT BECAME CLEAR THAT WIDESPREAD MASKING WOULD HELP MITIGATE THE VIRUS, HE LED BY EXAMPLE.

I DON'T LIKE THEM EITHER--LOOK AT HOW THEY SMEAR MY MAKEUP! BUT I'M NOT GOING TO PRIORITIZE VANITY OVER BASIC HUMAN DECENCY! WHAT KIND OF MONSTER WOULD DO THAT?

GIVEN HIS COMPETENT STEWARDSHIP, PARALLEL REPUBLICANS HAD NO REASON TO FEEL DEFENSIVE--AND COVID NEVER BECAME THE FOCUS OF AN IDEOLOGICAL PROXY WAR.

I THINK YOU'RE A COMPLETE IDIOT WHOSE POLICY PREFERENCES WOULD DESTROY PARALLEL AMERICA!

LIKewise! BUT AT LEAST WE CAN AGREE ON THE NEED TO CONTAIN A RAMPAGING VIRUS!

ABSOLUTELY! WE'RE NOT BARBARIANS!

PARALLEL AMERICANS ACCEPTED THE MINOR INCONVENIENCE AND WENT ON WITH THEIR LIVES.

WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE REALITY OF EMERGING VARIANTS! NOT TO MENTION THE DANGER TO IMMUNOCOMPROMISED PEOPLE AND CHILDREN!

YES, OBVIOUSLY. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU EVEN SAID THOSE WORDS!

AND OF COURSE, THEY CONTINUED TO WEAR MASKS ON AIRPLANES WITHOUT COMPLAINT.

CAN YOU IMAGINE SPENDING HOURS JAMMED INTO A CONFINED METAL TUBE WITH HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE-- WITHOUT WEARING A MASK?

WHO WOULD EVER BE SO THOUGHTLESS? WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS, EARTH PRIME?

THOSE PEOPLE ARE LUNATICS!

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Ingham County jail struggling with healthcare ‘crisis’

Medical administrator quitting — cites ‘big risk’ for inmates

A growing backlog of several dozen inmate medical evaluations and an in-house skeletal staff unable to adequately tend to inmates’ needs are creating some “big risks” at the Ingham County Jail, according to its top healthcare administrator, who plans to quit the job in June.

“You will not have a provider. You will not have an administrator. You’re lacking three nurses. You’re lacking a medical assistant. We have a list of 67 patients who have not been seen yet. That’s a big risk,” the administrator, Kelli Zurek, explained to the Law & Courts Committee of the Ingham County Board of Commissioners two weeks ago. “They’re just not getting seen because we don’t have the staff to do it. Every day, there are complaints about them not being seen. It’s really very unsettling.”

The medical division of the jail, an arm of the county Health Department, is in place to evaluate all incoming inmates and acts as the de facto urgent care clinic for an average of 380 prisoners. Its employees treat inmates’ acute health issues and longer-term conditions, as well as dispense medication at least twice daily and coordinate whether more specialized treatment may be needed at an off-site health care facility.

And over the last few years and particularly the last several months, those responsibilities have been growing much more difficult to manage amid a staffing shortage at the jail, Zurek said.

As of last week, well more than half of the health care personnel at the jail quit — leaving Zurek’s usual 14-person staff down to just five employees with nine vacancies, and sending the Board of Commissioners into a scramble to fix the situation.

The 60- and 70-hour weeks Zurek has been forced work to fill the gap is part of the reason she’s leaving the job, she explained.

In total, the jail is down by one provider, a full-time dentist, one health services administrator, three nurses, two medical assistants and one medication associate to help distribute pills. And that means inmates’ medical needs simply aren’t being handled in a timely fashion — if at all.

“I don’t know what else to say except



Courtesy

Kelli Zurek, the healthcare administrator at the Ingham County Jail (far left), said she is resigning from the job June 3, in part because her office cannot recruit and retain enough employees to provide medical evaluations and adequate treatment for hundreds of inmates.

that this jail medical system cannot run like this. It cannot function. Something is going to happen. Something is really going to happen, and we don’t have the staff to fix any emergencies,” Zurek said. “Please consider these inmates. These inmates are people. They need healthcare, and they’re not getting the healthcare they need right now.”

Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth, as well as his father and former Sheriff Gene Wriggelsworth, have been sounding alarms about the slipshod staffing conditions of the jail’s medical system for decades. Scott Wriggelsworth again urged commissioners last week to find solutions to fix the problem quickly or risk jeopardizing the health of hundreds of inmates.

“The jail medical clinic that facilitates inmate healthcare needs help right now, today. In a short time and without immediate help, the clinic won’t even be consistently staffed Monday through Friday,” Wriggelsworth said. “We have to have a plan for what we know will happen in just a few short weeks. When I speak to

other sheriffs, they’re shocked at our current setup.”

Ingham County is the only one of Michigan’s 83 counties that operates its correctional health care through its Health Department rather than the Sheriff’s Department or a third-party firm.

Health Officer Linda Vail said the current arrangement was formed in 2007 in response to an administrative hiccup

that involved inmates erroneously retaining medical coverage after their release — a mistake that ultimately cost the county a “significant” amount of money, she said.

But that solution hasn’t been without challenges. Former Sheriff Gene Wriggelsworth raised issues with the setup in 2011, then pushing the county to solicit bids from outside firms to take over the job. Intimidated by the price tag for those medical services, however, the Commission has now twice decided to stick with the Health Department over finding an alternative system.

And ever since, “chronic understaffing

and staff retention, as well as the extensive oversight to support day-to-day operations” has posed a growing challenge inside the jail, Vail explained.

“This has been an ongoing issue for more than a decade,” Vail said. “We have points in time where the staff builds up and goes back down. That’s not unusual in a jail medical situation, but what we’re doing right now just isn’t sustainable. We hire them. They stay here for a while. They resign. I wouldn’t call it a crisis, but it’s a longstanding issue that really needs to be fixed.”

Staffing shortages in the healthcare industry aren’t a new phenomenon in Lansing, especially after the pandemic’s arrival, Vail said. But even after ratcheting up paychecks for in-house medical personnel last year, the jail has still struggled to retain a stable roster of trained talent.

“An outside entity would have pools of people they can draw from to fill vacancies. At the Health Department, we don’t have pools of nurses we can shuffle to the jail,” Vail said. “We’ve had thin spots like this in the past, and it’s always the same takeaway: This model is not sustainable.”

A report presented to the Commission last week took Vail’s assessment a step farther.

Officials at Jensen Partners — which was paid a total of \$53,100 to review medical staffing at the jail and make recommendations on future models of care — labeled the situation as both an “emergency” and a “crisis” that requires some immediate intervention before it gets even worse.

“I think we’re really sorry that you’re in this situation, which is a crisis,” said Dr. Ken Bellian, a top executive at Jensen Partners. “I mean, right now you have 38% of your budgeted positions actually on site to take care of patients. It’s just not adequate for people who need health care.”

Bellian said an average of 10 inmates arrive at the jail in Mason daily and stay for about a month — with some who check out the same day and others who stay there several months.

State accreditation standards require every inmate to be medically evaluated within 14 days, Bellian said. But because the skeleton crew can’t see enough pa-

See Jail, Page 6

“When I speak to other sheriffs, they’re shocked at our current setup.” — Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth

Jail

from page 5

tients, a backlog has been growing for weeks — including a list of at least 80 inmates who have specifically requested but have not yet been able to receive medical assistance for several issues, Zurek said last week.

“That’s the problem right now: You don’t have enough throughput with the staff you have today,” Bellian added. “It’s a large population and there aren’t enough employees to tackle the backup.”

Bellian also pitched a “preferred” model of care to the board last week that would involve filling all nine vacancies and then hiring another eight employees in order to provide 24-hour service. Even with a full staff, the standards of medical treatment at the jail are “antiquated,” he said.

That new model would also allow the jail to incorporate more telehealth options rather than calling ambulances to take inmates to hospitals and clinics for

specialized care, he explained.

Wrigglesworth said the staffing situation forced his deputies off the road to handle more than 200 inmate transports last year, taking a total of more than 3,300 hours in staff time.

“It’s not fair to my guys. It’s not fair to the people who work in the clinic. It’s not fair to the inmates who find themselves inside the facility — especially because they don’t have a choice,” he said. “Inmates are getting seen, it’s just not operating like it should. That causes problems.”

Commissioners Mark Grebner and Randy Schafer, who have spent nearly a cumulative century serving on the Board of Commissioners, also expressed concerns about the extent to which the county would be liable if the problem remained unchecked and an inmate were to die.

“The nature of this crisis is that we’re putting inmates’ health and lives at risk,” Grebner said. “There are lots of standards of medical care, but the standard that really matters is called ‘depraved indifference to human life.’ That’s what triggers seven- and eight-figure judgments.”

Commissioner Mark Polsdofer described the current staffing situation as “bordering inhumane.”

Added Commissioner Randy Maiville: “We don’t need another opportunity for Geoffrey Fieger to file a lawsuit against Ingham County, and I’m starting to sense that we’re getting close to that.”

A resolution that was set to be approved on Tuesday night (April 26) after City Pulse’s print deadline will give County Controller Gregg Todd a greenlight to contract with an outside agency to get the jail staffed — and quickly. Todd said he hasn’t finalized the plans for that stop-gap solution, but he has only mentioned one potential arrangement by name: And it’s with Sparrow Health System.

Todd said that a potential “public-private partnership” between Sparrow Health Systems (and its staffing agency Vituity) could help temporarily re-staff the jail while the county solicits bids for longer term models. Those could also include a permanent partnership with Sparrow or Vituity.

Todd also floated the idea of hiring an outside firm that specializes entirely in jail healthcare, but several commissioners said they’d prefer pursuing an arrangement with a trusted, local partner. Officials at Sparrow Health System didn’t respond to multiple messages over the last week.

Visit lansingcitypulse.com for continued coverage — including more information about how the Board of Commissioners voted on the staffing resolution at its Tuesday (April 26) night meeting.



City Pulse/Kyle Kaminski

A millage passed in 2018 provided about \$37 million to rebuild the county jail in Mason into a more modern facility that’s set to open later this year. In addition to the latest medical staffing concerns, the aging condition of the jail itself has posed a series of problems for the county.



City Pulse/Kyle Kaminski

Several pieces of equipment have outlived their useful life at the county jail in Mason.

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7 p.m.

April 30
& May 7
3 p.m.

May 1 & 8
3 p.m.

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Hannah Community Center
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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI

Protesters march for Lyoya in Lansing

About 200 people marched through the streets of downtown Lansing to the State Capitol on Thursday (April 21) to demand justice for Patrick Lyoya, a 26-year-old Congolese refugee who was shot in the back of the head by a Grand Rapids Police Department officer April 4. Members of Lyoya's family could be seen waving a Congolese flag amid the large crowd.



Cops shoot man at East Lansing Meijer

Two unnamed East Lansing Police Department officers were placed on paid leave after they were involved in shooting an unnamed man on Monday evening (April 25) near the Meijer on Lake Lansing Road. A caller reportedly told police at about 6:30 p.m. that a man had pocketed a gun from inside his car and entered the store. After being chased out by police, the "officers encountered the subject and shots were fired," according to an ELPD press release. The man is reportedly hospitalized in stable condition. It's unclear whether he was armed when he was shot, but a weapon was reportedly found on scene. Several agencies crowded the parking lot into the night. Both officers involved had fewer than three years of experience. It's unclear whether one or both police officers fired. The case was immediately turned over to the Michigan State Police to investigate. No other details have been released.

Lansing to launch lottery for 'guaranteed income'

At least 100 households in Lansing will be randomly selected to receive \$500 a month for 18 months as part of Mayor Andy Schor's plan to spend nearly \$49 million in federal pandemic funds. City officials expect to begin collecting at least 500 applications in the next 12 months. From there, at least 100 of them — perhaps 150 — will be picked for the monthly cash windfall. *Read more at lansingcitypulse.com.*

Pot sales skyrocket for 420 Day

Michigan tracked 2.3 tons of marijuana flower sold on April 20 — up 242% from last year and 444% from 2020. All told, about \$15.5 million in weed sales were tracked over the holiday, another significant increase from 2020.

Ellison to open third brewery in REO Town

Ellison Brewery and Spirits is nearing the finish line on long-time plans to open a third location, on Washington Avenue. The Lansing City Council voted Monday (April 25) to approve a liquor license and a series of other permits. Grand opening plans hinge mostly on approval from the state's Liquor Control Commission. *Read more at lansingcitypulse.com.*



Lansing cops settle excessive force lawsuit

The city of Lansing has agreed to cover the legal costs and pay \$7,500 to a teenager who alleged that officers discriminated against her and used excessive force in her 2019 arrest. Video footage showed an officer striking 16-year-old DeShaya Reed more than a dozen times while cops tried to load her

into the back of a police vehicle. Reed has agreed to dismiss her suit and police have admitted to no wrongdoing.

Lansing adopts flood-prone streets at Red Cedar

The Council resolved to turn the roads in the Red Cedar development project into public streets — including one at the edge of the floodplain that routinely becomes impassable. But taxpayers needn't worry about the extra maintenance and repair costs: developers said they have it all covered. *Read more at lansingcitypulse.com.*

Former city executive returns to Lansing

Shelbi Frayer has returned to her old job of chief strategy officer. During Frayer's 10-month tenure, ending in June 2020, she identified "over \$10 million in savings" and helped keep the budget balanced at the onset of the pandemic, Schor has said. She was replaced by former city treasurer and income tax administrator Judy Kehler, who recently resigned. Frayer was appointed chief financial officer in Flint last year, but she quit after six months.



Passerby finds dead man in Grand River

Kevin Lee Wallace, 52, of Lansing, was found dead in the Grand River on Saturday afternoon (April 23) near the Brenke Fish Ladder in Old Town. Authorities said he was first reported missing on March 15. Crowds 420 Music Festival attendees at Adado Riverfront Park watched crews pull Wallace's body from the river. No foul play is suspected. The investigation will continue.

Nassar survivors file suit against FBI

Thirteen survivors of sexual abuse by disgraced former USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar have filed civil claims against the FBI totaling \$130 million following a federal investigation that showed the bureau had failed to properly investigate their allegations and halt Nassar's crimes.

Nonprofit plans to build on McLaren campus

Child and Family Charities launched a \$7 million fundraising campaign to rebuild portions of the former McLaren campus on Greenlawn Avenue into "The Jackson House," a home for local youth who lack safe, stable housing. Jackson National Life Insurance has already pitched in about \$1 million. Other naming rights are available. Visit childandfamily.org for details.

CATA to move to electric buses by 2035

The public transportation authority's Board of Directors voted unanimously to transition its entire busing fleet — as well as all other CATA vehicles — from gas to electric within the next 13 years. At least three electric buses and their charging ports are set to be purchased this year.

German company plans local headquarters

ATESTEO, a German company that provides drivetrain testing services for the automotive industry, is considering spending about \$700,000 to expand a leased building on West Road in East Lansing into its new North American headquarters, a plan that also involves about \$26 million in equipment and the creation of at least 46 new jobs, reports the Lansing State Journal.



5510 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

This week's featured property is a casualty of the city of Lansing's competitive marijuana licensing operations: a small shack on South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard that recently had some big ambitions of somehow getting involved with the cannabis industry. Owner Toby Heaton said those plans have since gone up in smoke, so the building has been left to decay.

Large sheets of off-blue paint peeling from the building are so large that they blow like flags in the wind. Sunlight shines through a large hole in the roof onto moldy piles of trash inside. A broken recliner and other debris decorate the landscaping. Every window has been shattered.

This stretch of south Lansing isn't exactly known for its scenic beauty — and this doesn't help.

Heaton declined to get into specifics last week, but told City Pulse that he leased the land last year to a company that had attempted and failed to "do something in the marijuana industry." He also said he anticipates "regaining possession" of the property before the end of the summer.

At which point, he also expects to put the blighted little shack out of its misery.

"Once I have control of the land again, it'll probably be razed, maybe rebuilt," Heaton said.

Heaton — in addition to being the owner of Okemos-based Frontline Appraisal Inc. — said that he owns several other properties across Greater Lansing and takes pride in their appearances.

—KYLE KAMINSKI

"Eyesore of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email Managing Editor Kyle Kaminski at eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call in a nomination at 517-999-6715.

Lansing Township's house of cards

Ten years ago, then-Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing told City Pulse he had serious concerns about Lansing Township's plan to "play developer" by putting its finances on the line for a new project at the Eastwood Towne Center known as The Heights.

He said it was risky. Turns out he was right.

Leaders of the miniscule municipality, an absurd amalgamation of five separate geographic parcels scattered around Lansing's city limits, wagered that the success of the project would generate more than enough cash to pay off some \$200 million in long-term debt and lease obligations incurred by the Eastwood Downtown Development Authority, and ultimately by the township itself. It was a ballsy move for a government with an annual operating budget of less than \$5 million.

We won't bother to dive into the weeds of the head-spinning, overleveraged, ill-advised financial house of cards township leaders managed to concoct. Nor will we dwell, at least not for long, on the appearance of a wildly incestuous relationship between former planning director Steven Hayward, who left his position as the mastermind of the township's grand development vision — including the misbegotten Heights deal — only to sign on as a consultant to the late Michael Eyde's real estate conglomerate, the opposing team as it were, which is now suing the township for a cool \$11 million.

The massive debts the DDA and the township incurred for The Heights fiasco may well be the last straw that pushes them over the fiscal cliff. Just six months ago, township officials narrowly avoided insolvency by approving a new special assessment, ostensibly to fund its Police and Fire departments, that bumped up property tax bills for township residents by \$250 annually for three years. The new millage, which was approved without a vote of the people, is expected to raise a total of about \$4.6 million, but it's not nearly enough to dig out of the deep fiscal hole in which the township now finds itself. Another monumental tax increase is almost certainly lurking just around the corner for township residents and businesses.

We have a better idea. Since it's not fair to burden the township's 4,000 tax-paying households with the foolish mistakes of its leaders, we think Lansing Township should be altogether dissolved as a government entity. Although the road to annexation would be rough, the township's disjointed parcels could be subsumed into the city of Lansing and its unfathomable debts discharged through a simultaneous trip to bankruptcy court.

With an expanded tax base from absorbing the township's footprint, including Eastwood, the city could easily extend police and fire services to its five, tiny tracts of land. Township residents themselves would be better served by city Po-

lice and Fire departments with state-of-the-art equipment instead of the township's forlorn public safety departments that can barely afford to put gasoline in their aging emergency vehicles.

The only legitimate objection township residents could have to becoming part of Lansing is the significant disparity in tax rates between the two entities. Homestead property tax rates in the township would jump by almost 25%, but that gap is likely to shrink as the township is forced to transfer the burden of its fiscal calamity to the pocketbooks of its residents.

For township voters, the prospect of paying a few more mills and getting full-fledged public services from city departments begins to look a bit more attractive. There also may be a path in state law to declare the township as a "homestead neighborhood empowerment zone," which would allow a transitional tax rate that softens the sticker shock for township residents, at least in the short term.

Through the years, Lansing Township leaders have resisted regional cooperation in almost all its forms. When challenged or criticized, they are quick to claim "they were here first" — a reference to the completely irrelevant fact that the township was legally incorporated before the city of Lansing. This sense of defiant independence has manifested itself as a "go it alone" attitude that's made the township something of a pariah in the Greater Lansing region.

Now, some might argue, they are getting their due.

We're loath to suggest that Gov. Whitmer appoint an emergency manager to right the ship, but it is another option to consider. It may be the

shortest and surest route to dissolving the township and handing what's left over to Lansing. Michigan's emergency management statute authorizes the governor to "disincorporate or dissolve the municipal government and assign its assets, debts, and liabilities as provided by law." The disincorporation of the local government is subject to a vote of its electors if required by law, but township voters faced with paying higher taxes anyway might just be in the mood to support the move.

Former Lansing mayor Virg Bernero was fond of calling Lansing Township an "historical anachronism" and the "North Korea of municipal governments." Now that the township has bungled its way to the brink of financial disaster, flipping its middle finger at the rest of the region all the while,

perhaps he wasn't too far off the mark.

It's time to write the final chapter in Lansing Township's history by putting it out of its misery and annexing it into the city of Lansing.



The CP Edit

Opinion

Editor's note

Dedria Humphries Barker's monthly column will appear next week.

Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages? Now you have two ways to sound off:

1.) Write a letter to the editor.

• E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com • Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912 • Fax: (517) 371-5800 • At lansingcitypulse.com

2.) Write a guest column. 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.)

Sexual content and kids ignites new conservative hysteria

By **KYLE MELINN**

Her voice cracking with emotion, Sen. Lana Theis talked about how today's children are being exposed to almost unspeakable subjects and material.

Speaking on our MIRS podcast this week, Theis was near tears as she tried to explain why she signed off on a campaign email that suggested fellow Sen. Mallory McMorrow was a "progressive social media troll" who was interested in "grooming and sexualizing kindergartners."

"It is precisely because I am trying to protect our children that I'm standing in this space, and you're right, that language was edgy — you might even call it snarky. I had intended some edits, which didn't make it through, but here we are. It was never intended to call the senator those things."

But she did. And McMorrow responded with a Senate floor speech that went viral. Hillary Clinton even boosted it at one point.

"I am a straight, white Christian, married suburban mom. I want my daughter to know that she is loved, supported and seen for whoever she becomes," she said. "I want her to be curious, emphatic and kind. People who are different are not the reason that our roads are in bad shape after decades of disinvestment or that health care costs are too high or that teachers are leaving the profession."

Instead of Theis raising money for her campaign against ultra-right-winger Mike Detmer, it was McMorrow who raked in more than \$200,000 for her reelection in about 36 hours.

For reference, your average state Senate campaign raises \$200,000.

Theis, as the chairwoman of the Senate Education and Career Readiness Committee, is being sucked into the latest social conservative vacuum. The modern movement toward LGBTQ lifestyles is being not only accepted but explored by teenagers.

Society is continuing its evolution toward being more accepting toward others. As expected, some are having a hard time with it. Politically, conservatives pounce on it.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Today it's LGBTQ in youth. Yesterday it was transgender people in bathrooms. Before that, it was gay marriage. Prior to that, LGBTQ people, in general. You can go all the way back to interracial marriage or busing.

Fear is used in politics all the time. This time, it's preying on the fears of parents that ... do you want your child to be gay?

McMorrow talked about this when we had her on the podcast.

"What I think is being inflated in a very, again, fear-mongering moral panic kind-of-way is (that) people in the world exist," she said. "I think that just showing kids that people exist and that everybody is worth ... that is not the same as teaching sex acts to children, which is not happening."

What is happening is youths are talking about these issues among themselves. Their friends are non-binary, for example. They are using "they" pronouns without thinking about it.

If a friend is exploring a same-sex relationship, it's becoming almost no different than a boy-girl relationship.

Added on top of this is how the boundaries in literature are also being pushed. Remember when "The Catcher in the Rye" was a big deal because of the language?

Consider now the graphic and disturbing rape scenes in books like "Push". This was made into the 2009 film "Precious," and it's in some school libraries.

It only adds fuel to the conservative panic. To them, this is pornography, not a story of a teenager overcoming horrible odds to receive an education.

"They're providing gender confusion" in pre-kindergarten through third grade. "It's causing the gender fluidity that's going on. We never had this issue before. They desensitizing kids to highly sexualized conversations that are incredibly inappropriate," Theis said.

But just as we all survived the racy material when we were young, our youths will do the same. They will learn, accept and advance. Just as we did.

(City Pulse columnist Kyle Melinn covers the Capitol for the news service MIRS. Email him at melinnky@gmail.com.)

At Coontz Law, we believe the justice system can do better. We believe in holding the Government accountable. We believe in empathetic representation of the accused. We believe Black Lives Matter. We believe we can—and will—change the world, starting right here in our backyard.

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Jeff Bezos really worth 200B and aint Batman or Ironman yet. That mf a bum.

"This Is A Very Solid Point. Tony Starks net worth was 12.4 billion, Bruce Wayne net worth was 9 billion so what the hell is Jeff Bezos waiting on to start his superhero team???"

Let's discuss....."
- Charlamagne Tha God

Juvenile sentencing offers 'zero accountability' for murder

By **TRINA COOLMAN**

(Trina Coolman is the mother of Noah Sisung, an 18-year-old man from Holt who was shot and killed in Lansing last October in an incident that involved a 13- and 16-year-old, who were both charged as juveniles in his murder last month. Both teenagers plead-



Coolman

ed guilty to lesser charges of assault with intent to commit armed robbery. The seventh grader also pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter. Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon's decision to charge them as juveniles effectively allowed them to escape the possibility of a decades-long prison sentence in favor of court-ordered treatment and supervision — and possibly only until age 21.)

I am writing in response to the April 13 City Pulse editorial about my son Noah,

who was killed in October by yet more gun violence in Ingham County. The unnamed

Opinion

author said the kids who were charged in his death deserved to be punished for their actions and that there are few crimes as heinous as taking a life. What do you consider proper punishment for taking a life?

How would you feel if it were your child? Is it possible to 'age out' of killing someone? We did not ask for revenge. Those are your words. We are not "skirting the century-old juvenile court system." We simply asked for what is available under current Michigan law.

We don't live in centuries past. We are here in 2022 where gun violence and children killing children has become commonplace. And making sweeping gun policies to keep people out of jail sends a very clear message to those committing these crimes. And they are listening.

Since Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon took office in 2016, the homicide rate has risen every year — to the point it is now more than triple the rate of when she began her "vision for the justice system."

In our case, the prosecutor had the opportunity to negotiate with these boys to take a gun off the streets. She didn't do that. She had the opportunity to ask for a blended sentence where the boys could be evaluated on their rehabilitation prior to release. She didn't do that either.

These are things we asked for. Instead, they could be summarily released with sealed records on their 21st birthdays, regardless of whether they are rehabilitated.

As a result of these actions, another family will undoubtedly suffer the same consequences.

And last week's editorial is absolutely wrong: Siemon was not elected to focus on underlying causes of crime and bring her personal agenda to the county. While Siemon is busy standing up to community pressure (the citizens who hired her) and bringing a more progressive vision to Ingham County, the people who elected her to prosecute deserve to have accountability. It's

blatantly clear that her policies don't work and don't keep the citizens of our community safer.

It certainly did not keep Noah safe. If Siemon chooses to rally for change, do it with the legislature and change the laws — not gambling with our lives and our children's lives.

For anyone at City Pulse to say that it would feel good for our family to see another person "stoned to death on the Capitol lawn" is disgusting and disrespectful. We have to suffer the loss of our child for the rest of our lives. So, yes, it doesn't feel like punishment that they will have fresh starts in just a few years with zero accountability.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

Trust estate of the
Robert J. Morse Trust,
dated January 7, 2014.

STATE OF MICHIGAN –
COUNTY OF EATON:

Estate of Robert J. Morse,
Decedent. Date of Birth:
February 3, 1929. Name of
Trust: Robert J. Morse Trust.

TO ALL CREDITORS AND
INTERESTED PERSONS:

The decedent and settlor, Robert J. Morse, died March 2, 2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the Trust, established January 7, 2014, will be forever barred unless presented to Merle L. Morse, named Successor Trustee, or Attorney Bradley A. Vauter (P35762) within 4 months after date of publication of this notice. It is not expected that a decedent's probate estate will be opened. Notice is further given that the Trust Estate will be assigned and distributed to the persons entitled after the four-month period. Merle L. Morse, Successor Trustee: 221 Edgewood Blvd, Apt. 6, Lansing, MI 48911, (517) 775-1599. Bradley Vauter & Associates, P.C.: 11963 E. Andre Drive, Ste. D, Grand Ledge, MI 48837; (517) 853-8015.

CP#22-097

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT INGHAM COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate Case No. 21-001522-DE

Estate of Timothy Robert Brussow, Decedent. Date of birth: 09/20/1966.

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

The decedent, Timothy Robert Brussow, died 09/17/2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Amelia Brussow Day, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 4-19-2022

Christopher A Hogan P41490
2156 Plainfield Ave., NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Amelia Brussow Day
12364 Apple Cart Court Lane
Lowell, MI 49331

CP#22-093

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT INGHAM COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate Case No. 22-000463-DE

Estate of Dawn Elizabeth Collins, Decedent. Date of birth: 01/09/1959.

TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

The decedent, Dawn Elizabeth Collins, died February 5, 2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Christopher J. Oravitz, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 03-25-2022.

Jack Weinstein P22122
805 S. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-790-2242

Christopher J. Oravitz
222 12th Avenue
Tawas City, MI 48763
989-980-9999

CP#22-094

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF INGHAM PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING

FILE No. 22-000390-GA-P33
In the matter of Charlena Crawford. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected-by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held May 19th, 2022 at 11:30am at 313 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing, MI before Judge Dunnings for the following purpose: Guardianship hearing for incapacitated adult.

Penny Howard
Ingham County DHHS
5303 S. Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48911

CP#22-096

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Poetry in motion

Lansing's new poet laureate set to make moves

By CHLOE ALVERSON

The late poet Robert Frost once said, “A poem begins with a lump in the throat; a homesickness or a love sickness. It is a reaching-out toward expression; an effort to find fulfillment.” For local poet Masaki Takahashi, some of that gratifying fulfillment has arrived: he is the Lansing region's new poet laureate.

Last Thursday evening, Michigan State University's Erickson Kiva Hall was abuzz, but class wasn't in session — it was a “passing of the laurel” ceremony honoring Takahashi.

A who's who of both community members and poetry-scene fixtures were in attendance, including the previous two poet laureates, 2019's Laura Apol and 2017's Dennis Hinrichsen. Apol shared poetry and reflected on her time as poet laureate before officially passing the title to Takahashi.

A few years ago, Hinrichsen, the Capital City's first poet laureate, told Takahashi he thought the position would be perfect for him. Beyond that, Takahashi also credited Hinrichsen for helping restructure and reframe his poetry writing.

In his two-year term as poet laureate, Takahashi said he hopes to repay the favor by further bolstering Lansing's supportive poetry scene to not just poets, but all locals.

“Poetry is not introduced to a lot of people,” Takahashi told City Pulse. “I want to introduce it to this community, and I want people to get better at it.”

The 36-year-old Lansing native, who works a daytime software job, said he was able to amplify his poetry career after the pandemic started. The shutdown gave him time to slow down and schedule more time to both write and edit his poems. But Takahashi has been an active force in the local spoken-word poetry scene for years.

“I've done regional poetry slams with some of the best national champions of poetry,” he said. “I've hosted my own events and built great relationships. And I've met pretty much all my heroes, when it comes to poetry.”

Takahashi said he used to travel on an open-mic circuit to share his poetry, but

the results were lackluster. It was then he realized there wasn't a go-to space specifically for reading poetry.

“They'd go, ‘Oh, what are you doing? You don't have an instrument?’ and I would say, ‘I'm doing poetry,’” he said. “They'd say, ‘Oh, no, it doesn't go well here.’”

So, with the help of his friend Dylan Rogers, who co-owns The Robin Theatre, Takahashi started The Poetry



Masaki Takahashi (center) following his “passing of the laurel” ceremony Thursday (April 21) at Erickson Kiva Hall.

Room in 2017. It's a spoken word open-mic show at the theater. The events draw a decent crowd, sometimes it's standing room only.

When he was an “angsty teenager,” Takahashi said he was into hip-hop, which led him to write raps and study freestyle battles. One of his role models was Jin Au-Yeung, or MC Jin — the first Asian American solo rapper to be signed to a major record label. As an Asian American himself, Takahashi said learning how freestyles work made him feel protected and secure.

“When you're an Asian American in this country, you're going to have to face some bullies,” he said. “You can't fight them all physically. You get really good at making jokes.”

He recalled a moment from his first job at Walmart when a customer approached him and started singing the

chorus of Carl Douglas' “Kung Fu Fighting.” Takahashi responded by singing “Cotton Eye Joe.”

As he's gotten older, the poet has reflected on his past to help tell his story as an Asian American and it's made him fall in love with poetry even more.

“It's a story that I have to tell from different perspectives,” Takahashi said. “It helps me understand that we lack the space held for people of color. Just because three or four people of color walk into a room doesn't mean it's diverse.”

With that, the new poet laureate said he would like to create more spaces for people of color and have conversations about diversity within the community.

tion was created in 2017 in a partnership between the Lansing Poetry Club, the RCAH and the Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP).

“The poet laureate's formal responsibility is to be an ambassador for poetry in the Lansing region,” said Emma Botswick, LEAP's tri-county development manager. “The poet laureate promotes poetry as an art form and is working to expand access to the literary arts.”

One of the expectations is that the poet will implement one major poetry project each year. The projects are a way to increase public awareness of poetry and to “leave a tangible impression” of the poet's work, Botswick said.

For Takahashi's first project, he's set to collaborate with spoken word artist Megan Falley. He described the project as a “retro book fair with poetry readings.” While details are still in the works, Takahashi said he is eager to share his passion for literature and poetry with the community.

“I want to put my favorite books in the libraries,” he said. “I want to indulge in my love for literary arts and introduce them to people — introduce them to the excitement of poetry.”

Takahashi's advice for those looking to get involved in the poetry community? Go to all the events.

“This poetry scene is growing,” Takahashi said. “People are learning and getting better as we teach them about other opportunities.”

Of course, expanding the budding poetry culture in Lansing is something that goes hand-in-hand with the purpose of the poet laureate position.

“These efforts, like the placemaking that we have through the poet laureate program, are working to enhance our communities,” Botswick said. “We are both building that stronger sense of community, but also keeping top talent in this region.”

Outside of his planned project with Falley, Takahashi will also be required to host four readings and workshops in the counties of Eaton, Ingham and Clinton each year.

The tri-county approach is extremely important to the position in getting the entire Lansing community involved.

“This is going to be an exciting two years,” Takahashi said. “I'm hoping for more resources, more venues and to get more people involved. There's nothing to it — just to do it.”

Chloe Alverson/City Pulse

Fly over to Taqueria Monarca for authentic Mexican food

By **CHLOE ALVERSON**

After more than 20 years working in other peoples' restaurants, a local married couple is finally serving up their own dishes. Prepared fresh in a trailer adorned with dozens of monarch butterflies, the newly opened Taqueria Monarca is the latest spot for authentic Mexican cuisine in Lansing.

While it opened last week in the Sunoco gas station parking lot, owners Mario Quintero and Ana Cavazos first had the idea to open their own food truck when the pandemic hit. After encouragement from their three college-aged daughters, the couple decided to bring their own recipes to life.

"In restaurants, a lot of people would say the food is good," Quintero said. "But that food wasn't made with my recipes. Now, we can create these menu items my way, with our own flavor."

Both from Mexico, the couple blends flavors of their roots on the menu of

their trailer.

Quintero is from Michoacán, a state near the center of the country, and Cavazos is from Tamaulipas, a state near the southern border of Texas on the Rio Grande. Quintero's home state is known for sopes and gorditas, while Cavazos' state is famous for carne asada tacos. Cavazos said Taqueria Monarca delivers "a combination" of both.

"People can enjoy that our food comes from our family's traditions," Cavazos said. "[That's] the most important thing for us."

The concise menu consists of 10 dishes, like tacos, quesadillas and burritos, though it might expand to include

weekly or monthly specials from other countries — like Chinese-Mexican food.

For those in a rush, all of the current items can be made in 10-15 minutes. Quintero said the dishes are "quality food in a quick time."

"This is a small food trailer and peo-

Taqueria Monarca

1801 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing
Monday – Saturday
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.



Courtesy

Husband and wife Mario Quintero and Ana Cavazos opened Taqueria Monarca.

ple are in a hurry to eat," Quintero said. "We don't want people to have to wait a half hour to get lunch."

As for the inspiration behind the name, Cavazos explained that monarch butterflies migrate from central Mex-

ico, where Quintero is from, to North America.

"The butterfly represents immigrants, and we are immigrants," she said.

Follow Taqueria Monarca on Instagram at @taqueriamonarca.

Does Riverwalk Theatre's 'Art' live up to its name?

By **MARY CUSACK**

Throughout time, humans have argued about what art is. Whether this piece or that piece is truly art, and about the value — the monetary as well as the aesthetic — of art. Riverwalk Theatre's latest production, "Art," employs those debates as three friends battle about a

white canvas.

Serge (Alan Greenberg) has dived into the world of art speculation by purchasing a work of modern art his friend Marc (Andrew Stewart) dubbed a "piece of white shit." The pair draw their malleable friend Yvon (Joe Clark) into the debate. The more he tries to bridge the

gap between Marc and Serge, the deeper the chasm grows.

"Art" isn't really about the paint on the canvas, though. It is about the dynamics of friendships, and in particular, how friendships evolve and sometimes devolve. Yasmina Reza's script brilliantly unwinds the complex feelings friends have when those dynamics change, especially as Marc begins to understand and admits to the real reason he hates the painting.

Reza's award-winning script has been translated from its original French, and the plot retains its Paris setting and cultural references. The snappy dialogue retains a je ne sais quoi quality that makes it feel continental. Suggested post-show discussion question: would American men dig this deeply into their relationship under similar circumstances?

The show is a lean 90 minutes, which is an appropriate amount of time to tell this tale. The pace could be slowed down just a tad when Clark speaks, as

he delivers Yvon's woe-is-me tirades at such a fast clip that parts of his dialogue become obscured.

With that said, Clark provides most of the energy in the show. His tour de farce monologue about parental politics on wedding invitations is easily the highlight of the show. Still, his manic performance highlights the unevenness of the acting.

As Marc, Stewart has the physicality of the cool alpha of the group, but when he admits to vulnerabilities, his performance lacks emotional depth. Greenberg's Serge is best when he is waxing poetic about his new acquisition, but the physicality of his performance often comes off as too stiff and actorly.

"Art" is a masterful script about relationships, but it takes a deft cast to capture the intimacy and subtlety of the changing power dynamics among these friends. While this cast has put forth a very strong effort, much is lost in this translation.



Courtesy

Yvon (Joe Clark) and Marc (Andrew Stewart) desperately try to not insult Serge's (Alan Greenberg, right) newly purchased painting.

"Art"

April 28 – May 1
Thursday, 7 p.m.
Friday – Saturday, 8 p.m.
Sunday, 2 p.m.
Tickets start at \$10
Riverwalktheatre.com
(517) 482-5700

LANSING SYMPHONY
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MAY 13 | LANSING SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

92 NINETY SECOND
ANNUAL SEASON

Jamie Hines, 17, a transgender Lansing-area youth: "I really hope these people don't jump out and start beating me."

Transgender community confronts toxic, right-wing rhetoric in Michigan

'Christian lens' fueling GOP bigotry against transgender people

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

Kammie Mead stood on the lawn of the state Capitol on March 31, 2019, in the early spring cold. Under her arm, she held a framed photo. She was shy, quiet, hanging on the edge of a crowd gathered for the International Day of Transgender Visibility. She was there to keep a promise.

The promise was to her son, Ken — who was smiling back at her in the picture.

"I didn't show it around," she said. "It wasn't anybody's business. But Ken was there with me."

Mead, 52, was not hiding her son. At 17, eight months earlier, he killed himself after years of physical, verbal and sexual abuse by his peers. She could not place a specific interaction as the trigger

that caused him to hang himself, but he had "lost his mental health battles," she said. She struggled with her emotions as she remembered his life.

"Ken wanted to be himself," she said. "Ken wanted to be accepted for himself."

Kammie Mead cradled his picture in her arms, placing the picture close to her heart as she listened to the stories. And she was welcomed to the family of transgender, nonbinary and gender nonconforming people and their

supporters. Much of that communion and the familial structure of cross support for the trans community and allies remain, despite an avalanche of legislative and political attacks leveled at the transgender community from across the nation.

Transgender people and their allies have been subjected to criminal child abuse investigations in Texas and silenced in Florida schools. Right-wing politicians in Michigan have also accused those who support transgender people of "grooming," pedophilia and being forced into gender reassignment surgeries. Such allegations were key talking points at the Michigan GOP nominating convention over the weekend too.

Welcome to the Trans Wars of 2022.

It's a clash that had simmered across the country for years, with school districts, public bodies and businesses landing in courts — both for supporting transgender students and for not supporting them — and transgender people were subjected to more domestic and community violence, includ-

See Trans, Page 14



Ken Mead (right) and his mother, Kammie

Trans

from page 13

ing murder, and high levels of suicides among transfolks because they did not have the social or medical support to become the person they saw in their own mind's eye.

This political drumbeat and vitriolic rhetoric targeting transfolks have left Mid-Michigan parents and transyouth afraid for the future.

"I absolutely worry that it's going to fan those flames," said Jim Hines, a local fiction writer whose daughter Jamie is transgender, referencing the current wave of political rhetoric.

Seventeen-year-old Jamie Hines said while she has not experienced violence as a result of their gender identity, she's discussed such fears with her sister: "It's like I really hope these people don't jump out and start beating me, because that's a thing we both have to worry about."

That fear is real, according to national advocates for the LGBTQ community. The Human Rights Campaign reported 2021 as the deadliest year on record for the murders of trans and nonbinary Americans. The organization, which touts itself as the largest LGBTQ rights advocacy organization in the country, identified 50 nonbinary and transgender people who were murdered. The organization also noted that the number is likely significantly lower than the actual numbers of trans and nonbinary people being murdered every year, citing data that nearly half of the 50 cases in their report — 24 of them — had initially misgendered the victims.

Jamie Hines (who uses she/their pronouns) recalled a childhood where she was blissfully unaware of the construction of male and female. But as she hit puberty, their view of the world shifted and she realized she was truly a woman. She said she texted her father with the realization.

For Jim Hines, it was not a surprise. Jamie Hines had changed their pronoun references on social media. Despite knowing "more about her" than he did before she came out, Jim Hines said he still has episodes where he struggles with the correct gender pronouns.

He recalled that he regularly used the phrase "you silly boy" as a joking way to chastise the children. He's had to remove that from his language, but he said extended family still struggles.

"She's a lot better about that than me," Jim Hines said. "She reminds me they are good people."

The idea of gender in western culture has been defined, most often, through the lens of religious majorities. Under this presumptive construct, there are two genders: male and female. Religious opponents of transgender people's rights argue that gender transitions are an affront to God.

As with all things genetically linked, the causative genetic interactions related to the way people perceive their gender is shrouded with questions. But

studies have found that in many ways the brain of a transgender person operates similarly to the gender that person identifies with — not the one assigned at birth. Scientific American has a deep, complicated blog on the interactions of the brain, genes, hormones and more. The takeaway? There are not just two genders. There is a spectrum of gender identities and expressions influenced, at least in part, by genetics and brain structures.

The other side

Lansing area attorney David Kallman has sued school districts and a fitness center gym over transgender-inclusive policies. For him, there is a fundamental conflict between his religious beliefs and the pluralistic society of America. He also represented parents in a lawsuit against Williamston Community Schools who were trying to overturn a transgender inclusion policy.



Kallman

Kallman said he doesn't deny that he faces the issue of transgender inclusion with a "Christian lens," and that's "where a lot of people are coming from."

That lens is a fixed binary of gender: male and female. It leaves no room for transgender people or intersex persons. But gender identity and expression arise on a

continuum, flaunting and transgressing that traditional perception of gender by calling on people to acknowledge the full humanity, including gender identities, of the gender spectrum.

His approach, he said, rests with the question: "What is the best way to help this person?"

Kallman added: "I don't look at it as if they're the enemy or somebody that I have to try to defeat. But now you're going to have this clashing of positions, and that's what's leading to the uproar."

Kallman said it is unfortunate that the legal debate "bleeds over" to people "hating each other on both sides." Quoting his late father, who was an Ingham County circuit judge, Kallman said: "We can agreeably disagree."

Despite this veneer of compassion, Kallman admitted he would personally struggle with a person in his life coming out as transgender. Asked if he could respect the new gender identity and expression, he said he wouldn't call that person by their newly assumed name or pronouns.

"I have to speak the truth, as I know it," he said. "That would not be the truth because you're either a man or a woman and it doesn't change. I would try to find a way to be compassionate without violating my beliefs."

For over a decade, Dr. Erik Wert has been a primary doctor for many local LGBTQ people. He has watched the anti-transgender rhetoric take a physical and mental health toll on his patients. He said the "agreeably disagree" construct was potentially harmful to transgender people.

"That stress adds to the mental health and health issues for transgender people," he said.

Many transgender people are diagnosed with not only gender dysphoria — a designation in the mental health diagnostic manual many are trying to get removed — but depression and anxiety.

One of the biggest myths occurring in the political realm is that transgender and nonbinary people are using such designations to troll restrooms assigned for specific genders: A men's restroom and women's restroom. By allowing transgender people into the bathroom which matches their gender identity, opponents like Kallman argue, puts women and children at risk.

"I don't think anyone is OK with a biological male — a biological intact male — in the locker room with high school girls and women," Kallman said.

The bathroom arguments have been foisted on American culture since the Victorian era, when it was

considered indecent to provide public bathroom facilities for women. People of color battled similar implications and allegations of sexual assaults during the fight to desegregate the country. The LGBTQ community has also faced the same daunting gauntlet of degradation.

Resolutions to install more gender-neutral bathrooms in public spaces could cost taxpayers more money, but Kallman said that's OK because it protects everyone. Yet when Muskegon Public Schools announced a new three-story middle school building with



Jamie Hines said she realized she was a woman when she hit puberty.



Jamie Hines with her dad, writer Jim Hines, and their kitten.

nothing but single-use unisex bathrooms, critics assailed the board for that choice. Few solutions please everyone.

Coming-out stories

When Claude Johnson-Perry came out at 21, he "always knew" he was a boy.

"I just didn't have the words to describe it," Johnson-Perry, 28, explained, noting that he likely suppressed his identity for years before his moment of self-discovery — a common experience.

Trans

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And while he discovered his identity through therapy, he was distancing himself from identifying as transgender, thinking to himself: “I am not transgender. I just didn’t like being a woman.”

Johnson-Perry spent more than six months in counseling before his medical team would even consider hormone treatment. His transition began behind the anonymity of the internet. He also began the social transition, wearing traditionally male-assigned clothing.

“I think my husband was the first person I told,” he said. “He said if that is who you are, that’s OK, but take it slowly.”

Others in his social and family circles were less receptive.

In DeWitt, 19-year-old Dar Pung found himself struggling with his identity through his youth — that insecurity created by looking at a body that was not the body his mind associated with himself. He thinks that also added to his underlying social anxiety.

“I realized I was trans when I met someone in band,” Pung explained. “They had talked to me about what it was and what it meant. It helped me feel like I wasn’t alone.”

As a younger man, he would tell friends he was a boy.

“Not to deceive them, but to try it out,” he said.

Dar Pung’s father, Joshua Pung, 42, is a single father. With three daughters within a year in age of each other, he and his wife would often dress the girls in the same dresses. He said when Dar came out at 14, he was “actually shocked.” It helped launch him into a learning process.

“When we don’t know something, we don’t really understand it, or the struggles that are going on,” he said. “At first, he just didn’t like wearing dresses. Then it progressed that he was wearing more and more boys-like clothing. Finally, when he was in the fourth grade, Dar said, ‘Dad, I don’t want to wear dresses anymore.’”

Joshua Pung said throughout Dar Pung’s youth, he would work with other men in the family to pick up a shorthand of masculine communications that outsiders found confusing. But not Dar. He recalled a specific conversation where Dar Pung had asked if he had wished he had a son.

“In hindsight, I wish we had been more open when he was younger,” Pung said. “It would have been easier for him to come to terms with who he is. I think that time fed into his anxiety and other issues. It would have been better for him.”

Dar Pung is happily taking his hormones and is considering what is re-



Claude Johnson-Perry “always knew” he was a boy, but didn’t come out till 21.



In fourth grade, Dar Pung (left) told his father, Joshua (left) that he did not want to wear dresses any more.



Wert



“Stress adds to the mental health and health issues for transgender people.”
Erik Wert, physician

ferred to as “top surgery” in the transgender community — having his breasts removed. He is not at this point considering “bottom surgery,” an intervention to reconstruct his genitals to reflect his gender identity.

Wert, the doctor, said transitioning is a long, complicated process. Unlike the implications in political rhetoric that children are being forced into gender change medications and surgeries, it takes at least a full year of therapy and medical appointments to initiate gender-confirming hormones. Puberty blockers are not recommended by the Endocrine Society, the professional organization representing endocrinologists, until hormones kick in with the initiation of puberty.

That’s usually in the tween years to early teen years.

Surgical reconstruction surgery of the genitals, Wert explained, is rare. Transgender men do tend to move toward breast removal in order to stop wearing

binders to flatten the chest.

At the end of the day, Dar Pung recalled his grandmother confronting him about his gender identity and affirming him.

“I realized, my gender is mine,” Dar Pung said.

Does intersex validate trans? Aren’t they both both?

By MELODEE MABBITT

(Melodee Mabbitt is a freelance writer and production staffer for City Pulse.)

I was not born with a penis or a vagina. My body is not typically male or female. I am intersex.



Mabbitt

Intersex is invisible. You probably think you’ve never

met an intersex person before. Unless your intersex friend is like me and enjoys awkward dinner conversation, you’ll rarely know that you just met an intersex person.

But we’re as common as twins — 2 percent of the population.

Just like sexuality and gender, physical sexual traits exist on a spectrum. Male and female are only two of the possible human sexes. Variations can occur in genitals, genes, gonads or hormones, and the myriad of possible natural variations in sex traits are called intersex.

Because our society insists that there are only two genders, intersex bodies that do not uphold the binary are surgically and medically erased. The same surgical and hormonal treatments denied to trans kids are forced on intersex kids so our bodies match cosmetic expectations of males and females. These cosmetic genital surgeries often happen in infancy or childhood without our consent or knowledge and leave permanent harm.

It is difficult to explain intersex existence without a slide show on

See Mabbitt, Page 16



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Mabbitt

from page 15

human sexual development to illustrate how human bodies can naturally develop as atypically male or female while you listen looking terrified, as if the next slide could reveal a photo of intersex vulvas.

Don't worry: My personality is no more a function of my genitalia than is yours. Don't reduce me to my intersex status and imagine that I feel bad about my body and should be pitied for my "deformity." It doesn't bother me. It's just my body.

I escaped the scalpels that create trauma for intersex people. I still have my natural variations intact and I don't hide my existence because I want all intersex children to be able to keep their natural bodies and to be able to exist without shame or forced genital mutilation.

Outside of support groups for intersex people, I rarely see intersex mentioned unless it is in arguments about whether to accept gay and trans folks. "What about intersex people? They exist!" our allies offer as proof. "They're both!" they argue.

About that "both." It is an impossibility of human development to be both male and female. Inter means between. None of us ever have both.

If anything, we're variations on male or female themes — not male or female enough to feel comfortable fully identifying as either sex. Am I a male or female? No. I'm an intersex woman.

The term hermaphrodite is therefore inaccurate and received as a slur among some intersex people, though some reclaim the term proudly.

Like trans people, we are not accepted as valid identities either. Our genders are challenged when we win at sports games, too, but when our physical bodies are examined, the inspection doesn't offer any clear answers. If transphobes require male or female genitals before allowing people into restrooms, some intersex people will be holding our pee all the way home.

If you're arguing with opponents of the LGBTQIA community and you throw out "what about intersex people?" hoping to win the argument, the answer you'll get won't lend the validity you're after.

What about intersex? That's just a rare disorder, they'll say. That's actually a man or woman, they'll say. That's a deformity — not a sex, they'll say.

Intersex people are not any more immune to misogyny, homophobia or transphobia than the rest of the population. Just because our bodies don't match physical expectations of male or female doesn't mean we won't cling to heteronormativity like a crutch and never reveal our "disorders of sexual development," much less wave intersex flags at pride festivals. We're not all gay or trans. We're just intersex.

So as an intersex person, I do indeed exist. But not as both, and I have no validity to offer to gay and trans experiences. You don't need it anyway.

Whether we defy typical expectations of being a man or woman by our sexual, gender or physical differences, who we are as individuals was never defined by what is between our legs. It was always between our ears, in our hearts, and in our souls. Isn't that valid enough?



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MSU's student jazz orchestra takes top national honors

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Cole Porter's "You're the Top" might just be an appropriate theme song for Michigan State University's Jazz Orchestra I.

After months of rehearsal and preparation, the Jazz Studies program's leading ensemble took first place in the nation at the Jack Rudin Jazz Championship at Jazz at Lincoln Center last week.

The competition pitted the nation's 10 top college ensembles against each other, in the high-profile glitter of Manhattan's premier jazz showcase, under the critical eye of a distinguished panel of judges: trumpeter-composer and director of Jazz at Lincoln Center Wynton Marsalis, drummer Jeff Hamilton, bassist Carlos Henriquez, pianist-composer Ayn Inerito and trumpeter Randy Brecker.

MSU Jazz Studies director Rodney Whitaker and the students learned they took the top spot at about 10 p.m. Wednesday (April 20), at the awards ceremony. Temple University was awarded second place, and North Carolina Central University took third.

"They saw a lot of hard work pay off," Whitaker said.

Five bands played Wednesday morning and five more played in the afternoon, with order selected at random. MSU'S turn came late in the day.

"We got to play eighth, so we heard almost all the groups, and that was kind of an advantage," Whitaker said.

The competition was stiff. At 4 p.m., the judges announced that five bands, instead of the three originally planned, would return that night for the final round, including MSU.

Whitaker and the students finished with Detroit-raised composer-arranger Gerald Wilson's ultra-fast romp through Juan Tizol's jazz standard, "Perdido."

"That was our swingiest tune, and we came to swing," Whitaker said.

The first-place finish was the culmination of months of hard work and rehearsal that began before November 2021. The Lincoln Center competition was originally planned for January but was postponed because of the pandemic.

The extra time proved to be a boon. By Wednesday, the ensemble was a well-oiled jazz machine, fine-tuned by a busy year of rehearsals, classes and tours with visiting artists.

In mid-January, one of jazz's legendary trumpeters, Charles Tolliver, took the MSU band up a steep mountain with an arrangement of saxophonist John Coltrane's "Africa Brass."

That put the ensemble in an exalted Coltrane mindset, Whitaker said, setting the stage for Wednesday's triumph in Manhattan. One of the three pieces the MSU ensemble played at the semi-finals was an arrangement by Marsalis of Coltrane's urgent, probing "Resolution," from his masterpiece suite, "A Love Supreme."

The performance required the whole band to channel Coltrane's ecstatic saxophone cries in a series of explosive solos.

"I wanted to challenge the players, and it really made us stretch," Whitaker said. "The trombones, trumpets, saxes all have to learn Coltrane's solo to execute it. Imagine — you're a trombone player and you have to learn a John Coltrane solo. It was a big challenge."

The performance earned the ensemble additional honors for outstanding rhythm and brass sections, plus individual top placements in drums with Joshua Watkins, bass with Brandon Rose, guitar with Luke Sittard, alto saxophone with Eric Law, trombone with Wyatt Forhan, trumpet with Lucas Stickley-Miner, Jeremiah Flack and Trunino Lowe, and lead trumpet with Alex Bender.

"A couple people should have got one and didn't get one, but that's how competitions go," a proud Whitaker was quick to add.

The MSU ensemble also performed Billy Strayhorn's bustling, sinuous essay in sophistication, "The Eighth Veil."

Whitaker said the MSU band learned a lot from finishing in third place at the first Jack Rudin competition, in 2020. (The 2021 competition was canceled because of the pandemic.)

"The judges told us the drummers were too loud, we overblew, we needed work on phrasing and on listening between sections — so many really good things," he said. "I took down that list and made it our focus."

When it comes to competition in music, Whitaker has a bifurcated philosophy.

"I like them because it forces you to commit to yourself, to do well," he said. "If you're mean-spirited and you're going there just to win, your heart's in

See Jazz, Page 18



Courtesy of MSU College of Music

MSU Jazz Orchestra I ensemble took top national honors at the Jack Rudin Jazz Championship at Jazz at Lincoln Center last week.

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Hazy memories from Lansing's
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CityPULSE

Creating more than crafts, makerspace builds community

By **CHELSEA PHILLIPS**

Art and technology come together in a space where Lansing creatives can learn and make.

In 2012, a group of crafty individuals met to discuss creating a makerspace in the greater Lansing area. By 2013, Lansing Makers Network moved into its first location.

“There was a lot of desire for something like this in the community,” said Brian Adams, the organization’s founder and board president.

Adams referred to what the makerspace has to offer, which includes digital fabrication tools, a machine shop, a woodshop and more as “bait.” The real draw, he said, is the community, with retired members sharing their knowledge and teaching people in the space.

“You can learn from them. It’s motivation to get your next project moving,” he said.

The space also helps kickstart small crafting businesses. Beyond that, it’s the adult version of a playground.

“It’s a great place to potentially reinvent yourself or explore things that you might enjoy doing,” he added.

When the pandemic hit, Lansing Makers Network closed the space but didn’t expect that to last for a year. Continuing to pay for utilities, insurance and rent, its reserved funds for what Adams called the “next phase” of the makerspace quickly dwindled.

“We burned through almost all of that,” Adams said.



Because the organization didn’t have employees, many of the potential pandemic-relief funding sources were not available to them. An Ingham County Sunrise Grant, a pandemic-related relief grant for small businesses and nonprofits, helped keep them afloat.

Rather than reopening in their former location, they launched a Patronicity campaign to raise \$50,000 from the community for a larger space. This amount was matched by the Michigan Economic Development Corp. The funding largely went to the move, but it also helped replenish the funds that had been exhausted during the pandemic closure.

As far as upcoming changes, Adams said they’re in the process of “growing up” as a nonprofit organization.

“We’re in this new space that comes



Volunteers run the Lansing Makers Network, where members can use tools and machines to create.

Courtesy

Lansing Makers Network

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with a whole lot more costs, a whole lot more expenses, but a whole lot more opportunity,” Adams said.

The future plans include expanding spaces, expanding class offerings and hiring staff members.

“We’re still a 100% volunteer organization,” Adams noted, and he explained how this is not a long-term, sustainable plan.

Volunteers at the makerspace get access to the space during open hours and can get full access for a heavily discounted membership fee. Others wishing to use the space can get an open-hours membership for a monthly fee of \$35. Full-access membership costs \$80 per month with discounts avail-

able for purchasing quarterly or yearly memberships.

The organization puts on a “How-to Holiday” event each year. The “make and take” event requires tickets for participation. This year, the organization will have a second How-to Holiday fundraiser June 18. The crafts will include blacksmithing windchimes, etching a pint glass, stamping a pendant, pressing pennies and more.

Adams noted the organization is more than happy to provide public tours during open hours.

“You cannot adequately explain the makerspace, it’s something that must be experienced,” he said.

Jazz

from page 17

the wrong place. It’s not about beating someone, it’s about learning and stretching.”

Jazz competitions, Whitaker said, reflect the practical reality of musical life.

“You audition for a gig, there’s one bass player, one sax player,” he said. “You’re always competing whether you realize it or not.”

At the same time, he tells his students that when it comes to art, competition has no place.

“When it’s time to play, it’s not about winning or losing,” he said. “It’s about expressing what we came to express.”

The intensity of the entire experience,

from rehearsals to travel to being tested on the jazz world’s most conspicuous stage, only heightens the learning curve.

“When we’re going to a competition, we get way into the music,” Whitaker said. “We talk about the music and its history, in a way that we don’t otherwise.”

Taking top honors in 2022 would appear to leave the program with nowhere to go next year, but Whitaker doesn’t see it that way.

“Our goal will be to top our performance from this year,” he said “If people come up and play better than us, that’s good.”



Emma Wilburn

MSU Jazz Studies director Rodney Whitaker rehearses the band at Michiko Studios in New York prior to last week’s competition at Lincoln Center.

Hazy memories from Lansing's biggest cannabis festival

I came. I saw. I got way too stoned and ended up leaving early.

My throat is still a bit sore from Saturday (April 23) afternoon, but I guess that's to be expected when you smoke about a dozen joints within a five-hour period. Several trips to the free dab bar may have also played a role. Oh, and the leaf blower filled with several pounds of pot probably didn't help.

If this stoner dream sounds at all familiar, then you probably were also among the several thousand people at Adado Riverfront Park on Saturday for

strolled into the VIP tent at about 1 p.m. with my plastic badge swinging from my neck. Black leather furniture and an array of neon lighting fixtures gave the tent a club-like feel. Servers carried around trays of cannabis-infused mocktails for guests. Bowls of munchies and sweets were constantly refilled. A coffee bar was set up in the corner.

It was a genuine stoner paradise. I probably would've been content staying there all night.

After retrieving my free goodie bag from the front desk at the tent, I was immediately offered a rather large dab of Common Citizen's Peach Pie concentrate. And another. And then another. From there, the rest of the unseasonably warm spring afternoon last weekend is all a bit hazy.

Smoking cannabis has never been much of a social activity for me. My joints tend to be sparked up at the end of the day (usually alone or with just one other person) and used almost exclusively to help me unwind after work, or for the occasional Sunday wake-and-bake.

I'm also not much of a hip-hop aficionado, so as the dabs started to work their magic inside the VIP tent, I found

myself a bit underprepared for the small talk and escaped to find some lunch.

In addition to the 30 minutes it took to get checked in at the ticket booth, the food service was incredibly slow. As my patience thinned for a \$12 plate of nachos and a \$7 lemonade, I decided to unzip my goodie bag and suddenly, my frustration was gone: Inside were 42 pre-rolled joints.

Organizers told me on Monday there must've been a mistake at the VIP desk. Other guests received a rolling tray, a grinder, a small bag of weed, a vaporizer cartridge and one pre-rolled joint — not dozens of them. I guess my bag was actually supposed to be handed out to VIP



guests as samples at 4:20 p.m. At the time, I just thought: "This is one hell of a goodie bag."

After scarfing down the entire platter of nachos, I sparked up one joint after another as I browsed through the different booths and mingled through the three other consumption tents.

A gymnast with small, pot-leaf pasties over her nipples twirled through the

See Festival, Page 20



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

The 420 Music Festival took place last weekend at Adado Riverfront Park.

the second annual 420 Music Festival. If not, or perhaps you flat-out don't remember after smoking that much weed, let me explain what you missed — and why I'll definitely be more prepared for next year's festivities:

Common Citizen — the retail partner of LIV Cannabis Co. — has made quite the loud entrance in Lansing this month, especially for still being the youngest pot shop in the city. Organizers estimate that about 8,000 people turned out for the festival on Saturday, with the largest crowds at night to watch the headlining hip-hop and rap performances from Bun B and Curren\$.y.

As the official sponsor of the festival, Common Citizen also had a VIP lounge near the stage. I managed to score some free tickets, which would have otherwise been sold for \$200 each.

About 20 cannabis vendors were on site selling a wide assortment of joints, vapes, edibles and other goodies that you could smoke or otherwise consume on site. Several others sold pipes, bongs and other cannabis-related merchandise. Food trucks also lined Capitol Avenue.

I truly felt like a celebrity when I



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Managing editor Kyle Kaminski's goodie bag was full of 42 pre-rolled joints, as opposed to just one pre-roll like the rest of the bags.

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Festival

from page 19

air during a series of stunning aerobic performances, drawing a small crowd to the side of the park. Leaf blowers filled with Common Citizen bud poured constant clouds of smoke through the crowd. Several dozen people were brave enough to stick their faces right at the business end of the machine.

After making headlines for brutalizing a passenger on an airplane to Florida last week, boxing legend Mike Tyson also made his first subsequent public appearances at the festival to promote his new cannabis line. I had planned to ask him about the mid-flight altercation, but because I was stoned out of my mind, I just smiled and dumbly nodded my head in his general direction.

By the time the “local talent” like Dreka Gates and Finessing Flash had finished their performances, I must’ve personally smoked through at least a dozen joints. That much weed mixed with an undetected case of sun poisoning means I don’t remember much of the show. And just as the evening crowds started to pour in, I decided to pack it up and head back home. It turns out Common Citizen’s Sour



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Leaf blowers filled with Common Citizen-brand bud graced guests.

Larry OG strain is some really dank stuff, but perhaps it’s not the best fuel for enduring a full 11-hour festival in the beating hot sun. Lesson learned.

Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse’s managing editor and a cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Editor & Publisher Magazine has also labeled him as “arguably, the state’s authority on everything you need to know about cannabis.” Have a suggestion for a cannabis product? Email kyle@lansingcitypulse.com.

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Point of No Return"—they don't bounce back.

by Matt Jones

Across

- 1. "Git ____, little dogies!"
- 6. Trebuchet trajectory
- 9. "Paper Moon" Oscar winner O'Neal
- 14. Furniture hauler
- 15. Indigo Girls, for example
- 16. 32 degrees, maybe
- 17. Did some aviation, but only with way awesome instruction?
- 20. Comedian/podcaster Maron
- 21. Seasoned veteran
- 22. British medical org. honoured by "Clap For Our Carers" early in the pandemic

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69						70				71			

- 23. This mo.
- 25. Soul, in France
- 27. Jewelry store, but only for fun?
- 36. Totality
- 37. Olympic swimmer lan or track athlete Jim
- 38. Wrestler in a mawashi
- 39. Streams
- 41. Palindromic holiday
- 42. Took another shot at
- 43. Greek salad topper
- 44. Richards of "Starship Troopers"
- 46. Key near Tab
- 47. Essential Spanish word for "sun"?
- 50. "___ death do us part"
- 51. Tailless primate
- 52. Touch grass (by shortening it)
- 55. They may be absolute Legends
- 59. "___-Nomics" (1988

- reggae album)
- 63. Completely different Bulgarian currency?
- 66. Red card
- 67. "Equal" prefix
- 68. Much, to a musician
- 69. Opener
- 70. Bagpiper's accessory
- 71. Boxer Fury

Down

- 1. Radio options
- 2. Kinks title woman
- 3. Done
- 4. Game show prize with a smell?
- 5. "Despicable Me" supervillain
- 6. Extra, for short
- 7. Cursed the day
- 8. "Dream ___ LLC" (Adult Swim show)
- 9. Microsoft font named for Mount Rainier
- 10. Pilot with skills

- 11. Get on another road?
- 12. Ogdens's state
- 13. Pharmacy supply
- 18. "Come Away With Me" singer Jones
- 19. "Giant Steps" saxophonist, familiarly
- 24. They're hopefully housebroken
- 26. "Who ___ But Quagmire?" ("Family Guy" bit)
- 27. "Baby Beluga" singer
- 28. Pulitzer-winning novelist Glasgow
- 29. Stops streaming
- 30. Alaskan carving
- 31. Bedard who voiced Pocahontas
- 32. Agree to take part
- 33. "Nicely done!"
- 34. Acid in proteins
- 35. Peak performance?
- 40. Bulb power measurement
- 42. Swing a scythe
- 44. "The Daily Show" correspondent Sloan
- 45. Hoarder's secret
- 48. Venetian shopping district
- 49. Jenkins of "World of Warcraft"-related memes
- 52. Doubled, a Hawaiian food fish
- 53. John Irving's "A Prayer for ___ Meany"
- 54. "Do you need something?"
- 56. Bushel, byte, or bequerel
- 57. "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" character
- 58. Tiniest bit
- 60. Pipe bends
- 61. Low-carb, high-fat diet
- 62. Shakespeare's river
- 64. 1967 NHL Rookie of the Year
- 65. Rescue squad initials

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

April 27 – May 3, 2022

ARIES (March 21-April 19): I recommend you adopt a limitation that will enable you to claim more freedom. For example, you could de-emphasize your involvement with a lukewarm dream so as to liberate time and energy for a passionate dream. Or you could minimize your fascination with a certain negative emotion to make more room for invigorating emotions. Any other ideas? You're in a phase when increased discipline and discernment can be liberating.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "Imagining anything is the first step toward creating it," wrote author and activist Gloria Steinem. "Believing in a true self is what allows a true self to be born," she added. Those are excellent meditations for you to focus on right now, Taurus. The time is ripe for you to envision in detail a specific new situation or adventure you would like to manifest in the future. It's also a perfect moment to picture a truer, deeper, more robust version of your beautiful self—an expanded version of your identity that you hope to give birth to in the coming months.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Gemini author William Butler Yeats won a Nobel Prize for Literature, so I conclude he had considerable talent and wisdom. But he cultivated interests and ideas that were at variance with most other literary figures. For example, he believed fairies are real. He was a student of occult magic. Two of his books were dictated by spirits during séances. In the coming weeks, I invite you to draw inspiration from his versatile repertoire. Welcome knowledge in whatever unusual ways it might materialize. Be eager to accept power and inspiration wherever they are offered. For inspiration, here's a Yeats' quote: "I have observed dreams and visions very carefully, and am certain that the imagination has some way of lighting on the truth that reason has not, and that its commandments, delivered when the body is still and the reason silent, are the most binding we can ever know."

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You know what's always good for your well-being? Helping people who are less fortunate and less privileged than you. To enhance your health, you can also fight bigotry, campaign against the abuse of animals, and remedy damage to the natural world. If you carry out tasks like these in the coming weeks, you will boost your vigor and vitality even more than usual. You may be amazed at the power of your compassion to generate selfish benefits for yourself. Working in behalf of others will uplift and nurture you. To further motivate you, here are inspirational words from designer Santiago Bautista: "I am in love with all the gifts of the world, and especially those destined for others to enjoy."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "There is a moment in each day that Satan cannot find," wrote author and artist William Blake. Here's how I interpret his poetic words: On a regular basis, you become relatively immune from the debilitating effects of melancholy, apathy, and fear. At those times, you are blessed with the freedom to be exactly who you want to be. You can satisfy your soul completely. In the next six weeks, I suspect there will be more of these interludes for you than usual. How do you plan to use your exalted respite from Satan's nagging?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Poet Louis Little Coon Oliver (1904-1991) was a member of the indigenous Mvskoke people. He declared, "I do not waste what is wild." That might mean something different for him than what it would mean for you, but it's an excellent principle for you to work with in the coming weeks. You will have more access than usual to wildness, and you might be tempted to use it casually or recklessly. I hope that instead you harness all that raw mojo with precision and grace. Amazingly, being disciplined in your use of the wildness will ensure that it enriches you to the max and generates potent transformative energy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I suspect you will have

the skills of an acrobat in the coming weeks—at least metaphorically. You will be psychically nimble. Your soul will have an exceptional ability to carry out spry maneuvers that keep you sane and sound. Even more than usual, you will have the power to adjust on the fly and adapt to shifting circumstances. People you know may marvel at your lithe flexibility. They will compliment you for your classiness under pressure. But I suspect the feats you accomplish may feel surprisingly easy and breezy!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A Tumblr blogger named Af-70 gives copious advice. From his wide selection of wise counsel, I have selected six tips that are right for your needs in the coming weeks. Please study the following counsel. 1. "Real feelings don't change fast." 2. "Connect deeply or not at all." 3. "Build a relationship in which you and your ally can be active in each other's growth." 4. "Sometimes what you get is better than what you wanted." 5. "Enjoy the space between where you are and where you are going." 6. "Keep it real with me even if it makes us tremble and shimmer."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Consider putting a sign on your door or a message on your social media that says something like the following: "I've still got some healing to do. While I'm making progress, I'm only partway there. Am open to your suggestions, practical tips, and suggestions for cures I don't know about." Though the process is as yet incomplete, Sagittarius, I am proud of how diligent and resourceful you have been in seeking corrections and fixes. My only suggestions: 1. Be bold about seeking help and support. 2. Be aggressive about accessing your creativity. Expand your imagination about what might be therapeutic.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "To uncover what is hidden in my soul might take me a week or two," my friend Allie told me. I told her she would be lucky if her brave and challenging exploration required such a short time. In contrast, some people I know have spent years trying to find what is buried and lost in their souls: me, for instance. There was one period of my life when I sought for over a decade to find and identify the missing treasure. According to my astrological analysis, you will soon enjoy multiple discoveries and revelations that will be more like Allie's timeline than mine: relatively rapid and complete. Get ready! Be alert!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A Thai cook named Nattapong Kaweenuntawong has a unique method for cooking the soup served in his Bangkok restaurant. At the end of each night, he saves the broth for use the next day. He has been doing that daily for 45 years. Theoretically, there may be molecules of noodles that were originally thrown in the pot back in 1977. In accordance with current astrological omens, I urge you to dream up a new tradition that borrows from his approach. What experience could you begin soon that would benefit you for years to come?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Pisces-born Casimir Pulaski (1745-1779) was a Polish nobleman and military commander. As a young man, he fought unsuccessfully to free Poland from Russian domination. Driven into exile, he fled to America, arriving during the Revolutionary War with Britain in 1777. General George Washington was impressed with Pulaski's skills, making the immigrant a brigadier general. He distinguished himself as a leader of American forces, exhibiting brilliance and bravery. For that excellence, he has been honored. But now, over two centuries later, his identity is in flux. DNA analyses of Pulaski's remains suggest he was an intersex person with both male and female qualities. (Read more: tinyurl.com/PulaskiSmithsonian.) I bring this to your attention, Pisces, because the coming months will be a favorable time to question and revise your understanding of your identity. May you be inspired by Pulaski's evolving distinctiveness.

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Answers on page 23

SUDOKU

Beginner

		3						6
		8		4	9			
		5				7	4	3
	8			3	7			
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TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, column, and outlined 3-by-3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. No guessing is required. The solution is unique.

Answers on page 23

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

LIFE CHANGING ALBUMS: ANDY JEGLIC OF ORC ON THE BAND

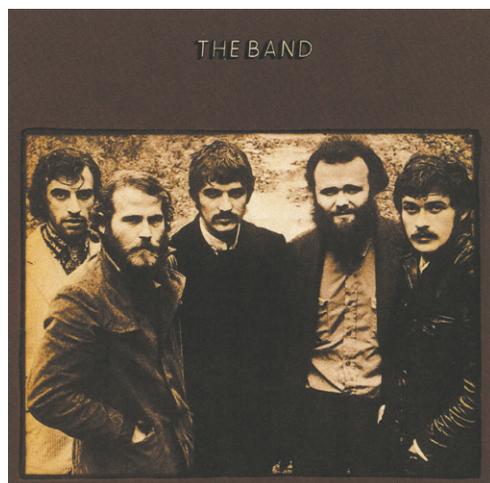


Photo by Life in Michigan

Andy Jeglic of Orc, a progressive heavy metal band, writes songs similar to early Soundgarden, he but also enjoys the laid-back, freewheeling sounds of The Band.



Local wizard of heavy stoner-rock talks up wistful folk-rock LP

If there's one thing Lansing has no shortage of, it's genuine heavy music. Back in early 2020, Orc released its debut album online and quickly caught the attention of stoner rock enthusiasts from across the globe. Not long after, the fuzzy nine-track record was pressed on vinyl.

The locally based progressive-metal outfit may sound colossal, but all of that hard-rock mayhem comes from the stripped-down duo of bassist/vocalist Andy Jeglic and drummer Connor Peil — who are working on a followup record. In this week's "Life Changing Albums" series, Jeglic talks up a mellower sonic stimulus: The Band's self-titled LP.

The Band's second album was released back in 1969 — how did you discover it?

Andy Jeglic: I first heard "Up on Cripple Creek" when I was a teenager while dipping my toes into folk music for the first time. But back then, I was far more interested in Neil Young as my folk-rock role model. Some of the other songs I had heard from The Band, featuring Richard Manuel's vocals, did not immediately capture my attention. At the time, Richard Manuel's falsetto sounded awful to my ears and the recordings sounded slipshod and amateurish.

What ultimately drew you into The Band?

Funny enough, those same imperfections were what drew me back to the record after I had gained more experience as an engineer and musician. These were people I could identify with, just musicians with incredible chemistry and no bells and whistles.

You found this album back in 2013 — what brought you to that specific LP?

I was fresh out of college and pretty untethered at the time, so I had plenty of time to absorb new music. I was binge-watching episodes of the series "Classic Albums," and The Band was one of the records that was covered. I was struck by how low-fi the recording process was.

I was an amateur audio engineer myself, and their recording process was something I could have done in my garage. The results sounded very charming. I was also blown away by the performance of "When You Awake" by Rick Danko in the episode. It was a beautiful performance of the song, which I'd never heard before. I downloaded the record immediately.

Is it the lyrics or instrumentation that impresses you the most about the album?

So many aspects of the record impress me, but the most standout component is the harmonizing. The Band has three singers, each with a com-

pletely unique voice. Almost every song is packed full of complex, three-part harmonies that add a mystique to the songs that can't be replicated by any other group.

Many of the parts don't even seem to make sense at first glance. They're as off-the-cuff and slipshod as the recording of the record, but they also drive home the fact that this is a group that has a chemistry that is rarely seen before. No one else can replicate the harmonies on songs like "Jawbone" or "Rocking Chair."

Anything else standout to you?

I am also impressed with how the record creates a feel of genuine antiquity. It sounds like it was recorded in 1880. There are many americana records that try to channel nostalgia, but this is a record that truly feels like it was created during a different time. This goes beyond songs like "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down," whose subject matter deals directly with the Civil War, or "King Harvest" being about sharecropper unions of the 1930s. It may be that lack of polish along with the subject matter that generates the authenticity. All I know is that since this record was released, every Americana artist tries to recapture this magic. I don't think any of them truly get it right.

In what ways has this album directly affected your life, or musical style?

The biggest impact this record has had on me was driving home the understanding that outstanding technique or explosive individual performances do not matter if they are not in pursuit of a greater song. Each song on this record is about the song. They're never a platform for a soloist or emphasizing a musician's passion project. Each one is a self-contained story, and the discipline and restraint exercised by the musicians is what creates the room for each song to take on a life of its own.

It also made me appreciate and focus on collaboration in music. I've often thought about writing a solo record, but interpersonal chemistry is such an important aspect of creating great music that I am continuously discouraged from trying to take on something entirely by myself.

The greatness of this record comes from how well the individuals understood each other and how they each chose to weave their skills together. It is a communal experience. This is truly a special record and really deserves to be talked about in the same way as "Sgt. Pepper's." There is no weak song on this record. If it doesn't move you, you're a robot.

Sample Orc at orcmi.bandcamp.com.



OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com.
 Deadline is 9 a.m. Monday for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

LIVE + LOCAL

B&I Bar

5247 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing

Keith Minaya

Thurs., April 28, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Helena Lost

Sat., April 29, 8-11 p.m.

Blue Owl

1149 S Washington, Lansing

Elden Kelly and Gregg Hill

Thurs., April 28, 6-8 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids

Kurt Stone/Kymm Dawn Scott

Fri., April 29, 7-10 p.m.

Cat Story/Justin Holcomb

Sat., April 30, 7-10 p.m.

The Exchange

314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

The New Rule

Fri. & Sat., April 29-30, 9:30 p.m.

Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Gina Garner Band

Fri., April 29, 8:30p.m.

Medusa

Sat., April 30, 8:30 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Company

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing

Universe Band

Sat., April 30, 8:30-10:30 p.m.

Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

The Swift Brothers (Dan Dan)

Fri., April 29, 8-10 p.m.

Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington, Lansing

Nick Leydorf

Sat., April 30, 8 and 10 p.m.

Urban Beat

1213 N. Turner St., Lansing

Olukaybello

Fri., April 29, 6-10 p.m.

Drag Brunch/RAINN Benefit Show

Sat., April 30, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Emma's Revolution

Friday, April 29 7:30 p.m.
 University United Methodist Church
 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing



The Ten Pound Fiddle is hosting Emma's Revolution, a social justice and folk duo from Oakland, California. Named after activist Emma Goldman, the duo frequently demonstrate passion for women's rights, environmental protection and peace. The pair — Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow — were mentored by fellow folk singer and activist Pete Seeger. In her early years, Humphries spent time performing in the Lansing area, giving her a "hometown connection" to the Fiddle. Tickets are \$20 for non-Fiddle members and can be purchased online or at the box office. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. Proof of vaccination with an ID is required, as are masks.

Auditions: Wiley and the Hairy Man - Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. 5-7 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. 517-483-1122. lcc.edu

Indoors/Outdoors Andrea Jeris Art Show - through April. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Framers' Edge and Gallery, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

Mean Girls Trivia - 7-10 p.m. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

Middle Grade Book Club - discussion about "Shuri: A Black Panther Novel" 4:30-5:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradi.org.

Riverwalk Theatre Presents: ART - 7 p.m. riverwalktheatre.com for tickets.

Sculpture Marathon - three-dimensional extravaganza at the MSU Broad Art Museum! 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. 50807.

Switch Gaming - Grab your Nintendo Switch or play ours! All skill levels welcome! 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014.

TPC Art Display Honors People of Ukraine - 12-4 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing.

Weaving the Web: Beltaine and Family - Join us online or in-person for a discussion. 6-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, ATC, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, April 28

April Daily Events @ GLADL - through 4/28. It's time for April Showers! 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Art - 7-9 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228

Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Dogs/Cats Lovers - learn which type of house is suitable. 1-2:30 p.m. 1601 E Cavanaugh Rd, Lansing, MI 48910, pethouse.com.

Gardening 101: Get the Best Bang for Your Buck - Members of the Foodbank Garden Project will share advice with beginning gardeners. 5-7 p.m. Stockbridge Library, 1379 E. Mason St., Stockbridge. Cadl.org.

Landscape Painting - (adults) - All materials needed supplied by the library free of cost. 5-6:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradi.org.

Open VR - Try Virtual Reality! - The VR lab is back and in-person! 1-3 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Painting Pop Up - Take a study break and enjoy a mini watercolor project. 3-5 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Relax in the Round - Watch relaxing videos in our 360-degree immersion space!

3-5 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Stitch 'n Bitch - Come hang out with some fellow stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Therapy Dogs - Take a study break and pet a dog! 3-5 p.m. Main Library, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Verdi's Messa de Requiem: MSU Symphony Orchestra and Choirs. 7:30 p.m. Info and tickets at events.msu.edu.

Friday, April 29

150th Arbor Day Celebration - Beal Botanical Gardens. 2-1 p.m. Beal Botanical Garden, shed, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Around the World - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Art - 8-10 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. www.riverwalktheatre.com.

See Events, Page 24

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

A	L	O	N	G	A	R	C	T	A	T	U	M
M	O	V	E	R	D	U	O	A	C	U	T	E
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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

Wednesday, April 27

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1611 E Kalamazoo, Lansing. Art Exhibit: This Rebirthing- 12-4 p.m. The Peoples Church, 200 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-332-5073.

Events

from page 23

Charlotte Fire Flow Jam Series 2022 - 9 p.m. Old Courthouse Museum, 100 W Lawrence Avenue, Charlotte.

Church Rummage Sale - Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-3. Eaton Rapids First United Methodist Church, 600 S. Main, Eaton Rapids.

Emma's Revolution: Pat Humphries and Sandy O. - 7:30-10 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Mother's Day Flowerpots Kits - available in our vestibule starting Friday, April 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities Annual Awards and Appreciation Reception - 1-3 p.m. Kellogg Center Big Ten A, East Lansing. msu.edu.

Stuff the Truck Food Drive - Meyer's Landscape & Design is having its annual food drive. 2-6 p.m. Hyatt Place Lansing East, 2401 Showtime Dr., Lansing.

Wake Up with Witwer - Join State Representative Angela Witwer at the Grand Ledge Area District Library. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Saturday, April 30

150th Anniversary Celebration of Bands - Celebrating 150 years of bands at MSU. 3 p.m. Info and tickets at events.msu.edu.

2022 Night for Notables Celebration - The Library of Michigan and Library of Michigan Foundation. 6-8:30 p.m. 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. libraryofmichiganfoundation.org.

All About Frogs - Fireside Chat - Join the HNC naturalists around the campfire for a fireside chat. 7-8 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

Antiques & April 2022 - The Mason Area Chamber of Commerce. Maps will be available at the Mason Chamber Office and participating antique shops. business.masonchamber.org.

Around the World - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Art - 8-10 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

The Basics of Soil Health w/ Christopher Robbins - 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 500 Clifford St, Lansing.

Church Rummage Sale - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids First United Methodist Church, 600 S. Main, Eaton Rapids.

Courageous Conversations - 5 Saturdays Talking About Things That Matter. "Thank You for the Rain" Climate Change Movie 7-9 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Rd., Lansing. Zoom or in person. unitylansing.org.

Grow a Ginkgo (All ages) - learn about the beautiful ginkgo trees in the Children's Garden from MSU. 1-2 p.m. CADL Downtown, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing. 517-367-6350. cadl.org.

Spring Trail Trot - a 5-mile loop around Sleepy Hollow State Park. 9 a.m. Spring Trail Trot, 7835 E Price Rd, Laingsburg. trailrunner.com.

Stuff the Truck Food Drive - Meyer's Landscape & Design annual Stuff the Truck food drive. 2-6 p.m. Hyatt Place, 2401 Showtime Dr., Lansing.

Working Women Artists Spring Show - 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

Sunday, May 1

Art - 2-4 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Comedy Night - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Spartan Youth Wind Symphony - 3 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855.

Surprised Puppy Craft (Children 5 & up) - Receive supplies to create a paper puppy. 12-4 p.m. Williamston Branch Library, 1379 E. Mason Street, Williamston. 517-655-1191. cadl.org.

Therapy Dogs - Take a study break and pet a dog! 1:30-3 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Working Women Artists Spring Show - May. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

Monday, May 2

Comedy Night - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Creative Writing Kits (Age 5 & up) - Pickup 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Dansville Branch Library, 1379 E. Mason Street, Dansville. cadl.org.

Make a Tiny Terrarium - 6-8 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Relax in the Round - Watch relaxing videos in the 360-degree immersion space! 6-8 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Scrabble Hour - 6-8 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., E. Lansing. 517-351-2420. elpl.bibliocommons.com.

Therapy Dogs at the Gast Business Library - Take a break and pet a dog! 1-3 p.m. MSU Gast Business Library, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Tuesday, May 3

Board Game Meet Up - ages 18 & up. 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

DDL Walking Club - Meet up with other area walkers. 10-11 a.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Rd., DeWitt. dewittlibrary.org.

Open VR - Try Virtual Reality! - The VR lab is back and in-person! 3-5 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Sporcle Live! Trivia - 7:30 & 8:30 p.m. games. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

Therapy Dogs - Take a study break and pet a dog! 6-8 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Therapy Dogs at the Gast Business Library - Take a study break! 1-3 p.m. MSU Gast Business Library, East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Toastmaster Meeting - in person and on Zoom) - W 6:30-7:30 p.m. Downtown CADL, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing. cadl.org.

THE PULSIFIEDS

Allison Oaks / Windcharme Estates
Annual Subdivision Sales
May 7, 8-4 p.m.
off Willow between Elmwood/Creyts.

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same day. Must have reliable
vehicle, valid driver's license,
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Ingham County Housing Commission has developed its 2023 Annual Agency Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. The Plan is available for review at the Housing Commission Office located in Carriage Lane Apartments, 3882 Dobie Rd. Okemos, MI. The Housing Commission office hours are Monday – Friday 8am-5pm. Please call 517-349-1643 for an appointment. In addition, a public hearing will be held on Thursday June 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the Multi-purpose room of Carriage Lane Apartments. Public is welcome.



Shanda Johnston
Executive Director

CP#22-092

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The dark, mystical themes in ‘Dark Roots’

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Edward Rosick’s first book was on a medical topic — understandably, given he is a Lansing-area physician.

But his second book is quite different: It’s a horror novel.

Rosick compared his new book, “Deep Roots,” to the early works of Stephen King and Dean Koontz. His writing style and themes lean toward H.P. Lovecraft’s speculative fiction.

The novel follows the life of ex-con Kevin Ciano, a 30-year-old who tries to make a way for himself in contemporary Detroit after serving a prison sentence for assault. While in prison, Ciano was tattooed and subjected to scarification. His tattoos and scars are in the order of black magic, which he later traces back to ancient Vikings. From there, Ciano attempts to stay on the right path following his release from prison, but an

unusual affliction causes him to descend into madness.

Ancient myths and beliefs have always interested Rosick, and, he said, “they lent itself to this story.” Beyond that, he rates this novel “a hard R and not for anyone who is under 16.”

A good portion of “Deep Roots” follows Ciano and his new girlfriend, Sherri. She’s a member of the Motor City Fire Masters — an edgy performance art group in Detroit. Rosick said the group is a “really exotic aspect” to the book, which readers will find is an understatement.

Many descriptions of the performance art are technical, as the writer falls back on his day job as a doctor in practice at Michigan State University’s Family and Community Medicine. Some of the descriptions are gasp-worthy, but Rosick wants readers to know that the dark story doesn’t represent himself, personally.

“It’s important to separate the art from the artist,” he said.

Rosick, whose short, wide-ranging stories have been published in anthologies for decades, stressed this new book’s theme is mostly about how “bad decisions can lead to bad consequences,” which is shown through Kevin’s life.

“He may be the protagonist of the book, but he is not the hero,” he said.

The author does interject a theme into the book that’s close to his work as a family practice doctor. As Ciano’s lesions become worse, he is stymied in seeking medical care because of lack of insurance.

“The disparity of medical care drives me crazy,” said Rosick, whose first book was “Optimal Prevention: Common-sense Ways to Avoid the Five Most Common Killer Diseases Today,” published in 2016.

Looking ahead, Rosick is already working on his next book, a novel set in the Upper Peninsula’s Huron Mountains. A small group of people are forced to seek shelter in an old cabin during a raging snowstorm. The outlier is a Waheela, a mythical evil spirit in the form of a large wolf-like creature.

He said the style will differ dramatically from “Dark Roots” and will tell the story from a variety of points of view, including a 13-year-old Native American boy and a 7-year-old dog. Meanwhile, “Dark Roots” uses a single point of view to tell the story from Ciano’s perspective.

Rosick’s “Dark Roots” is definitely a two-night read that may result in some unsettling dreams.



Courtesy Edward Rosick, a local author, has published two books.

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Agreements / Separation

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

The East Lansing City Council of the City of East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan will hold a meeting and public hearing on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 7:00PM. This meeting and public hearing will be held at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider the FY 23 Community Development Block Grant Budget.

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Additionally, members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please contact the City Clerk or visit the City’s public meeting portal for electronic access information:

Jennifer Shuster – City Clerk
410 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
jshuster@cityofeastlansing.com
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

The CDBG Budget recommendation for FY 23 drafted by East Lansing’s CD Advisory Committee is 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 <https://www.cityofeastlansing.com/2243/Community-Development-Advisory-Committee>. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to City Council, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to council@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 City Manager’s Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6920 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at nmostel@cityofeastlansing.com.

This notice is posted in compliance with P.A. 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and published in compliance with the City of East Lansing’s CDBG Citizen Participation Plan.

Jennifer Shuster
City Clerk

CP#22-095

Better call mom

Ukrainian crepes make for a savory, or sweet, Mother's Day

By **ARI LeVAUX**

Our story ends in front of a pile of Ukrainian crepes. Some are flavored with savory herbs and cottage cheese, and others are filled with strawberries, vanilla and sweet cheese. These crepes, called *nalysnyky* (gnaw-lee-s-nike), make the perfect Mother's Day meal.

But first, some thoughts on the evolution of Mother's Day.

It began as a memorial to the peace activist Ann Reeves Jarvis. During the Civil War era, Jarvis had run "Mother's Day Work Clubs" in West Virginia, where she and other women worked to improve sanitary conditions for children. They declared these camps neutral, and treated both Union and Confederate soldiers. When the war ended, Jarvis organized a reconciliation event with soldiers from both sides. Fellow activist mother Julia Ward Howe proposed a "Mother's Peace Day" to empower a mother's sacred right to protect the lives of her boys and the soldiers.

Jarvis' daughter Anna ultimately organized the holiday in 1905, the year Jarvis died, and ensured it was a celebration for all mothers. The holiday was first celebrated in 1907 in a West Virginia church. By 1914, President Woodrow Wilson declared it as a national holiday. And mom's surely deserve it.

My mom's parents came over from Ukraine, where the baked Ukrainian crepes called *nalysnyky* are a comfort food. They are traditionally filled with cottage cheese and dill, which happens to be my mom's favorite herb. To her, these dilly crepes deliver a delicious dose of nostalgia. But she is cool with strawberries and chocolate, too. I've made them with ham and cheese, which my kids like, and even tried a version filled with fake crab and asparagus. It's a very forgiving dish. If only life were so forgiving, and peace as easy to make as crepes.

Nalysnyky

If your mother isn't a dill lover, I've come up with a sweet *nalysnyky* that's more in line with a classic Mother's Day treat. It's filled with a blend of mascarpone and ricotta cheeses, mixed with chopped strawberries, flavored with vanilla and drizzled in chocolate sauce.

No matter what filling you use, the



rest of the technique won't change. My son likes chopped ham in his dill *nalysnyky*, and his brother prefers them filled with imitation crab, asparagus and brie. Just be careful of watery ingredients, as they make for a soupy filling.

Serves 2

Crepe ingredients

- 4 eggs
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup flour
- ¼ cup heavy cream
- ½ stick butter

Savory filling

- 1 cup full fat cottage cheese, preferably large curd
- 2 egg yolks
- 2 tablespoons dill, chopped (or more, if you're cooking for my mom)
- ½ teaspoon salt

Sweet filling

- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 1 cup mascarpone cheese
- 2 yolks
- 1 cup chopped strawberries
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

If your filling contains cottage cheese, the first step is to place the cheese in a colander and let any water drain — then proceed to making crepes.

Add the eggs, salt and milk to a mixing bowl. Mix furiously, with a whisk or electric mixer, until the eggs are thoroughly beaten. Add the flour, ¼ cup at a time, mixing as you add it to avoid lumps, which a real crepe maker would never tolerate.

When the batter is completely smooth and homogenized, heat an omelet pan on medium. Add about a teaspoon of butter and tilt the pan around to spread it evenly. Add a ¼ cup of batter to the buttered pan, quickly making a spiral



Courtesy

Crepes can be made with a variety of fillings, but it's best to avoid watery ingredients.

Appetizers

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See Flash, Page 27

Mad for the Madtown grilled cheese

Unique HopCat sandwich includes apples and honey

By **CHLOE ALVERSON**

Before City Pulse, I worked as a server at HopCat in East Lansing for over three years. Like any good server, I studied the menu to make suggestions for our guests. What better way to study than to try the foods myself? My go-to employee meal was the Madtown grilled cheese. I ordered it so much, manager once told me I wasn't allowed to order it anymore — he was joking, but I thought he was serious at first. It's been my favorite meal since I first tried it back in 2018.

The sandwich, which is vegetarian-friendly, is different from a traditional grilled cheese, and you definitely have to be a cheese lover to enjoy it. The Madtown comes on sourdough and is made with three cheeses — dill havarti, smoked gouda and muenster. The trio of cheeses complement each other nicely, but that's not even the best part. The garlic aioli is what makes it amazing. It also comes with apple slices and honey, giving the sandwich a touch of sweetness.

The dish is served with a cup of roasted red pepper gouda bisque, and the bisque is topped with queso fresco and scallions. If you've ever been to a HopCat (a Grand Rapids-based craft beer joint, with multiple Michigan locations), you likely know about the Cosmik fries — formerly known as Crack fries. The fries have a special seasoning on them that not only makes them irresistible, but also pairs perfectly with the grilled cheese. The combination is a filling, but tasty meal.



Courtesy of HopCat

The Madtown grilled cheese from HopCat, which is made with dill havarti, smoked gouda and muenster, goes great with Cosmik fries.

Flash

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from the center. Immediately tilt the pan around to fill the gaps and completely cover the bottom of the pan. The window for doing this is very short, as the crepes will quickly cook. It is an art to fill the pan bottom with a perfect circle. Imperfect circles are fine too, because when they are filled and rolled, nobody will notice.

Shake the pan to keep the crepe from sticking. If you've used enough batter and it's a decent pan, it won't. After about two minutes, the crepe will shrink a little and moisture will start to bubble from the top. It's about done at that point. Do not flip it. Slide it off the pan and onto a plate. Repeat until the batter is gone and you have 10 crepes.

Mix together the ingredients to your filling of choice. Place a tablespoon of filling near the edge of a crepe. Roll that edge over the filling. Fold and tuck the two ends as you roll the crepe across the plate.

Stack the rolled crepes in a lightly buttered pan, and bake for 20 minutes

at 350 degrees. Let them cool to a safe temperature and serve warm.

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