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Aug. 31 - Sept. 6, 2022

# CityPULSE

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P. 11**

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# CityPULSE

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**PAGE 10**

Small starts in school politics

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**PAGE 14**

Last days of summer



**PAGE 18**

The rise and fall of 'the Sheik'

Cover photo by Dylan Lees

**FUNDING FANATICS**

THE FEDERALIST SOCIETY IS AN IMMENSELY POWERFUL ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN FILLING THE COURTS WITH FAR-RIGHT EXTREMIST JUDGES.

A 90-YEAR-OLD TYCOON RECENTLY GAVE \$1.6 BILLION TO AN ADVOCACY GROUP CLOSELY AFFILIATED WITH THEM.

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

BIDEN'S PLAN TO FORGIVE STUDENT DEBT IS AN **OUTRAGE!**

WELL SURE, IT SHOULD HAVE GONE FURTHER-- BUT IT'S STILL GOING TO HELP A LOT OF PEOPLE!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN, AND YOU KNOW IT! IT'S AN **INSULT** TO EVERYONE WHO EVER WORKED HARD TO PAY OFF THEIR OWN LOANS!

RIGHT, BECAUSE THE LAST THING WE WANT IS TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR SUBSEQUENT GENERATIONS. WHAT KIND OF SOCIETY WOULD EVEN DO SUCH A THING?

CHILD LABOR LAWS ARE A SLAP IN THE FACE TO ORPHANS WHO WORKED IN **COAL MINES!** SEAT BELTS AND AIRBAGS ARE AN AFFRONT TO EVERYONE WHO WAS EVER THROWN THROUGH A WINDSHIELD IN A **CAR CRASH!**

I COULD GO ON. I'D RATHER YOU DID NOT.

IT'S A **SLIPPERY SLOPE!** IF WE CAN JUST WIPE OUT **SOME** STUDENT DEBT--WHY NOT **ALL** OF IT? HECK, WHY NOT JUST MAKE COLLEGE **FREE?** AND GIVE EVERYBODY **GUARANTEED HEALTH CARE**, WHILE WE'RE AT IT?

YOU'RE **SO CLOSE** TO GETTING IT.

LOOK, IF SOMEONE WANTS TO GO DEEP INTO DEBT TO PURSUE A DEGREE IN BASKET WEAVING OR GENDER STUDIES--**SNICKER**--THAT'S THEIR **CHOICE!** BUT WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO **PAY** FOR IT?

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# PULSE

# NEWS & OPINION

## Montgomery Drain repair two years late, 25% over budget

Supply chain issues, inflation to blame, Lindemann says

The streets in the Frandora Hills neighborhood, west of Coolidge Road and just over the border from East Lansing, can charitably be described as patchwork.

At worst, the road surface is teeth-chattingly bad. Lansing has put the streets on a list to be repaired the last two years, then taken them off again.

It's understandable, then, that residents of the small subdivision feel they've taken a double hit. On top of their subdivision roads — or rather, under them — is the ailing Montgomery Drain, for whose repair they are being assessed.

The project's cost has risen over time from \$36 million to more than \$45 million. The difference still needs to be found, with the goal of completion by fall 2023.

The county is still looking for funding sources beyond the \$1 million approved by Ingham County commissioners at their Aug. 23 meeting. Nearly \$1 million more will come from a county bond fund.

The familiar refrain of “supply chain issues” is the crux of the problem here. Take PVC pipe, most commonly used in both residential and commercial construction.

Like many things, PVC pipe — the kind most people use in plumbing — is made from natural gas.

Like many things during this lingering pandemic, PVC pipe is in short supply. What happens to things in short supply? Even when you can find what you need, it's at a staggeringly higher price than normal.

That's what has happened with the Montgomery Drain, an area spanning several municipalities in metropolitan Lansing. An unfortunate combination of cost overruns and scarcity of supplies have combined to delay the project's completion and hike the bottom line by more than \$12 million.

The project was to have been completed this spring, but will not likely wrap up now until fall 2023. Earlier estimates had it being finished by fall 2021.

The \$1 million from the River Trail Millage will pay for 2.5 miles of new paths and newer, wider sidewalks, among other improvements. Addition-



Courtesy

Residents of Frandora Hills, on Lansing's east side, are frustrated about the condition of their streets (right) and also how long it is taking to finish the Montgomery Drain project that will take place below them.



Dawn Parker for City Pulse

al work will enable nearby Ranney Park and its popular sledding hill to reopen.

Lansing is paying around 64 percent of the total, funds it is getting from special assessments and drain tax hikes.

Frandora Hills resident Dan Dekker said his neighbors are paying as much as \$11,800 in a special assessment for work that seems to be never-ending.

“The special assessment bills we received from the city in January of 2020 said the project would be finished in 12 to 18 months,” Dekker noted in an e-mail. “That has obviously come and gone, and there is no end date in sight. We don't know what the end game is.”

Dekker said the assessment added between \$400 and \$700 to most residents' summer tax bills — not an insignificant sum.

Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann knows residents are frustrated, but the situation is one over which he has no control. The hold-up, he added, may be laid at the feet of a familiar culprit.

“The only delays that I've had — and we're four to five months behind — 100 percent of the drain delays are caused by COVID supply chain issues. Period. That's it,” he said.

“High prices and lack of material.”

Lindemann said the project's price tag has risen by 20% to 25% from the original \$36 million estimate because of the lack of raw materials.

He is optimistic that the \$11 million shortfall to complete the work will come from federal funds allocated to the states through the American Rescue Plan Act. Those dollars are projected to show up by year's end.

“We're going to try to get some of that,” he said. “The state of Michigan has some infrastructure money that we're going to look at. Failing that, we're going to go to the Chapter 20 (Drain Code) board and see if they have any bright ideas to make it work.”

Many projects across the country have wound up costing significantly more due to lack of materials, Lindemann said. As for the Montgomery Drain, it ranks in the middle or “slightly below average” where price hikes are concerned.

There's a further complication involving Frandora Hills and the drain. Lindemann estimated that 10% to 15% percent of the system beneath the road surface has collapsed. What makes the most sense, he continued, is repairing the roads at the same time the drain

work is done, to keep inconvenience to residents to a minimum.

A repaired drain will also keep between 50,000 and 70,000 gallons of pollutant annually from reaching the Red Cedar River.

“Everybody wants clean water, but nobody wants to pay for it,” Lindemann said. “Somehow or another, it's a problem we all have to face, and we're all going to have to work it out.”

If Frandora Hills residents are unhappy about their assessments, they should take their concerns to Lansing city leaders, especially Mayor Andy Schor.

“That's his job,” Lindemann said. “The mayor and the city council allocate the funds to raise the money to pay for the work.”

Chapter 20 of the Drain Code, he continued, allows the city to raise whatever funds it needs in whatever manner is necessary.

“I don't think I've run into one person in Frandora Hills who disagrees with doing the job. It's just a matter of how you pay for it.”

Carla Barnes has lived in Frandora Hills for close to 50 years, long enough to see some things change while others have not.

“It's been a nice neighborhood, until recently,” Barnes said. The assessment on their modest 1,250-square-foot house was nearly \$9,000, which she said is “absurd.”

“We were all in favor of taking care of the river — no one wants it polluted. (But) I don't know how the City Council determined the formula, because most of the water goes on grass — it doesn't go on concrete.”

Residents attended Council meetings and submitted written objections, Barnes said.

“I don't think anyone paid attention to us. I don't think they had to.”

Some neighbors, Barnes said, even moved away rather than deal with the situation.

— DAWN PARKER

**Editor's note:** A resident of the Frandora Hills subdivision on Lansing's east side wanted to know why it was taking so long to repair the Montgomery Drain. This story is the result. If you have a question about issues affecting your neighborhood, please email [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com).

# Chipotle workers in Lansing fear closure after union vote

## Delta Twp. location first in the nation to be unionized

Chipotle employees in Delta Township are worried they will be out of work after they approved unionizing the store last week, one organizer said.

“It seems clear to us that Chipotle could close the store,” Atulya Dora-Laskey said. “And if that happens, a lot of us are just going to kind of keep fighting, either in a different Chipotle workplace or in a different workplace altogether.”

A spokesperson for Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc. denied there was any plan to shut down the west Lansing store — the first Chipotle in the nation to be unionized. Chipotle has over 3,000.

Dora-Larkey, 23, was one of 11 workers who voted Thursday night to join the Teamsters in order to gain collective bargaining. Three employees voted no. The employees will be represented by the Teamsters Local 243.

Chipotle shuttered the store in Augusta, Maine, at the same time it was facing unionization. The company had challenged a union election, and the National Labor Relations Board had scheduled a hearing to listen to that challenge. The

company closed the store, claiming it was the result of staffing issues.

“Closing the Chipotle restaurant in Augusta, Maine, had nothing to do with union activity,” Erin Wolford, a spokesperson for the company, said in an email. “Our operational management reviewed this situation as it would any other restaurant with these unique staffing challenges. Chipotle respects our employees’ rights to organize under the National Labor Relations Act.”

Just like in Augusta, workers in Delta Township organized in part because the store was chronically understaffed, Dora-Laskey said.

“We have had a night shift, around the dinner hour at peak, where we are trying to run the store with one manager and three crew members,” he said. “And it is untenable. But Chipotle doesn’t mind if we’re super stressed out, because for them, they make close to the same amount of money. And we ask individually for them to schedule more people on these shifts, and to use more labor hours. Of course, the answer was ‘no.’ But we know that collectively, if we all ask, they have to take these much more seriously.”

As the employees met quietly outside



Courtesy

The night crew at Chipotle in Delta Township after workers voted 11-3 to unionize.

of the restaurant to organize, they prepared by researching the issues related to unionization, obstacles they might face and which union was the best choice. Dora-Laskey said the entire process was explicitly democratic, giving voice to everyone so that consensus was reached regularly.

But once paperwork was filed with the NLRB, Chipotle turned up the heat on the employees. Dora-Laskey said management from other stores were brought into the store, hitting a 2-to-1 ratio over employees. He said the goal was often to prevent employees from congregating and talking. He called it “oppressive.”

The company also brought in a consultant to discuss unions with the employees, Dora-Laskey said. It became apparent quickly that the consultant who was claiming to present unbiased information about unionization was presenting anti-union information. That included a one-page document claiming that only 4% of employees were unionized. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says 10.3% of American workers are in unions.

But organizers had inoculated employees on this talking point.

“We were able to, before they even brought out the sort of graph, the declining union membership, we had talked about in meetings, about how the declining union membership has resulted in really skyrocketing income inequality,” Dora-Laskey said. “And it makes sense, because if workers are having this individual relationship with their employers, they’re a lot easier to be taken advantage of, or dismissed, or ignored, if they ask for too much money.”

Dora-Laskey said the union is part of a larger, national movement by younger

workers, mostly in entry-level jobs like fast food and delivery, to find value from their employers for their work.

An August 2022 poll from Gallup found 71% of Americans support unions, the highest approval rating since 1968. It also found that 40% of those in a union found their membership “extremely important.”

This year has seen a movement to unionize several significant workplaces such as Google, Amazon, Starbucks and Apple.

Despite an adversarial relationship, over 200 Starbucks have voted to unionize over the last year. JFK8, the Amazon on Staten Island, voted for unionization earlier this year. Amazon is challenging the validity of that vote. It spent \$4 million in required anti-union meetings, according to CBS.

In an emailed statement, Chipotle executive Laurie Schalow said the corporation was “disappointed” in the vote.

“At Chipotle, our employees are our greatest asset, and we are committed to listening to their needs and continuing to improve upon their workplace experience,” the statement reads. “We’re disappointed that the employees at our Lansing, MI restaurant chose to have a third party speak on their behalf because we continue to believe that working directly together is best for our employees.”

The statement went on to tout the benefits of employment at Chipotle, claiming workers can climb the chain of command to management within three and half years, and begin receiving a total benefits package of approximately \$100,000.

Ruth Milkman, a labor expert and professor at the City University of New York, said the union is part of a larger, national movement by younger

See Chipotle, Page 7

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# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY DAWN PARKER

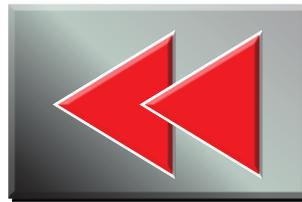


Photo by Ron Stratton

**Michigan State University welcomed one of its largest-ever freshman classes over the weekend, saying "Welcome!" to nearly 10,000 new students.** Fall semester classes for all students begin today (Aug. 31).



**Lansing dance instructor and choreographer Mary "Mitzi" Carol died Friday at age 72.** Carol was a sought-after director for many local dance and theater productions and taught at Lansing Community College for nearly 20 years. Visitation will take place 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2, at Gorsline Runciman, Tiffany Chapel, Lansing. Funeral services will be held at noon Saturday at Gorsline Runciman-Tiffany Chapel, with an additional visitation two hours before the service.

**Michigan State University will receive more than \$9 million in federal grants over the next four years to advance international education efforts, the university announced on Tuesday.** Three international studies centers received around \$2 million apiece, while two other programs were given a combined total of nearly \$2 million.



**A Lansing man has been sent to a mental hospital after examiners determined he was legally insane when he stabbed and strangled his roommate in November 2020.** The Lansing State Journal reports that Wilford White, now 29, entered a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity on Aug. 1. Prosecutors and White's attorney stipulated to a finding that he was not criminally responsible in the death of Samuel Gregory Hinkle.

**Sonia Gonzales, 46, was pronounced dead Aug. 27 after being struck twice by vehicles in Okemos.** According to the Lansing State Journal, Meridian Township police were called to the west end of Hamilton Road at Grand River Avenue, where Gonzales – who was on foot – had been hit twice while in the construction zone. The Lansing resident died at the scene from her injuries. Meridian Township police are asking that anyone who saw or heard anything contact them at (517) 853-4800.



**Severe thunderstorms Monday left some mid-Michigan residents in the dark and others having to clean up storm debris.** According to WLNS-TV, some residents went without power, while others had to confront downed power lines or fallen limbs. As of Tuesday afternoon, according to Consumers Energy, nearly 400,000 Michiganders remained without power.



**A dicey situation closed a westside freeway ramp Monday night, after a semi loaded with 40,000 pounds of tomato products went off the road and slid into a ditch.** According to the Lansing State Journal, there were no other vehicles involved and there were no serious injuries, but a ramp to Interstate 496 remained closed for several hours following the incident.

**The Lansing Township Board of Trustees signed off on a lawsuit against Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum to stop her from putting an annexation question on the November ballot.** The vote follows a recent request by Groesbeck residents in favor of annexation by the city of Lansing, rather than remaining in Lansing Township.



### 1300 Otto St., Lansing

Built in 1916, this home was expected to be part of the housing stock for just 50 years, according to the City of Lansing Assessor records. But this two-story building is still standing, wrapped with multiple ramps and decks for both the front and back entrance to address the hilly property.

It's racked up 35 notices from Code Enforcement officials. Those violations ranged from grass and weeds to trash to unsafe conditions. It's also been cited several times for failing to register as a rental property. It's been red tagged since May 4, 2022.

The property is one of 25 properties owned by Christian C. Nwobu. County tax records reveal he owes thousands of dollars in back taxes, including \$6,125.09 on this property. Nwobu received \$5,200 in federal Paycheck Protection Program loans. The loan was forgiven in April of this year.

**- TODD HEYWOOD**

## Chipotle

from page 6

York, told CBS News the money from employment is not the key to the union battles in the country right.

"What's different, I think, is the zeitgeist, especially (among) young workers who've lived through a lot of turmoil," Milkman told CBS News in April. Her observations echo those of Dora-Laskey. "They have these high expectations for

what their work life is supposed to be about. And then, they can't afford the rents. They might have a lot of student debt. They end up living with their parents. I mean, this is not what they were promised."

Milkman said the COVID pandemic's other impact has been the labor shortage. People have retired or exited the

economy, leaving a giant hole in employment. That, she said, is good for workers right now.

"The pandemic also created a labor shortage, which gave people more leverage, and made them less fearful of organizing," she said. "Unions are cool again for this generation."

**- TODD HEYWOOD**

"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

# Monkeypox mess at Sparrow

Imagine yourself in pain from a probable case of monkeypox as you arrive by ambulance all alone at the emergency room of Sparrow Hospital. To say it would be stressful is an understatement. Add to that you are an African American transgender woman and factor in the discrimination you anticipate even in life's most mundane transactions.

That was the situation East Lansing resident Lynn Williams faced on Aug. 2. It was bad enough. Unfortunately and from all appearances unnecessarily, it only worsened, as Todd Heywood reported in last week's City Pulse. On multiple levels, Sparrow needs to examine why events unfolded as they did in what reads like a casebook study on what not to do as a healthcare provider.

Williams spent nearly four hours in Sparrow's ER hoping for treatment or at least relief from severe pain. She finally left in frustration. Having expected she'd be checked into the hospital, she didn't have bus fare, so she walked home.

Sparrow's reaction was to ask the East Lansing Police Department to go to her residence and try to

bring her back to the emergency room, which the police wisely declined to do. In doing so, a nurse disclosed to the police that Williams had monkeypox. In Michigan, a doctor can legally supersede privacy requirements if he deems there is a health threat to others. But considering the Ingham County health officer has not declared monkeypox an emergency, it's a stretch to justify Sparrow's violation of Williams' privacy on those grounds.

Someone did knock on Williams' door after Sparrow informed Williams an officer was being sent after her. Williams didn't answer, so we can't know who knocked. But it was neither the Lansing nor the East Lansing police – and as City Pulse learned, Sparrow has a police department of its own. We found that out when reporter Heywood tried to deliver a letter from Williams allowing City Pulse to obtain her health records so we could try to ascertain the truth of what had happened to her. After a frustrating effort to deliver the letter to Sparrow's press liaison, John Foren, Heywood headed to the health system's administrative offices — where an armed guard told him to get off

Sparrow property. We ended up delivering the letter by Federal Express a few days later.

We're not surprised at Sparrow's determination to stonewall City Pulse. Sparrow removed this publication from the hospital and the Michigan Athletic Club, which it owns, back in 2019 when the paper reported on serious accreditation problems the hospital was facing. Perhaps embarrassed by the ensuing publicity, Sparrow allowed the papers back. But Sparrow finally banned them at the outset of the pandemic, on the unscientific grounds that COVID-19 could be spread by paper. City Pulse remains banned, which is frustrating — but what is worse was Sparrow's unwillingness to reply to questions concerning public health during the height of the pandemic. That represents a shameless disregard for the health interests of the readers of City Pulse.

Another layer of Williams' experience at Sparrow was being misgendered. Williams felt disrespected from the moment she arrived. Clearly, as her medical records show — “He states she works in a hotel,” a Sparrow health worker wrote

about Williams — Sparrow's staff was at best confused about how to address her. That's an issue that Sparrow needs to address through training. Had Williams felt respected, the outcome that day in the emergency room might have been very different.

Sparrow has apologized to Williams, as well it should. A letter sent to her said the ER's management team has investigated her experience and that “follow-up discussions with the individuals, related to your concerns, and education to support emotional understanding for

our future patients occurred.” The letter adds that a referral was made to Sparrow's Diversity Department for further review.

The incident at Sparrow is at least slightly reminiscent of early treatment of AIDS sufferers. Fortunately, monkeypox is not AIDS, despite what right-wing homophobes say. Monkeypox is rare in the United States, but Sparrow knew it was coming and should have been better prepared when the first case of it in Ingham County arrived at its doors in the form of a woman who was just looking for help.



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

### 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](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com) • Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912  
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**2.) Write a guest column.** Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: [publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto: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.)

### LEPFA's views on driving range

While working to enhance services at the Groesbeck Golf Course, the LEPFA Board of Commissioners and its executive team brought up the idea of a practice range. This concept is solely based on the request of golfers, who have enjoyed the invigorated golf course in recent years.

The conversation that was noted in LEPFA board minutes was on an early-stage idea and has not received any due diligence. Prior to making any determinations on the viability of a practice range near Groesbeck and/or Bancroft Park, there will be research, discussions with those impacted and input from the community.

Bancroft Park is a hidden gem in the Lansing region. We respect the green spaces in our community and are hoping to enhance the region with opportunities for diverse populations to have access to learning and participating in the sport of golf at a reasonable price point.

The next steps include working with the Lansing City Council, the city administration and Mayor Schor, the Parks Board with Parks Director Brett Kaschinske, Councilmember Daniels and with First Ward constituency, and other community groups to ensure that we have the best interests of all stakeholders considered. As discussions and due diligence surrounding a practice range continue, we will keep the lines of communication open in order to create solutions that advance the city of Lansing's goals for parks and recreation options for all its residents.

#### Scott Keith

#### President & CEO

#### Lansing Entertainment & Public Facilities Authority

### Driving range idea 'unfair'

I am a resident of the Northside Neighborhood next to Bancroft Park. I walk my dogs there every single day. I was thinking that maybe in one of these articles about this awful driving range idea there could be a mention of the road that Bernero was caught embezzling \$450,000 from another project (Ormond Park) to help out Groesbeck Golf Course. Maybe all these efforts are just failed attempts at a dying golf course. It's pretty sad that these high-up people with money and connections to politicians get to push around the lower-class people who they know aren't the majority voters. So they can take advantage of those stats to push through ridiculous things like this driving range in hopes of bringing more money to this golf course (and their pockets). There's plenty of other really nice golf courses around this area. It doesn't make sense that they need to try and ruin a historical park just to expand their extremely small golf course in the middle of the city.

#### Andrew Wooley Lansing



### Notice of 2022 September, October meetings and November Election Procedure

Dear member

Please note the following General membership meetings of the NAACP Lansing branch (unit 3145), for the purpose of election of officers and at-large-members of the executive committee.

- 1. On September 11, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom**, there will be an election of the Nominating Committee (between 5-15 members). All members whose memberships are current as of 30 days prior to the meeting date may be elected to the Nominating committee (not more than two being officers of the unit).
- 2. On October 2, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. on Zoom**, there will be a report of the Nominating Committee, The Nominating Committee will present its report **and may receive nominations from the floor. To run for officers position or members at large positions your Membership must be current by April 1, 2022. No officer of the Branch or any candidate for office shall chair the nominating process, or process receipt of the nominations by petition, or serve on the Election Supervisory Committee.** All members whose memberships are current as of April 1<sup>st</sup> of the election year, and whose memberships have remained continuous throughout the election process, and who live and/or work within the unit's jurisdiction, may be nominated for office or as an at-large member of the Executive Committee. In order to sign a nominating petition or be elected to the Election Supervisory Committee, a member must be current as of 30 days prior to the October meeting.
- 3. On November 12, 2022, the election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee** will take place on Zoom. Polls will open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. In order to vote in a Branch election, one must be a member in good standing of the branch 30 days prior to the election. A form of identification is required. The Branch is endeavoring to develop a supplemental voting process for those for who Zoom is inaccessible or uncomfortable.

Should a runoff election be necessary, that election shall occur on a date to be determined within ten (10) days after the original elections.

Run-off election date: **TBD**

Run-off election site: Zoom with Election Buddy.

We look forward to your participating in these activities.

Sharon Civils, Secretary Lansing branch in NAACP

**Please check your membership cards if your membership has expired or will expire before October, to be eligible to vote please send a check for \$30 with your name, address, phone number, and membership number if you have it available.**

Election information soon to be found at Website: <https://naacplansing.org/>

Lansing Branch NAACP Address:

Secretary Lansing branch NAACP 3105 South Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd #141, Lansing, MI 48910

<https://naacplansing.org/become-a-member/>

**CP#22-186**

**B/23/024 WELLESLEY STORM SEWER REPAIR** as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site ([www.Mitn.Info](http://www.Mitn.Info)) until 11:00 am local time in effect on SEPT. 6, 2022. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or [stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov](mailto:stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov) or go to [www.mitn.info](http://www.mitn.info). The City of Lansing encourages bids from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.

**CP#22-188**

# It's a race to the middle for Barrett, Slotkin on abortion

"It's like nobody has seen a primary election and a general election before," said the Republican political consultant who picked up the phone.

Yes, the website for Tom Barrett, the MI-7 Republican congressional candidate, was changed after the primary election, this consultant conceded. Barrett's strong "protect life from conception" stance on abortion was moved out of a "Values" section of the webpage to a section on "Life."

Barrett's page now describes him as a "consistent pro-life state legislator." His opponent, U.S. Rep. Elissa Slotkin, is the one who is "extreme" on abortion, he claims.

"She opposes any limits, right up until birth, wants taxpayers to pay for abortions, and wants to take away a parent's right to know if their minor daughter seeks an abortion," the web pages read at a certain point, before they was changed again.

Whatever it reads now, the point remains.

Barrett wants to focus on Slotkin's support for the Reproductive Freedom For All constitutional amendment, which allows for the state Legislature to put limitations on abortion after viability but doesn't come with any automatic limitations of its own. (See Aug. 18 column).

Barrett isn't doing anything novel here. In the primary election, his message was to rally conservative voters by letting him know he's 100% pro life. Among Republicans, 70% support the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Among the general electorate, 36% believe abortion should be illegal in all or most cases and 29% believe abortion should be legal in all cases.

It's the final 33% that Barrett and Slotkin are vying for. These folks believe abortion should be legal in most cases.

These are the people who will decide the 7th Congressional District race and that's why they're accusing the other of being "extreme."

Her support for the constitutional amendment aside, Slotkin said she supports abortion up to the point of viability. At that point, if the health of the mother is an issue, a decision needs

to be made between her and her doctor, not the government and the doctor.

"He's trying to hide from his position," Slotkin told me. "He's changed his website three times since yesterday morning and he's landed one that deflects the issue toward me. I would ask Mr. Barrett to own his position."

Abortion isn't the only game at play here as both try to win over the moderate independents who will decide this election.

While most Democrats celebrated President Joe Biden canceling \$10,000 of student debt to low- to-middle income borrowers, Slotkin's message during a WILS radio interview was moderated.

She acknowledged that college debt is an issue because school is three times more expensive than it was 25 years ago, but lots of people have lot of different types of debt.

"I think it was a Band-Aid of an option that doesn't speak to the root of the problem," she said.

Speaking to the middle is what Slotkin and Barrett will be doing from now until Nov. 8.

Slotkin will say Barrett hurt job creation when he voted against \$600 million in public subsidies for a 4,000-job General Motors electric vehicle battery plant in Delta Township. He's also voted against other incentives.

Barrett said government has given too much taxpayer money to too many corporations for too long. Under a free-market system, industry will make money-making decisions regardless of government help.

Barrett is hearing the country is on the wrong track. The cost of living is going up. There's too much crime. Too many people are illegally sneaking over the U.S. border.

Slotkin is hearing that the cost of prescription drugs and health care are, in some cases, more than a mortgage. She'd like to bring back the supply chain "back home" as a way to create economic security and deal with inflation.

She's also hearing about abortion, a lot. From Republican women, in particular. They aren't thrilled with a pro-life-with-limited-to-no-exceptions position.

It explains why Barrett's reference to abortion on his website is evolving.

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



POLITICS

KYLE MELINN

# Hang in there with small starts in school politics

By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**

When President Biden signed an executive order last week that canceled college student loans up to \$20,000. America restarted on a long overdue shift back to the idea that education is a common good. That's why college was in the GI Bill, benefiting World War II veterans.

It's more important now. Most employment requires some type of education and training after high school. But in Michigan, only about half of high school grads go on for a degree, technical certification or other certificate. One reason is the cost. It's why community college became an option for students who otherwise are qualified for study at the university. It's our loss.

Of course, the right thing to do is cancel all student debt. Saddling young

people with a ton of debt is discouraging. Financial slavery prevents young adults from going forward with their lives because their mortgaged future is shaky.

What underlies the high level of student loans is the mistaken idea that only the college graduate benefits from their education. We all benefit.

College-educated and certified teachers pay their education forward by educating others, and from that we get so much more. Doctors save lives and lessen suffering. Engineers, lawyers, social workers, journalists, civil servants, entrepreneurs are just some whose education contributes to community life. And school short-cuts the time spent learning a trade, codifies what should be learned and takes responsibility for it.

Critics of forgiving student loans should consider how much effort even this small step required. Politics is all about money, and there are billions tied up in student loans.

If student loans are the tail-end of the educational continuum, the beginning is the Board of Education. That is

the group of people who sit together to decide how to educate the young people in their community.

They are called by an assortment of names: Trustees. Regents. Governors. Or simply, "member." Call them what you want; they all start as candidates. And, to my mind, the election culture that supports a monetized leap onto the ballot needs to change.

Candidates get on the ballot in one of two ways, according to state law. They can pay a \$100 nominating fee, or they can file a nominating petition. Overwhelmingly, nominations come through paying the money.

In Detroit, where I was educated, there are 18 candidates on the November ballot for the Detroit Community Schools Board of Education; 17 paid the \$100. Only one, Janice Hunter-Harvill, circulated petitions, according to the Detroit City Clerk website.

In the Lansing and East Lansing districts' board races, 100 percent of the candidates paid the money, said the Ingham County clerk.

Under Michigan law, nominating petitions require six to 20 signatures for school districts below 10,000 pupils and 40 to 100 signatures for bigger districts.

It's not good for democracy for people to buy their way onto the ballot. Write a check. Bring cash. Ducats. The Benjamins. All to sidestep the people part.

A campaign manager told me that by paying the filing fee, the candidate is sure to get on the ballot. Collecting signatures is more risky.

People sign petitions when they are not registered voters. Or they sign with the wrong address, or wrong name. Invalid signatures get thrown out, and the candidate risks not having enough signatures to go on the ballot. This issue is in the news nearly every day.

So gather more signatures than needed. I have to write more words than I need to find the right ones.

But that's time consuming, my campaign manager friend said.

And so is serving on a school board.

If a candidate does not know a minimum of 40 people who live in the right place and know the names on their driver's licenses, should that uninvolved person be making decisions for thousands of students and their families?

Collecting signatures presents the candidate with an opportunity to introduce themselves to the community. And to be available for questions. The most obvious one is, why do you want to be on the school board?

Sometimes the candidate does not know, my campaign manager friend said. Right.

The \$100 nominating fee is very modest, especially for the types of people who generally run for

public office. The bar is higher for others, like naturalized citizens and Black Americans. They are among the group who only recently received a minimum wage increase because of COVID. They earn \$15 an hour, and they must work six hours, seven if rounding up, to pay the \$100 nominating fee. That is nearly an entire shift.

There may be legit reasons for a person to pay the nominating fee, but to use it as insurance to skate onto the ballot should not be one of them. This issue is a part of election culture that says, just pay the fee. True civic-minded candidates and their supporters can change their behavior with one small action. No presidential executive action needed. Just candidates' desire to involve the people they want to lead.

Get nominating signatures. Talk to people.

Smallish changes to culture might not be as exciting or graphic as protests in the 1960s or 1970s, but they are bound to be longer lasting. What President Biden signed was not enough for a house or a car, but it's a start.

*(Dedria Humphries Barker, a Lansing resident, is the author of a book about education for girls, "Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, A Colored Man's Widow." Her opinion column appears on the last Wednesday of each month. Find her on Facebook.)*



Barker



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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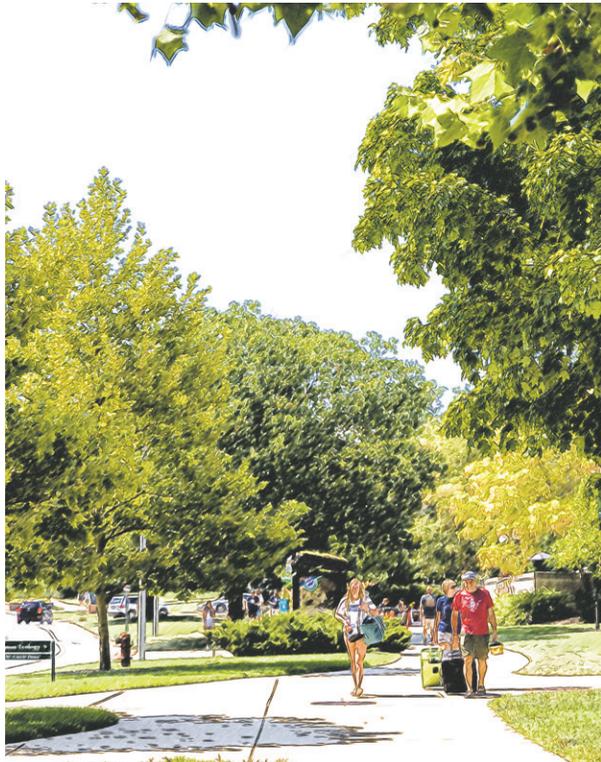


Photo illustration by Ron Stratton for City Pulse

A moving-in scene from Michigan State University last week.

# A true tale of freshmen fright at MSU

## Students spent their first month coping with 'a danger to our safety'

By WALI KHAN

Jack Ward was uncertain how many of his peers gathered on Sept. 27, 2021. Students were in and out of the room where the clandestine meeting was ongoing, crafting and ultimately dispatching a crucial email.

By the time Ward arrived, some of the freshman's hallmates and other acquaintances he made in his first month on campus had already begun drafting the email. Huddling cautiously in a room in Claude Bryan Hall, the Michigan State University students put together an email alerting housing staff and university officials about a danger in the dorm. Attached to the email was this list:

- Multiple knives (large sizes)
- Illegal car parking sticker
- Boxes of bullet casing in room
- Boxes of ammunition in car
- Blank-fire handgun (in car?)
- Actual-loaded handgun
- Both blank and loaded handguns were seen by other students
- Used N-word and F-slur
- Threaten to taze other students while sleeping
- Climbed up the side of building into a window
- Made a working taser out of a battery, wires, and screws
- All conversations are related to weapons
- Hand built a gun in dorm room
- Said that rape victims are liars to a group of girls
- Made very transphobic comments
- Multiple students are concerned about their safety
- Shops on the black market
- Told girl who has depression that she just shouldn't be depressed

One of the residents, a young man who declined to be interviewed, told the others that "he had seen the gun in their room and was like, 'I don't like that he has a gun.' And that's when we wrote the email," Sarah said. Sarah is a fake name. City Pulse offered her confidentiality because she is concerned about her safety. The students were writing about "Mason," a pseudonym for the 18-year-old student. The email was addressed to their

resident assistant, Reginald Allen.

The students had already warned Allen they were putting together an email identifying how Mason was a "danger to our safety." When it arrived in his inbox Allen, and the students, knew he was going to have to call law enforcement. Attached to that email was a video of Mason scaling the outside of one of the dorm buildings on campus and crawling through a third-floor window.

Allen sent the email up his chain of command and waited for direction.

After waiting two days, Allen made an emergency call to MSU police. At 12:03 a.m., on Oct. 1, MSU police officers arrived and conducted a search of Mason's room and car. Allen said the emergency call had been made right after Mason's roommate confirmed with Allen that Mason had not yet left for his Lake Orion home that weekend. The roommate declined to speak with City Pulse on the record.

Allen, who saw the police enter Mason's room, said the officers tossed it, "searching through boxes, opening up containers" and even "moving around the bed frame." Another resident, who had been hanging out with his friends in Sarah's room, was on his way to his own when he saw the officers talking to Mason just a couple of doors down.

Some residents went to Mason's floor, walking past his room to steal a glance.

Mason left in handcuffs.

Wali Khan, a Hong Kong citizen and Singapore resident, is a 21-year-old sophomore majoring in journalism at Michigan State University. He spent much of this summer researching and writing this story under the guidance of City Pulse staff writer Todd Heywood, who also contributed reporting to it.



The search yielded what MSU's police spokesperson, Inspector Chris Rozman, said included a "non-serialized 9mm handgun," a "homemade stun gun" in his room and a catalog of sharp edges in his car: two knives — one "fixed," the other "automatic," and "three throwing stars."

When an MSU student is involved in an event that poses a danger to the student and others, the university calls an emergency meeting of the Behavioral Threat



Rozman

Assessment Team. The team reviews the incident and makes recommendations to the dean of students on what, if any actions, should be taken in regard to the student.

If the dean determines the student should be suspended pending the outcome of an investigation, the student is given 24 hours to rebut the allegations with evidence he or she was not involved in the alleged misconduct.

The morning after the arrest, Allen awoke to what he believed to be a safer dorm — only to find Mason greeting him with a hearty, "Hi, Reggie!" while "skipping down the hall and eating beef jerky."

"I just kind of shut down. My body went into fight or flight mode," Allen said.

But soon thereafter, Mason disappeared, presumably having been arrested.

### Prelude to ...

The night of the arrest had not been the first time the police had searched Mason's room.

Residential hall officials called for a non-emergency police interaction little more than a week into the semester, on Sept. 9, when Mason was deemed not a threat, Allen said.

This call was made after two residents approached Allen after seeing Mason "making shivs out of chopsticks" in the Brody Cafeteria and talking about how "more damage could be dealt with a hammer than with a knife."

See MSU, Page 12

# MSU

from page 11

A separate MSU housing employee confirmed that an initial report was written and submitted to Advocate. That's a computer system MSU uses to track incidents from the initial report until closure for cases ranging from stolen property to sexual assault.

Allen said three police officers showed up at Bryan Hall to investigate. "Two were talking to him, one was searching his room."

After a search of Mason's room and an interrogation, one of the officers allegedly told Allen that Mason had exhibited signs of "special needs or autism" and he did not pose a safety concern. The officer "assured us that there was nothing to worry about. I remember those were his exact words," Allen said.

In the weeks leading up to Mason's eventual arrest, Allen and his residents feared for their lives.

## First signs

"The first thing I heard out of this guy's mouth? He asked me, 'Have you ever been stabbed?'" Ward said. Ward looked at him in disbelief, "gave him a little head shake and said, 'No.' I was questioning what I had just heard. I was so appalled."

Minutes before this, Ward's roommate had urgently interrupted his post-school-work gaming. "He's like, 'Do not go outside the room. There's a kid who made a homemade taser.' I'm laughing it off and like, 'There's no shot someone made a homemade taser,'" Ward recalled, using the slang for no chance. "You could hear it from down the hall."

"I go a little further down the hall," Ward said, "and I see this kid holding batteries wrapped in something. It was a really weird design." Ward told City Pulse that he and two other residents had seen electrical sparks generated from the electrodes of the homemade taser.

Ward decided to "take the other stairs down" to avoid Mason's room.

"People tried to get away from (Mason's room) when they were in the vicinity," Ward said. "It was more of a silent pact."

Anna Barnes, a journalism major at MSU and then-Bryan Hall dweller, recalled another experience.

She and others in the circle of Bryan Hall friends were at Five Guys on Michigan Avenue the day when Mason sprung a question.

"He asked every single one of us, 'Would you ever own a gun?'" Barnes said. "Everyone was giving him joke answers. A couple people said, 'Yeah, maybe' and I said 'no.'"

Mason seemed agitated if someone replied in the negative.

"And if you said 'no,' he would get real ... ." She paused "He'd ask you, 'Why, like, why not? Why wouldn't you want to? Guns are great.'"

"I wouldn't own a gun," Barnes replied, making a self-aware quip about her struggles with depression. "Because what if something bad happened in my life? That was really inconvenient for me and every now and then I would look at my gun and be like, 'I can just use it on myself.'"

Mason volleyed back at the notion of Barnes' having depression with incredulosity and disbelief. "He would tell me, 'It's not real,' that it was 'all in my head,' I was 'making it up,'" she said.

The group marinated in silence. "That was a super awkward conversation, everyone was just kind of sitting there, listening," Barnes recalled. Mason paid for everyone's meal that day.



Shutterstock

MSU police said among the weapons found when they searched Mason's room and car were a "non-serialized 9mm handgun" and a "fixed" knife.



Shutterstock

MSU police also confiscated three throwing stars from Mason.

Mason often had trouble meshing with the group; he had almost been a friend-in-law. Barnes said the seeds of the group's inception had been sowed right before Labor Day weekend, when Mason became part of it seemingly by proximity to the others. Mason would "show up and hang out." The group didn't initially mind Mason's presence given his initial friendly demeanor.

Though that perception changed rapidly, Barnes said Mason "was generally on edge." She was not alone in noticing his hyperfixation of firearms.

"If Mason was involved in a conversation, it would always come back to something about guns," Barnes said. Ward similarly recalled most interactions with Mason revolved around guns.

Sarah said Mason avoided the usual trappings of the American college experience, eschewing parties in favor of going to the gun range.

"We're all kind of partiers and we would do that on the weekend. He didn't really like that. None of us liked going to the shooting range, and that's what he would do during the week," she said. "Mason was always sober."

Mason offered to buy Sarah breakfast if she went to the shooting range with him. She declined Mason's proposal. Going to the shooting range was something Mason begged others to do with him regularly.

As these interactions became increasingly routine, some residents believed they were hurtling towards violence. When asked if he had thought Mason was going to hurt someone, Ward told us: "I began to think of it more as an inevitability."

## Other concerns

It wasn't just Mason's overt enthusiasm for firearms that was causing concern. Sarah recounted that Mason made a jagged First Amendment argument declaring he could use the N-word, and did. It made Barnes increasingly wary of him.

Fellow residents heard him parrot right-wing talking points.

"Anything revolving around an amendment was one of (Mason's) core beliefs," Ward said. "Like the right to bear arms? 'I'm allowed to have guns.' 'The right to free speech? 'I can say whatever I want.'" We all knew his core beliefs. And he would be bragging about his AR-15 to us. That's kind of where we were a little more submissive to the idea of being nice." Ward said.

Ward recalled watching the first pro-

fessional football game of the season four days after police had searched Mason's room the first time. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers were playing the Dallas Cowboys.

The matchup had been widely anticipated, and students across campus found their eyes glued to the screen, but Ward found himself dividing his attention between the game and another screen.

"Mason comes up to me, and says, 'Let me show you what I made.' He showed me videos of a walkie talkie," Ward said. The video showed a device with a "ton of wires with a walkie-talkie around a canister."

Ward alleged Mason then scrolled through videos of "him recording himself with the device in his hand" and "walking away, hitting a button on the walkie-talkie and then a boom," Ward said. "I just remember hearing a big bang and that he had a smile on his face."

Ward was "pretty terrified" by what he had witnessed but offered up a paltry, "That's pretty cool, man,"

Mason sat next to him, "appreciative" of Ward's apparent approval. "Thanks, man. It didn't take me that long," he told Ward.

In the background and under the disquieting fluorescent hum of lights, the Cowboys raged on.

## Gunsmoke & mirrors

Every semester, MSU freshmen and sophomores pour into residential buildings to find their RAs and ICAs — intercultural aides — already unpacked and settled into an empty hall after two weeks' worth of training. For many residents, these student-employees are the first people they meet during their time at State. An RA can influence a student's college and residential experience.

The fall of 2021 was a semester unlike any other, housing staff told City Pulse. The incoming class was the first of the COVID lockdown generation.

Sophia Kalakailo, an RA on the women's wing of Mason's floor, heard parents

ask whether Bryan Hall was a "chill" or "OK" place. Answers were peppered in with the occasional "Oh, you won't have many problems with her" or "better keep an eye on her." The general impression is that RAs are "figures of authority," but interviews with multiple students employed by Student Life and Engagement, a department on campus that employs student employees, reveal a different, darker reality. Kalakailo remembered traversing entire floors of Bryan Hall to track down a group of men who allegedly shouted "I hope you get raped!" in the hallways. The screaming went on for minutes, with the sound of a female resident crying, but Kalakailo was unable to identify its source. Kalakailo said she has also written up a plethora of incident reports related to bigotry: transphobic terms scrawled on door decorations and bearing witnessing to physical altercations where homophobic slurs were used.

All went unheeded, Kalakailo said. She felt the complaints disappeared into a bureaucratic blackhole because she never heard anything about them after they were filed.

Kalakailo feels she shared a deep, rewarding kinship with her co-workers; but housing staff ends up assuming the role of "customer service workers."

"Roger," who did not wish to be identified for fear of reprisals for speaking out as an active student and employee at the school, said Mason slammed his door on him when he delivered a package.

"I just wanted to come and drop it off. But the way that he looked at me, I had never seen anyone looking at me like that. He looked at me with such hatred," Roger said. "It just felt like it went very dark."

"He reached for my arms, took the box, which was a cardboard package," Roger continued, "slammed the door and locked it."

Allen, Mason's RA, had seen Mason's family arrive on campus and assist him in a move-in process best described as

See MSU, Page 13

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

Request from 3400 West Road LLC to rezone a 2.41-acre parcel located on the east side of West Road, north of Abbey Road (Parcel ID #33-20-01-02-226-021) from B-5 (Community Retail Sales Business District) to M-1 (Manufacturing District). The applicant for the rezoning has voluntarily offered to condition the rezoning on limiting the potential future uses on the parcel to exclude a contractor's storage yard, coal or building materials storage yard, kennel, radio and television towers, and medical or recreational marijuana grower facilities, processor facilities, secure transporter facilities, and that any future use of the parcel must abide by the performance standards established in Section 50-673(1) and (2) of the Code of Ordinances.

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

Peter Menser – Planning and Zoning Administrator  
410 Abbot Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517.319.6861 or pmenser@cityofeastlansing.com  
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

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

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the 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](mailto:nmostel@cityofeastlansing.com).

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

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

CP#22-189

# MSU

from page 12

“quickly and quietly.” In fact, the entire family “seemed quiet,” and “Mom waved from the front seat.”

During “rez-chats,” a tedious process where an RA is tasked to speak to every single resident in a wing, which houses around 60 students, Allen spoke to the “really reserved” and “calm” Mason, who didn’t stand out among the swarm of other students.

When the veneer of calm wore off after Mason’s first police interaction, closed-door meetings occurred among Roger, Allen and their community director.

As a community director, Roger supervised Bryan Hall. Community directors on campus are assigned to various housing facilities, with a population of 700 to 1,100 students.

Roger had fiercely advocated for more transparency between the administration and students who were affected by Mason’s words and actions.

Roger was worried that those living in the building had the right to know about Mason’s behavior and weaponry despite what privacy policies applied.

“This is information that I cannot hide from my residents. If he was to continue living here, all of my RAs need to know who is living in this building,” Roger told his boss.

Despite this advocacy, and numerous complaints sent into the Advocate system about Mason’s escalating behavior, housing staff were not provided with updates on the case.

Some sources believed Mason had not been expelled and was still on campus.

Police Inspector Rozman explained that typically police maintain a “relationship and openly share information with any victims of any crimes against a person.” But since “there wasn’t an allegation, specifically, of a crime against a person, it was just the mere possession of weapons,” there was no police follow-up “because they weren’t victims in the case.”

Rozman said the release of information did not entirely hinge on the Police Department. He said he deferred to the residential operations side of MSU on what information should be shared with students and staff.

Allen, who spent two days awaiting his housing higher-ups to approve the emergency call to the police about Mason, said the rigidity of the chain of command prevented him reporting it to the police immediately. Within

Residence Education and Housing Services, “they tell us to always talk up the duty chain and not out,” Allen said. Housing staff “wanted to initially just call the police, but they weren’t sure if that was the right course of action.”

Residents were perplexed at the delay in Mason’s removal and some remember the two-day wait to be especially harrowing.

“We were terrified,” Barnes said. “We were almost positive that (Mason) knew that we had reported him because of his suspicion of the girls not liking his guns.”

Allen said housing staff was hesitant to immediately report it to the police directly, anticipating a rehash of the first police interaction. Additionally, Allen said he feared the process of reporting the email directly to the police would violate data policies and could potentially cost him his employment, which did not pay him, but guaranteed room and board.

Those fears were not unfounded. Months after the October arrest, which Allen said impacted his mental health and made him “unable to sleep properly,” he was put on probation for breaking up a “fight that could have” endangered the lives of residents instead of calling it in and following procedure.”

Allen provided his probation documents. They alleged he failed to “utilize the proper duty protocol.”

Though what exactly came of Mason remains shrouded in secrecy, he won’t be on campus this year. And he wasn’t on campus for the winter semester of 2022, either. What, if any, punishment doled out by the university is confidential under a federal law called the Family Educational Rights Protection Act, or FERPA. It is likely Mason was expelled by the university for possessing the weapons.

City Pulse has confirmed with Rozman that criminal charges were referred to the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office. But what charges were requested and what actions the courts took are hidden behind from public view. Prosecutor Carol Siemon said her office has “no public files” related to Mason.

It’s possible that Mason struck a deal with the Prosecutor’s Office under the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act. HYTA is a state law that allows a young person, 18 to 26, to enter a guilty plea on a criminal charge.

The judge then assigns specific re-



The courtyard entrance to Claude Bryan Hall, named after a dean of veterinary studies in the 1940s. MSU describes it this way: “Bryan Hall is known by Spartans for its large, open concept living areas, renovated study spaces, project rooms and gaming areas. The hall offers an Honors College living-learning option.”

ed to an individual’s status as youthful trainee under HYTA, or any acknowledgement that such records exist, would thwart HYTA’s purpose and eliminate its intended protections,” Stanley wrote in his denial.

In an attempt to get Mason’s story, two City Pulse reporters drove to his home in Lake Orion on Aug. 13. We were met by his father, Aaron – also a pseudonym – who said he was asleep.

In response to questions about Mason’s gun possession, Aaron said the university “dealt with it.”

When Aaron was confronted with the perceptions of the peers, including their fear of Mason, he said, “Did they know him, though? Did they know his background and his history?”

Aaron said the students were making “assumptions” about his son.

“They don’t know that since he’s a little kid, he’s been dealing with Asperger’s and all kinds of other stuff,” he said.

Asperger’s syndrome was retired in 2013 as an official diagnosis with the publication of the fifth edition of the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and is now part of a broader category called autism spec-

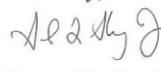
quirements for the student to complete in order for them to successfully complete a youthful trainee program. The requirements can include jail or prison time, and probation of up to three years. When the youth completes the court-ordered programming, the judge vacates the conviction and it is no longer available to the public to review.

A judge can strike a HYTA deal without the input of the prosecutor when the offender is between 18 and 21. Any youth 21 to 26 charged with a crime and seeking HYTA status must obtain the approval of the prosecutor.

“HYTA is not exactly a ‘program,’ but more of an approach to help young offenders avoid having a criminal record

In sum, the requested records, if they exist, would be exempt under FOIA’s section 13(1)(d). Your appeal is denied.

Sincerely,



Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D.  
President

The last paragraph of a letter to City Pulse from MSU President Samuel L. Stanley denying a request under the Freedom of Information Act. Note his careful language to avoid even confirming that the documents exist. That appears to be indirect confirmation that Mason was granted an exemption under the Holmes Youthful Trainee Act that will allow his record to be expunged at 21 if he does not violate whatever conditions a judge may have set for his crimes.

that could hinder them from moving forward in life,” the House Fiscal Agency explained in a legislative analysis for an update of the law in 2015.

While HYTA requires the “proceedings” of the court to be kept from public view – including prohibiting any court official from publicly acknowledging the case falls under HYTA – City Pulse ran into a wrinkle in Mason’s case. A Freedom of Information Act request for the police report related to Mason’s arrest was denied by MSU lawyers. The denial cited a provision under FOIA that allows exemption under other laws. Traditionally, the public body is required to disclose which law it is citing to deny the request.

But not with the police report and evidence photos for this case.

“While nothing in this response serves to confirm or deny the existence of records responsive to your requests, pursuant to the processing requirements of the MIFIOA, this letter is sent to notify you that your requests are hereby respectfully denied,” wrote Rebecca Nelson, director and Freedom of Information Act officer at MSU on Aug. 3.

City Pulse appealed this denial, noting that HYTA only applies to court proceedings. The appeal was filed with MSU President Samuel Stanley on Aug. 9. It was denied on Aug. 24.

“The release of police records relat-

trum disorder, or ASD.

Sally Burton-Hoyle, an expert on College Support and Family Experience for Individuals with ASD at Eastern Michigan University, said that there exists no link between people with ASD and a propensity for violence and linking the two was not based in fact.

“People don’t really know what autism is, they kind of know what they’re told,” she said. “When a person hears a newscaster say that there was a mass shooting by a person with autism, they hear that and that’s all it takes.”

Individuals living with ASD are statistically much more likely to be victims of crime and violence than those who do not live on with ASD.

Though it is currently unclear if Mason did indeed receive a diagnosis of ADHD and ASD, using those conditions to cloak his behaviors, would adhere to what Burton-Hoyle calls a “pity model,” which implies someone living with ASD “cannot help themselves,” as opposed to “self-determination,” which provides integrative support to individuals living with ASD.

For Barnes and others, they’re gearing up for a new year of adventures on campus. Not necessarily any worse for the wear.

Over a picture of last year’s dorm room on her Snapchat story, she wrote “Here we go again.”

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE  
AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER)  
July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022**

TO: Citizens of the City of Lansing

PURPOSE: NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY OF THE CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

The City of Lansing Department of Economic Development and Planning (EDP) is preparing its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 pursuant to Federal Community Development Program rules and regulations. Before submitting its Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval, the city must, after appropriate public notice, make the report available to the public for examination and comment for a period of 15 days. The comment period is September 1, 2022 – September 16, 2022. The EDP Office must receive any comments regarding the CAPER for this time period in writing no later than 5: 00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period.

A summary of public comments received as a result of the public participation process will be submitted to HUD as part of the CAPER.

Notice is hereby given that the CAPER for the time noted above for the City of Lansing is on file and available for review at the city’s website at [www.lansingmi.gov/development](http://www.lansingmi.gov/development). Information regarding the CAPER may be obtained by contacting Doris M. Witherspoon at (517) 483-4063 or at [doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov](mailto:doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov).

**CP#22-187**



## City Pulse needs a few Delivery Drivers for Wednesday morning deliveries.

Interested: Contact Suzi at [suzi@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:suzi@lansingcitypulse.com) or (517) 999-6704.

# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Last days of summer

### Outdoor events still plentiful as autumn approaches



Courtesy Jenn Carpenter

A Festival of Oddities

By SARAH SPOHN

While summer is waning, the Labor Day weekend offers one last chance at beach days, boating and barbecues with the family. Beyond that, Greater Lansing has a stacked calendar full of outdoor events hosted under the sun. City Pulse has compiled some open-air shindigs that will keep you busy as autumn's crisp air rolls in. From beer fests to spooky fall-time festivals, here's what's happening in the upcoming weeks.

September isn't too early to get primed for Halloween, is it? **A Festival of Oddities** was voted the Top Local Event/Festival in City Pulse's 2021 Top of the Town competition, so it's clearly a local favorite. Founded in 2019 by Jenn Carpenter, owner of Deadtime Stories in REO Town, this annual happening delivers a picture-perfect spooky soiree.

"The mission is to support local businesses, artists and charitable organizations, all while offering the community a fun, affordable and unique experience," Carpenter said.

Co-presented by Scream Queen Productions and The Courthouse Square Association, this all-ages, one-day fest is held on the courthouse grounds and offers vintage carnival games, a photo booth, kitten tent, axe throwing and a living library. Also onsite is A Macabre Marketplace, showcasing items from 100 Michigan-based artists and makers. Another attraction is the Courthouse Square Museum (\$5 admission). While

it's locally centered, visitors can learn about curiosities and oddities from all over the world and hear true crime experts and paranormal investigators tell haunting tales.

Carpenter said she is most excited about a "Friday the 13th" legend who'll be on hand.

"Our special guest is Ari Lehman, the first actor ever to play Jason Voorhees on the big screen," she said. "He'll be doing a fan meet and greet, taking selfies and signing autographs. His band, First Jason, will perform at 5 p.m., and then he will attend a showing of the original 'Friday the 13th' later that night at The Eaton Theatre down the street."

A Festival of Oddities, like most large-scale events, was impacted by COVID the past two years, but Carpenter said this will be a landmark year. "We'll be getting closer to that point of fully spreading our wings and bringing the vision we've had for the festival to life," she said.

**Fall FEASTival**, the annual celebration of Michigan-made food, returns to downtown St. Johns with 100 food trucks and food producers from all over the state.

Now in its third year, it was created in 2019 by event organizers Megan and Brent Hurst and is hosted by the Eat Healthy Eat Local Foundation. "Whatever you're craving will be at the Fall FEASTival," said Megan Hurst, who also promises everything from sauce makers and bakers to locally sourced maple syrup, honey, meat, kettle corn, lemonade and more.

While it's all about having a tasty time, Hurst said the event's mission is to help grow Michigan food businesses. "All proceeds from this event are donated into a grant to help facilitate an or-



Courtesy Megan Hurst

Fall FEASTival

ganic grocery store for our community that will feature Michigan-made goods," she said.

Aside from delicious food, live entertainment will be provided by Shelby & Jake, The DNA Project, Shahira Dancers and Nat Spinz. The kids can keep busy with carnival games and face painting.

517 Living, a website promoting local events, people, places and things, was launched by Sarah Pierce to enrich the lives of locals.

Pierce said the mission of **517 Living Community Night**, part of a weeklong lineup of activities, is to offer an opportunity for new connections. "I want people to discover new businesses, creatives, places, and friends, and I hope they head

home with a heightened appreciation for their community," she said.

517 Living Community Night launched in 2017 at Henry's Place in Okemos, and from there, it's been hosted in new locations each year. During the pandemic, the event grew into an entire week, promoting local events and featuring special deals.



Courtesy Sarah Pierce

517 Living Community Night

This year, the celebration happens at Hawk Island County Park and features locally crafted food and beverages, vendors, live entertainment and a wellness center hosted by LiveWELL. Have some extra groceries? The Greater Lansing Food Bank is accepting shelf-stable food donations at this rain-or-shine event.

Pierce said this year's event is the first to feature an open mic, hosted by The Artist's Umbrella. "I am thrilled about this devel-

opment," she said. "I am a big fan of their group, and this format will allow a broader variety of local creatives to participate."

Downtown Lansing Inc. and Lansing 501 return with another **BLOCK: AID** event. This fall version of the popular summer fest features live music, local food, drinks in the So-

cial District, art vendors, a kid's zone and more.

This year, a new addition is Forks and Corks, an upscale evening of wine and food pairings from top dining spots. The event, hosted by Michigan Premier Events, takes place during **BLOCK: AID**, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on

Allegan Street. Attendees can also expect an outdoor art garden party, fine wine pairings, live jazz and, of course, dishes prepared by Lansing chefs.

Held in conjunction with the **Grand Ledge Fall Festival**, the Grand Ledge Chamber of Commerce invites families to enjoy the autumn weather with various activities while adults enjoy craft beer and cider on Fitzgerald Field.

Amy Hoyes, the chamber's executive director, said the event started in 2019 but was canceled in 2020 due to COVID. "We reinvented our Fall Festival after 2020, and it has grown exponentially," she said. "We showcase our businesses and provide engaging events for the community to attend."

At the beer fest, 15 breweries will be onsite, and general admission ticket holders will receive a souvenir glass (while supplies last) and 10 drink tickets. VIP tickets will receive a souvenir glass (while supplies last) and 15 drink tickets. For those staying sober this fall, "DD" tickets are available and include two waters or energy drinks.

### The BLOCK: Aid and Forks and Corks

Washington Square, Downtown Lansing  
Thursday, Oct. 6  
5:01 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
FREE activities at BLOCK: AID  
(Forks and Corks is a ticketed event)  
[downtownlansing.org](http://downtownlansing.org)

### 517 Living Community Night (and week)

Hawk Island County Park  
1601 E. Cavanaugh Rd., Lansing  
Saturday, Oct. 1  
4-8 p.m.  
FREE (county park vehicle entrance fees apply)  
[517night.com](http://517night.com)

### Fall FEASTival

Downtown St. Johns,  
Saturday, Sept. 17  
10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
FREE  
[eathealthyeatlocal.com](http://eathealthyeatlocal.com)

### Grand Ledge Beer Fest

Fitzgerald Field  
206 W. River St., Grand Ledge  
Saturday, Oct. 8  
3-8 p.m. (VIP starts at 2 p.m.)  
\$5-\$45  
[grandledgechamber.com](http://grandledgechamber.com)



# Taco fest kicks off City's Edge

## New restaurant and venue in the works

By **RICH TUPICA**

Plans are being finalized for the former location of Green Dot Stables, and according to Dustin “Dustie” Morrell, a co-owner and partner in the venture, it will be a spot for everyone.

“City’s Edge will be a place you go for inclusion of all orientations, races and views,” said Morrell of the new eatery and venue located at 410 S. Clippert St. It will be “a destination spot for everyone to feel included, and enjoy live entertainment that focuses on local artists while having a delectable seasonal menu.

“We’ll also offer family-style dining, so families of all sizes can dine in or order out for affordable rates,” he added.

While the doors have yet to open, plans are in

the works. Aside from some red tape issues, the original open date of Sept. 3 was pushed back a couple of weeks for a few other reasons — including timing.

“We figure a lot of people are leaving Labor Day,” Morrell said. “So, we want to open when school’s first week is over — to give MSU students a new place for the weekend.”

Morrell, 28, of Dewitt, said the new signing date is set for Sept. 15, with a Sept. 17 “LGBT friendly kick-off” event with drag queens planned for the grand opening. The Santana Project (an eight-member Carlos Santana tribute band), The Kathy Ford Band and dancers are set to

perform. The next day (Sept. 18), City’s Edge spices things up with its first-ever Greater Lansing Taco Festival. Aside from a hot chili pepper eating contest, there will, of course, be plenty of tacos to devour.

For the thirsty crowd, attendees can enjoy adult beverages such as cervezas, margaritas, Palomas, specialty cocktails and many tequilas. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

“You can try tacos which we specialize in called Birria De Res, from Jalisco, Mexico,” said Morrell, adding other vendors will be onsite. “But we’re currently looking for more food vendors to fill up other Hispanic regions and desserts.”

Over the years, Morrell has kept busy pursuing his love of the culinary arts.

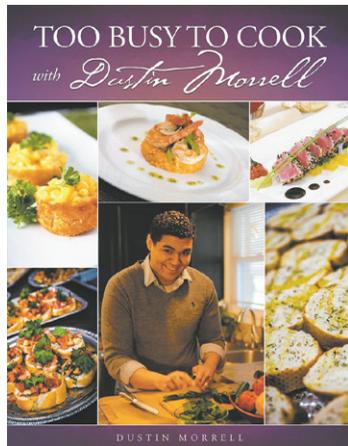


Courtesy photo

City’s Edge team, from left to right: Christina Gentilozzi (human resources manager), Dustin Morrell (chef and partner), Nancy Gilbert (marketing/partner) and Mel Spencley (partner).

Aside from work at a string of restaurants, he’s also published a book, 2016’s “Too Busy to Cook with Dustin Morrell,” and hosted a cooking show, 2014’s “Dustie’s Bites.” According to Morrell, he is also “currently in the legal program at Davenport and has helped struggling restaurant owners out by managing and consulting for them.”

For those interested in working alongside him, City’s Edge is hosting a hiring event next month.



2016’s “Too Busy to Cook with Dustin Morrell”

**REAL ESTATE AUCTION**  
By Order of the County Treasurer of Eaton County  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

Registration: 5:00 PM; **Auction: 6:00 PM**

Location: Eaton County Administration Building  
Board Room 1045 Independence Blvd  
Charlotte, MI 48813

A refundable deposit of \$1,000 in cash or certified funds made payable to yourself is required to receive a bid card.

Detailed info on all parcels and terms at [www.BippusUSA.com](http://www.BippusUSA.com)

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PRESENTED BY THE MSU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

**Saturday, Sept. 17 at 7:30pm**  
Celebrating ten years at the MSU Broad Art Museum

**TICKETS \$150/PERSON**

547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI  
[broadmuseum.msu.edu/broadtoten](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu/broadtoten)

# My 'Glorious' weekend

By DEON GLADNEY

Consistency. Quality. Passion. That's what Glorious Cannabis shoots for with everything it produces. Located in Rochester Hills, the company specializes in flower-infused pre-rolls, never using any trim or shake.

Another impressive offering here: they hand roll their joints and infuse them with ice water Bubble Hash. And, as Eva

Osipyants of Glorious proudly states, their Bubble Hash "is what started it all."

But their website is worth visiting to get the bigger picture because it's stacked with photos and descriptions of various strains, live rosin, pre-rolls and merchandise. For their flower, they skipped celebrity endorsements and partnered with award-winning Kerry Arold and his Superior brand. Arold has earned a cult-like following thanks to his in-depth research, passion and accuracy — all of which benefit patients, caregivers and operators. This partnership with Glorious introduces exclusive strains and consistency in quality and care.



Courtesy photo

Glorious Cannabis is based out of Rochester Hills.



that quality and pride in what we do. Can you explain "infused"? Is it extra THC?

Regular flower, in THC, ranges 15-to-30%, so infused means "giving more punch." Enhancing the flower is the infusion; we also offer non-infused pre-rolls with the same great quality.

**Superior is your licensing partner; how did that come about?**

Easy decision. With Kerry (Arold), he truly understands and is committed to the caregiver market, and we appreciated how Superior continues to go above and beyond the norm for innovative, consistent care.

**In this ever-changing and developing industry, what's next for Glorious Cannabis?**

We see Glorious expanding beyond Michigan, taking this to different states while establishing Glorious as the go-to brand for quality flower, pre-rolls and all-around great smoke.

**Have any other exciting releases in the works?**

Yes! In the fall, we are excited to release our college-themed pre-rolls- the U-of-M "Go Blueberry" and MSU "Lemon Haze" strains — while we keep serving quality and consistency, loving what we do.

"We don't cut corners," Osipyants said. "We stay consistent, and we have a kick-ass staff. Without the people, the quality would suffer."

An August press release introduced fresh and innovative products like the Tarantula Pre-Rolls, Pure THC Diamond Pre-rolls and Moonrocks. It also unveiled seven inviting strains, available locally at Pure Options and Jars. The Mezcal strain is "the truth," according to the fellas at Dispo (formerly First Class), who also host the Glorious brand.

City Pulse caught up with Pete Truby, vice president of marketing at Glorious Cannabis, and asked him five burning questions. Here's what he had to say.

## HIGH 5 QUESTIONS: Pete Truby, Glorious Cannabis

**What made you get into the Cannabis Industry?**

**Pete Truby:** It's a very interesting time with the boom in the cannabis industry, so we felt the people and product quality deserve better. And from what we saw, we decided to bring back

See Lansterdam, Page 17

PURE OPTIONS™  
PRECISION CRAFTED CANNABIS



## Weekly Deals

Check out our Last Call Items for great deals

Lansing & Muskegon Only 8/29 through 9/4

### Flower

 <b>\$99.00</b> Pure Options 1oz Deals (Select Strains)	 <b>\$69.00</b> 1oz Ready to Roll (All Strains)	 <b>\$59.00</b> Pure Options 1/2oz Deals (Select Strains)	 <b>\$25.00</b> 15+ Pure Options Strains Pre-Packaged Eighths	 <b>\$25.00</b> Astro Hippi Mr. BOG Pre-Packaged Eighth	 <b>\$25.00</b> Astro Hippi G Funk Pre-Packaged Eighth
 <b>\$25.00</b> Astro Hippi Tie Dye Medusa Pre-Packaged Eighth	 <b>10/\$75</b> Pure Options 1g Pre-Rolls	 <b>\$8 each</b> Pro Gro 1g Pre-Rolls	 <b>3/\$100</b> Grab N' Grow Clones 3 Strains Available Frandor Only - Limited 3 per person		

### Carts & Concentrates

 <b>10/\$100</b> Northcoast Extracts Carts (Non-Tiered)	 <b>6/\$100</b> Northcoast Extracts Carts (T1)	 <b>50% Off</b> Cannabee 1g Concentrates (Adult Use Only)	 <b>Check Out Our In-Store Deal</b> Element Live Resin Carts
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### Other

 <b>2/\$25</b> Kiva Chocolate Bars	 <b>\$5.00</b> Kushy Punch 100mg (All Strains - Medical Only)	 <b>5/\$30</b> Fluresh Gummies 10X10	<b>All CBD Products 25% Off (Frاندor Only)</b>
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[pureoptions.com](http://pureoptions.com)

**Warning:** Use by pregnant or breastfeeding women, or by women planning to become pregnant, may result in fetal injury, pre-term birth, low birth weight, or developmental problems for the child.

FOR REGISTERED QUALIFYING PATIENTS ONLY OR FOR USE BY INDIVIDUALS 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER FOR ADULT USE. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. IT IS ILLEGAL TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA. ACTUAL VALUE OF THC AND CBD MAY VARY FROM REPORTED VALUE BY 10%.

NATIONAL POISON CONTROL CENTER 1-800-222-1222

# Lansterdam

from page 16

## THE SMOKE SESSION

Quick hits with Deon Gladney

### Super Silver Haze .5G Pre-Roll



- Genetics: Skunk x Northern Lights x Haze
- Looks: Pre-roll was nice and tightly packed
- First pull taste: Menthol, pine undertones
- Unique terpenes: Energetic, clear-headed Sativa high
- Note: It had me alert while enjoying the Detroit Lions preseason game. The defense looks great.

### Simpler Daze Blackberry Moonrocks



- Looks: Classic Swisher Sweet. I suggest Raw Cones
- First pull taste: All blackberry
- Unique terpenes: Energetic (sativa)
- Slow burn, no mess! It's the fourth quarter, and the Lions just scored! Man, this Tim Boyle guy competes ... Lions win! Take that, Indianapolis.

### Devil Driver (2) .5G Pre-Roll



- Genetics: Sundae Driver x Melonade
- Looks: Pre-roll is nice and tightly packed
- First pull taste: Citrus taste, smooth
- Unique Terpenes: Soothing and relaxing, pain relief, Energy
- Note: It knocked me out cold ... [sleepytime.com](http://sleepytime.com)

### 4th Review: The Neighbor Smokes Simpler Daze Blackberry Moonrocks



- Consumed in RAW Rolling Papers
- First Pull Taste: "I like it. Prominent blackberry taste."
- Unique Terpenes: "Gave me energy. I'm going to throw some meat on the grill!"
- I also saved the second pre-roll of Super Silver Haze for Monday in remembrance of my time with Glorious Cannabis. What a Glorious weekend!  
(Deon Gladney is a Lansing native, Everett grad and a deejay at 96.5 WQHH in Lansing.)

# Open Studio Life Drawing

Interested in developing your figure drawing skills?  
If so, this is an opportunity for you.

**Location:** Kresge Art Center, MSU – Rm. 208

**When:** Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:30 PM.  
Sessions resume Sept. 7, 2022

**Participant Fee:** Student **\$2** Non-student **\$10**



See the MSU website for any requirements related to COVID 19.

Models are nude. No instruction is provided.

Bring drawing/painting materials. Chairs, benches, drawing boards, and easels are available in the studio.

**FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT**

**Jim McClurken: 517-230-1856**

**or [jmclurken@mcclurken.net](mailto:jmclurken@mcclurken.net);**

**or Tom Nelson: [tom@nelsonfineart.com](mailto:tom@nelsonfineart.com)**

# The rise and fall of Lansing wrestling legend 'the Sheik'

By **BILL CASTANIER**

If you ever met Eddie Farhat (and I did), he came across as a mild-mannered family man. But when he entered the “squared circle” —the wrestling ring — he switched on his persona as the Sheik, one of professional wrestling’s truly bad guys. During his nearly 50-year career, which began after World War II, he brought blood, mayhem and ghastly entertainment to the sport as both a feared wrestler and a savvy promoter.

In his new book, “Blood and Fire: The Unbelievable Real-Life Story of Wrestling’s Original Sheik,” noted wrestling writer Brian R. Solomon tells the amazing story of one of wrestling’s original “heels,” which was the industry’s catchphrase for villains of the ring. Farhat, born in Lansing in 1926 and raised here, died at 77 in Williamston in 2003.

The Sheik’s feats in the ring came when wrestling transitioned from fraternal halls to the national stage via television. It added a whole new dynamic to wrestling. Most television stations, hungry for content, held weekly matches in their studios that might draw 30 to 40 people.

“They basically served as infomercials for upcoming matches, and since only one camera was used, the audience

looked huge,” Solomon said, describing another trick of the trade.

Farhat began his career in Lansing in 1947 after returning from the service, where he wrestled on Army teams.

“He wrestled using his own name, but it wasn’t long before he transitioned to the Sheik, posing as an exotic oil baron from the Middle East despite being Catholic,” of Lebanese descent, Solomon said.

Solomon said Farhat was seldom out of character in his role as the Sheik. If phone callers who reached him at home asked for Eddie, Ed or Mr. Farhat, he hung up on them.

“He entered the ring in flowing robes, wearing pointy-toed boots and either a turban or later a keffiyeh, and he

would lay down a prayer rug and pray to Allah,” he said.

Solomon details how as his “kayfabe” or his “shtick” developed, the Sheik would use flash paper which he lit with a flint hidden in his trunks to throw fiery orbs at his opponents. The Sheik perfected the art of cutting his forehead to bleed profusely during matches, and many photographs of him wrestling show a bloodied face and chest. He used the cutting technique so much that he developed obvious scar tissue on his forehead.

“He never broke kayfabe or the code of wrestling which protected a wrestler’s

tricks,” Solomon said. The derivation of the word is nebulous, according to Solomon, but it is believed it was handed down from circus carneys who protected their routines from outsiders.

During his career, Farhat lived in Lansing and later Williamston on a grand estate, today a bed and breakfast. At one time, he also owned a restaurant in Williamston.

The wrestling business as we know it today, in the Vince McMahon era of arena wrestling, is quite different from the 1950s and ’60s, when a community could see numerous matches monthly at civic centers.

“In some ways, the regional wrestling model was more successful than the one or two major matches you see today,” Solomon said.

Solomon also showcases how wrestlers were best friends behind the scenes and out of the public eye of both villains and “babyfaces,” or good guys. This was especially the case with Farhat and babyfaced “Leaping” Larry Chene, who had some epic matches. While wrestling in Texas early in their careers, the Chene and Farhat families shared an apartment.

“Chene was absolutely the hottest big guy,” Solomon said.

In the 1960s, Farhat bought a Detroit promotional company, Big Time Wrestling, and had big plans to have himself and Chene become the centerpieces. But Chene died in an auto accident driving home from a match.

The book details how Farhat instead enlisted Bobo Brazil, a popular African

American wrestler, to serve as his babyface. Despite wrestling scores of times against each other, the two became best friends.

Despite having a successful career as a wrestler and promoter, Farhat filed for bankruptcy twice and sold his beloved Williamston home, where he and his spouse, Eva, raised two boys.

“At the height of his career, Farhat declared income of \$400,000,” Solomon said.

Solomon surmises that part of the problem was after the 1967 riot, people quit coming to downtown Detroit to watch events at Cobo and Olympia Stadium, adding to the demise of wrestling.

“Farhat probably put more people in seats at Cobo Hall than any of the other events that were held there,” he said.

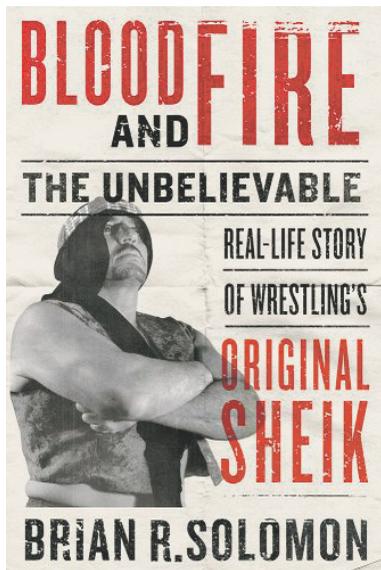
Solomon, a certified teacher, has spent much of his career writing for various wrestling publications and WWE.

He said he began writing about wrestling for his high school and college newspaper and recalls his grandfather taking him to Madison Square Garden to watch wrestling when he was a teenager.

“He was a prize fighter and a coach, and I think he wanted me to see how fake it was. I became a fan,” he said.

In his book, Solomon uses a fantastic photograph to illustrate how big the Sheik and wrestling were at one time. The photo shows a marquee featuring the Sheik versus Dick the Bruiser, Elvis, Marvin Gaye and Evel Knievel.

“The Sheik and the Bruiser got top billing,” Solomon said.



“Blood and Fire” is out now.



Brian R. Solomon



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# Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Eh-Oh!”—two letters not just for the Teletubbies.

by Matt Jones

**Across**

- 1. Quicker way to “count by”
- 5. LBJ’s veep
- 8. Most proficient
- 14. “Are you kidding?”
- 15. “All applicants welcome” letters
- 16. “\_\_\_ King” (Burger King spoof in a 2000 “Flintstones” movie)
- 17. \*Current Maori-language name for New Zealand
- 19. \*North African curvy-horned wild sheep that was released in Texas in the 1950s
- 20. Cul-de-\_\_\_
- 21. Egyptian Christians
- 23. Ghana’s neighbor
- 24. Alternative to a business meeting, so to speak
- 26. Storefront coverings
- 29. \*Series of heart structures that lead to the neck and head arteries
- 32. Fawns’ mothers
- 33. Iron Maiden song that’s also an instruction for some card games
- 37. Strand in a lab
- 38. \*New York Times film critic whose Twitter name is still “32 across” six years after his name appeared in the crossword
- 41. “There’s \_\_\_ in ‘team’”
- 42. Grueling workplace
- 44. “Convicted” hip-hop artist
- 45. \*Tagline that distinguishes a concert or convention from a full-weekend affair
- 49. Hargitay of “Law & Order: SVU”
- 52. “Like a Rock” singer Bob
- 53. Hebrew phrase

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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49	50	51					52					
53						54	55			56	57	58
59				60	61		62			63		
64							65			66		
67							68			69		

meaning “to the skies”

- 54. Musician/producer Ty \_\_\_ \$ign
- 56. Indie singer DiFranco
- 59. \*Honsu city deemed one of the world’s snowiest major cities (averaging 26 feet per year)
- 62. \*Items containing free trial software, dubbed “history’s greatest junk mail” by a Vox article
- 64. Actress Charlize who guested on “The Orville”
- 65. 37-Across counterpart
- 66. Unkind
- 67. “MMMBoP” band of 1997
- 68. Pvt.’s boss
- 69. “Animal House” group, for short

**Down**

- 1. “\_\_\_ the night before Christmas ...”
- 2. “Easy there!”
- 3. Quaker boxful, maybe
- 4. Sault \_\_\_ Marie, Ontario

- 5. Valiant
- 6. Overblown publicity
- 7. Use a microwave on
- 8. “Defending liberty, pursuing justice” org.
- 9. \_\_\_-country (Florida Georgia Line genre)
- 10. Ill-mannered
- 11. \_\_\_ a good note
- 12. Amos Alonzo \_\_\_, coach in the College Football Hall of Fame
- 13. Hullabaloo
- 18. Berry that makes a purple smoothie
- 22. Anarchist defendant with Vanzetti
- 25. Chain members (abbr.)
- 27. Perk up, as an appetite
- 28. Home in the sticks?
- 29. Throws in
- 30. “Game of Thrones” actress Chaplin
- 31. Competed with chariots
- 34. Back end of some pens
- 35. “Keep talking”
- 36. Vaguely suggest
- 38. “To Venus and Back” singer Tori
- 39. “Old MacDonald” noise
- 40. Sam with 82 PGA Tour wins
- 43. Clothes experts
- 44. 1600 Pennsylvania \_\_\_ (D.C. address)
- 46. Covering the same distance
- 47. Chew out
- 48. Edwardian expletive
- 49. County north of Dublin
- 50. Word on Hawaiian license plates
- 51. Soup that may include chashu or ajitama
- 55. Rowboat rowers
- 57. March Madness org.
- 58. Ceases to be
- 60. “Winnie-the-Pooh” marsupial
- 61. Quaint motel
- 63. Global currency org.

# Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

Aug 31 - Sept 6, 2022

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** In his poem “AutobiographicalLiteraria,” Aries-born Frank O’Hara wrote, “When I was a child, I played in a corner of the schoolyard all alone. If anyone was looking for me, I hid behind a tree and cried out, ‘I am an orphan.’” Over the years, though, O’Hara underwent a marvelous transformation. This is how his poem ends: “And here I am, the center of all beauty! Writing these poems! Imagine!” In the coming months, Aries, I suspect that you, too, will have the potency to outgrow and transcend a sadness or awkwardness from your own past. The shadow of an old source of suffering may not disappear completely, but I bet it will lose much of its power to diminish you.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** In his poem “Auguries of Innocence,” William Blake (1757–1827) championed the ability “to see a World in a Grain of Sand. And a Heaven in a Wild Flower. Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand.” According to my reading of the astrological omens, Taurus, you are primed to do just that in the coming days. You have the power to discern the sacred in the midst of mundane events. The magic and mystery of life will shine from every little thing you encounter. Sol will love it if you deliver the following message to a person you care for: “Now I see that the beauty I had not been able to find in the world is in you.”

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** “The time you enjoy wasting is not wasted time,” said philosopher Bertrand Russell. I will add that the time you enjoy wasting is often essential to your well-being. For the sake of your sanity and health, you periodically need to temporarily shed your ambitions and avoid as many of your responsibilities as you safely can. During these interludes of refreshing emptiness, you recharge your precious life energy. You become like a fallow field allowing fertile nutrients to regenerate. In my astrological opinion, now is one of these revitalizing phases for you.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** “My own curiosity and interest are insatiable,” wrote Cancerian author Emma Lazarus (1849–1887). Inspired by the wealth of influences she absorbed, she created an array of poetry, plays, novels, essays, and translations—including the famous poem that graces the pedestal of America’s Statue of Liberty. I recommend her as a role model for you in the coming weeks, Cancerian. I think you’re ripe for an expansion and deepening of your curiosity. You will benefit from cultivating an enthusiastic quest for new information and fresh influences. Here’s a mantra for you: “I am wildly innocent as I vivify my soul’s education.”

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** Blogger Scott Williams writes, “There are two kinds of magic. One comes from the heroic leap, the upward surge of energy, the explosive arc that burns bright across the sky. The other kind is the slow accretion of effort: the water-on-stone method, the soft root of the plant that splits the sidewalk, the constant wind that scours the mountain clean.” Can you guess which type of magic will be your specialty in the coming weeks, Leo? It will be the laborious, slow accretion of effort. And that is precisely what will work best for the tasks that are most important for you to accomplish.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** “Now that I’m free to be myself, who am I?” Virgo-born Mary Oliver asks that question to start one of her poems. She spends the rest of the poem speculating on possible answers. At the end, she concludes she mostly longs to be an “empty, waiting, pure, speechless receptacle.” Such a state of being might work well for a poet with lots of time on her hands, but I don’t recommend it for you in the coming weeks. Instead, I hope you’ll be profuse, active, busy, experimental, and expressive. That’s the best way to celebrate the fact that you are now freer to be yourself than you have been in a while.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** In her book Tales FromEarthsea, Libra-born Ursula K. Le Guin

wrote, “What goes too long unchanged destroys itself. The forest is forever because it dies and dies and so lives.” I trust you’re embodying those truths right now. You’re in a phase of your cycle when you can’t afford to remain unchanged. You need to enthusiastically and purposefully engage in dissolutions that will prepare the way for your rebirth in the weeks after your birthday. The process might sometimes feel strenuous, but it should ultimately be great fun.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** As a Scorpio, novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky was rarely guilty of oversimplification. Like any intelligent person, he could hold contradictory ideas in his mind without feeling compelled to seek more superficial truths. He wrote, “The causes of human actions are usually immeasurably more complex and varied than our subsequent explanations of them.” I hope you will draw inspiration from his example in the coming weeks, dear Scorpio. I trust you will resist the temptation to reduce colorful mysteries to straightforward explanations. There will always be at least three sides to every story. I invite you to relish glorious paradoxes and fertile enigmas.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** Author Zadie Smith praised Sagittarian writer Joan Didion. She says, “I remain grateful for the day I picked up Joan Didion’s Slouching Towards Bethlehem and realized that a woman could speak without hedging her bets, without hemming and hawing, without making nice, without sounding pleasant or sweet, without deference, and even without doubt.” I encourage Sagittarians of every gender to be inspired by Didion in the coming weeks. It’s a favorable time to claim more of the authority you have earned. Speak your kaleidoscopicwisdom without apology or dilution. More fiercely than ever before, embody your high ideals and show how well they work in the rhythms of daily life.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** Capricorn novelist Marcia Douglas writes books about the history of her people in Jamaica. In one passage, she writes, “My grandmother used to tell stories about women that change into birds and lizards. One day, a church-going man dared to laugh at her; he said it was too much for him to swallow. My grandmother looked at him and said, ‘I bet you believe Jesus turned water into wine.’” My purpose in telling you this, Capricorn, is to encourage you to nurture and celebrate your own fantastic tales. Life isn’t all about reasonableness and pragmatism. You need myth and magic to thrive. You require the gifts of imagination and art and lyrical flights of fancy. This is especially true now. To paraphrase David Byrne, now is a perfect time to refrain from making too much sense.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** To be the best Aquarius you can be in the coming weeks, I suggest the following: 1. Zig when others zag. Zag when others zig. 2. Play with the fantasy that you’re an extraterrestrial who’s engaged in an experiment on planet Earth. 3. Be a hopeful cynic and a cheerful skeptic. 4. Do things that inspire people to tell you, “Just when I thought I had you figured out, you do something unexpected to confound me.” 5. Just for fun, walk backward every now and then. 6. Fall in love with everything and everyone: a D-List celebrity, an oak tree, a neon sign, a feral cat.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** A blogger who calls herself HellFresh writes, “Open and raw communication with your partners and allies may be uncomfortable and feel awkward and vulnerable, but it solves so many problems that can’t be solved any other way.” Having spent years studying the demanding arts of intimate relationship, I agree with her. She adds, “The idea that was sold to us is ‘love is effortless and you should communicate telepathically with your partner.’ That’s false.” I propose, Pisces, that you fortify yourself with these truths as you enter the Reinvent Your Relationships Phase of your astrological cycle.

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Answers on page 21

# SUDOKU

# Advanced

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		9			7			
					3			
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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 21

# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene BY RICH TUPIGA

FOLK CONCERT SERIES RETURNS



Vance Gilbert performs on Sept. 30 as a part of the newly announced Ten Pound Fiddle season.

## Ten Pound Fiddle announces new season

Since 1975, the Ten Pound Fiddle concert series has been responsible for bringing some of the best-known names in folk to East Lansing — and the newly announced schedule proves that's still true.

Set to perform are Joel Mabus (Oct. 7), Kitty Donohoe (Oct. 14), Stella! and The Lesser Halves (Oct. 21) and May Erlewine (Oct. 28), to name a few. Another standout gig is the Nov. 12 reunion set from Nervous But Excited at the Women in the Arts Festival. And, for those looking to cut a rug, the first contra dance is set for Sept. 17.

While the first event doesn't happen until Sept. 16, tickets are available now at [tenpoundfiddle.org](http://tenpoundfiddle.org), along with the full schedule. Here is the September batch of shows.



Evie Ladin & Keith Terry

Courtesy photo

### Evie Ladin & Keith Terry

Friday, Sept. 16  
7:30 pm  
University United Methodist Church  
1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing  
\$20, \$18 Fiddle members, \$5 Students

ment of percussive dance. Ladin, a prolific songwriter, brings the poly-rhythmic heat with her clawhammer banjo that's been heard from "A Prairie Home Companion" to the Lincoln Center. Meanwhile, Terry is a brilliant

percussionist. A dynamic duo.

### Old Blind Dogs

Coming straight out of Scotland, the **Old Blind Dogs** have churned out edgy roots-revival songs since 1992. According to the LA Times, the "Old Blind Dogs bring freshness and color to acoustic music steeped in centuries of Scottish folklore and history." Meanwhile, Acoustic Guitar Magazine praises the group for mastering "the tricky art of innovating within a musical tradition while faithfully revealing its essence." After 13 albums, the outfit is one of Scotland's most highly praised traditional folk bands.

Described by Richmond Magazine as the lovechild of Joni Mitchell and Richie Havens, with Rodney Dangerfield acting as the midwife, **Vance Gilbert** defies stereotypes. "I'm Black, I

sing, I play an acoustic guitar, and I don't play the blues," Gilbert said. With 13 LPs under his belt, his resume has been impressive since his start in the early 1990s. Over the years, he's toured the world and shared bills with Aretha Franklin, Shawn Colvin, Arlo Guthrie, the Milk Carton Kids, Anita Baker and many more. Interesting fact: He opened over 150 shows for the late comedy legend George Carlin. Now, he brings an intimate set to the Ten Pound Fiddle.

### Vance Gilbert

Friday, Sept. 30  
7:30 pm  
University United Methodist Church  
1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing  
\$20, \$18 Fiddle members, \$5 Students

## Live & Local

CityPULSE

### The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Throne, Nihil, Mammon, Room 101

Fri., September 2, 9 p.m.



### B&I Bar

5247 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing

Liv Conaty

Thurs., September 1, 7:30-10:30 p.m.



### Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids

DJ E-Nyce

Thurs., September 1, 7-10 p.m.



Dean Madonia

Fri., September 2, 7-10 p.m.



### Lansing Brewing Co.

518 E. Shiawassee, Lansing

The Corzo Effect

Sat., September 3, 7-10 p.m.



### Urban Beat

11213 Turner, Lansing

Dave Mingus

Thurs., September 1, 5-8 p.m.



Time2Play

Fri., September 2, 8-11 p.m.



# OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com).  
 Deadline is 9 a.m. Monday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

## Wednesday, August 31

**50 over Fitness** - Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group. 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos. 517-853-4600. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Allen Farmers Market** - Corner Shepard/Kalamazoo. 2:30-7 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1611 E Kalamazoo, Lansing.

**Brown Bag Books** - August 1-31. Mystery, comedy, adventure and the chance to win prizes. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Concert in the Park** - Matt King. 7-9 p.m. William E. Tennant Performance Shell, 801 W Park St, St. Johns. [clintoncountyarts.org](http://clintoncountyarts.org).

**Laingsburg Community Singers needed** - Laingsburg United Methodist Church, 210 N Crum St, Laingsburg.

**LEGO Building Challenge!** - Bring your creation to the library by August 31. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition** - Weekly practice 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr Blvd., Lansing. [iamc.info](http://iamc.info).

**Meridian Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. 1995 Central Park Dr., Okemos.

**Meridian Township Summer Concert Series** - 6-8:30 p.m. 1995 Central Park Dr., Okemos. [meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us).

**Pagan Community Night** - online or in-person 6-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center Street, Suite 7A, Lansing. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

**Wine Wednesday** - Wine & cheese tasting 6 p.m. Wine & chocolate tasting 8:30 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-721-1330.

## Thursday, September 1

**Back to School Bash** - Join us for a free concert with Global Village, giveaways, resource tables, food trucks and more. 6-8:30 p.m. Benjamin Davis Park, 5500 Pleasant Grove Rd., Lansing.

**Bath Farmers Market** - 3-6:30 p.m. James

## Michigan Chicken Wing Festival

Adado Riverfront Park

201 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing

Saturday, Sept. 3-Sunday, Sept. 4

\$5-\$55

2-9 p.m.

[michiganchickenwingfestival.com](http://michiganchickenwingfestival.com)



This weekend, the Michigan Chicken Wing Festival returns with an impressive variety of wings, live music, pro wrestling, spirits, craft vendors and more. According to its website, "This festival is not about how many wing vendors participate; it's more about the different flavors of wings you can buy at the festival."

For the wing-munching pros, a chicken-wing eating contest will crown one lucky winner as the Michigan Chicken Wing Festival king or queen. And for those looking for an enhanced experience, VIP beverage tent tickets are available.

Worth noting: wing samples are available at select vendors only — food vendors will have wings for purchase (not giving them out). There is a limited number of advance Wing Sampling tickets, which "guarantees you wings." Another pro tip: since no seating is provided, attendees should bring lawn chairs, bean bags or blankets.

Aside from tasty food and drinks, the festival also serves as a fundraiser for the event organizer, Against All Odds, a 501(c)3 non-profit "serving the underserved community of Ingham County, cancer patients and survivors with their imminent needs." A portion of the proceeds benefits the foundation.

Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St, Bath. [shopbfm.org](http://shopbfm.org).

**Citizens for Prison Reform Coffee & Conversation** - 11 a.m.-12 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St, Lansing. [micpr.org](http://micpr.org).

**Dimondale Farmers' Market** - 3-7 p.m. 136 N Bridge St, Dimondale.

**Essays on Invisibility by Paloma Nunez-Regueiro** - Sept. 1-Oct. 22. Lansing Art Gallery & Education Center, 300 S Washington Square Suite 100, Lansing. [lansingartgallery.org](http://lansingartgallery.org).

**Meet Your Campus Art Museum** - Welcome back, students! 1-4 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing.

**PeaceQuest Greater Lansing 2022** - community-wide celebration to celebrate the United Nations International Day. Events schedule at [peacequestgreaterlansing.org](http://peacequestgreaterlansing.org).

**Stitch 'n Bitch** - Come hang out with some fellow stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St. #7, Lansing. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Trivia** - 9-11 p.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E Michigan Ave., Lansing. [avenuecafelansing.com](http://avenuecafelansing.com).

## Friday, September 2

**50 over Fitness** - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group. 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos. 517-853-4600. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Cruise In** - 5-8 p.m. Holt Farmers' Market, 2150 Cedar St, Holt. [delhitownship.com](http://delhitownship.com).

**Lansing 2600 Meeting** - a monthly gathering of local hackers, phreaks, nerds, geeks, sympathizers, and others of various labelability. 6-8 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St, Lansing. 517-230-7679.

**Massage Techniques for Relaxation** - 4-week class. 12-4 p.m. LCC, 515 Washington Sq. Rm. 108, Lansing. [lcc.edu](http://lcc.edu).

**Meet Your Campus Art Museum** - Welcome back, students! 1-4 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

**Storytime at Rayner Park** - Ages up to 6. 10:30-11 a.m. Rayner Park, 738 E. Ash St., Mason. [business.masonchamber.org](http://business.masonchamber.org).

**TGIF Dinner & Dance Party** - 7-11:59 p.m. Hawk Hollow, 15101 Chandler Rd. Bath. 734-604-5095. [tgifdance.com](http://tgifdance.com).

**Tourist In Our Town** - Williamston. Visit and see what makes us special. Unique shops, antiques, 5-8 p.m. Downtown Williamston, 102 S. Putnam, Williamston.

## Saturday, September 3

**Family Day: Power of Story** - 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Tourist In Our Town** - Williamston. Visit and see what makes us special. Unique shops, antiques, 12-6 p.m. Downtown Williamston, 102 S. Putnam, Williamston.

## Sunday, September 4

**East Lansing Farmers Market** - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. [cityofeastlansing.com](http://cityofeastlansing.com).

**Introduction to "A Course in Abundance"** - 9 Week Workshop - 9:30-10:15 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 S. Washington, Lansing. [unitylansing.org](http://unitylansing.org).

**Sunday School for Witches** - workshop series. 3-4:30 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St. #7A, Lansing. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

## Monday, September 5

**50 over Fitness** - Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group 9-10 a.m. Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600. [meridian50plus.com](http://meridian50plus.com).

**Karaoke** - 9 p.m.-1 a.m. The Avenue Cafe, 2021 E Michigan, Lansing. [avenuecafelansing.com](http://avenuecafelansing.com).

## Tuesday, September 6

**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.

**Parent Happy Hour** - Storytime for kids and wine flight specials for parents. 5-7 p.m. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

**Preschool Family Storytime** - Ages 1-6 with their young siblings, parents or caregivers. 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Preschool Storytime at CADL Mason Library** - Enjoy songs, rhymes, and stories. Ages 3-6. 10:30-11 a.m. CADL Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. [business.masonchamber.org](http://business.masonchamber.org).

**Sporcle Live! Trivia** - Are you a trivia buff? Two games starting at 7:30 & 8:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. [crunchyseastlansing.com](http://crunchyseastlansing.com).

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

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## SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 19

5	4	6	2	1	9	3	8	7
2	7	3	5	8	4	1	6	9
9	1	8	7	6	3	5	4	2
4	3	9	1	2	7	8	5	6
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8	9	5	3	7	1	6	2	4
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# Making basil carbonara

## A fresh, summertime pasta salad

By ARI LEVAUX

My children have an arrangement with an area farmer. After the weekly farmers market, he supplies them with surplus produce, which they sell at a roadside stand in front of our house. They split the proceeds 50/50.

What's in it for me, you ask?

One of the things that's nice about having a farmstand at the end of your driveway is that you will never run out of onions. And then there is the slippage – produce that we have to pull if it gets a little soft, even though it's totally edible. Each night, I'll go through the unsold tomatoes and cull the ones that are



too soft. I've been using these extra-ripe balls of flavor in a particular pasta dish that comes together amazingly quickly, especially given how from scratch it is.

For this and many other dishes, a pasta basket is very helpful. It's essentially a perforated pot that slides inside a larger, non-perforated pot, allowing you to cook and remove things from boiling water without pouring it through a colander each time. I use my pasta boiler in many ways, some of which have nothing to do with pasta (when making soup stock, for example, but that's a different story).

Today, it's about the marinara — that's also a carbonara. And then I smother it with fresh basil. In the end, it's a fresh, summertime basil pasta salad that comes together as fast as you can chop and stir.

### Soft tomato sauce

This sauce is as fresh as your ingredients. And this time of year, freshness has no limit. The tomatoes should be the ripest, soft and heavy enough to almost split their skins.

### Serves 2

1 pound of tomatoes, either culled from your personal farmstand or otherwise acquired, cores removed

1/2 pound of semolina pasta, dried in cold air

1/2 pound cured pork belly, such as bacon or pancetta. Bacon ends, which can easily be chopped into cubes, are ideal.

1/4 cup olive oil

1 medium onion, minced

1 carrot, sliced thinly. Optional, but an excellent addition that adds earthy sweetness

Leaves from several sprigs of fresh thyme

2 cloves of garlic, minced

1/2 cup of wine

Salt and pepper

1/2 cup grated Pecorino Romano or Parmesan cheese

2 (or more) cups of fresh basil

Heat enough water in a pot to cover the bottom of the pasta insert by a few inches. Add a tablespoon of salt to the water. Turn the flame to high. While the water heats, chop the cured pork belly. It's easier to do this cutting if the meat is partly frozen. Fry the pork on medium, occasionally stirring, until brown and crispy all around.

When the water in the pasta pot reaches a boil, add the cored tomatoes. As they simmer for about five minutes, prepare a bowl with cold water, ideally with a few ice cubes floating in it. When it's time, remove the pasta cooker and roll the tomatoes into the ice bath. Remove the toma-

atoes from the water when they are cool enough to handle. Slip off the wrinkled skins and put the tomatoes in a bowl.

There should be a decent amount of grease in the pan from the pork. If not, or if you aren't using pork, add 2-4 tablespoons of olive oil, so the pan is plenty greasy. Add the minced onions to the browned pork pieces, with the heat still on medium and cook until the onions become translucent. Add the carrots, thyme, half of the garlic and the wine. Season with salt and pepper, and let the sauce sizzle for a few minutes. Add the tomatoes, mash them with a fork and stir them together to simmer.

Turn the heat under the pasta boiler, bring it back to boiling, add the dried pasta and cook for the required time. Drain the pasta and toss it with a shot of olive oil and the remaining garlic.

Add the pasta and stir when the tomatoes have melted into the sauce, and it's simmering nicely. Throw on

some cheese and allow it to cook down. If the pan is drying out, dip a cup into the noodle and tomato cooking water and pour it into the pasta.

Simmer for about five minutes. Then turn off the heat and allow it to cool. When still warm but not hot, toss in the basil leaves and serve.



Courtesy photo

Before you start your basil carbonara recipe, select the proper tomatoes.

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**By CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

The Deluxe Poke Bowl at Aloha Cookin' is a filling fish dish overflowing with flavors. On an otherwise meat-heavy menu, this poke is a proper pescatarian preparation primed for you to dive into its oceanic glory.

Unlike some restaurants, this fish/veggie option is not an afterthought. For me, this core dish holds its own against their beef and pork barbecue classics.

I've been eating at Aloha Cookin' regularly since it opened last fall, and the Deluxe Poke bowl is consistently fresh and tasty. The meal is \$17.95 and comes with soup, making for a lovely weeknight dinner. Even in a takeout container, the plating instantly captures your sense of sight with colorful shades

of pink, green and orange. It could be snowing outside (and it will be soon), but these bright colors would brighten your day. I like to eat poke in the summer, but I need to eat poke in the winter.

If you don't know, poke (pronounced like "okay") is a raw fish dish native to Hawaii. Aloha's Deluxe Poke Bowl includes raw tuna, raw salmon, avocado, seaweed salad, greens, crab sticks, edamame, roasted seaweed, sesame seeds and masago served on rice. It's a lot of different flavors that all complement and elevate each other.

There are tangy pickled veggies, crunchy cucumbers and carrots, creamy roe and raw fish resting under a dash

# Fantastic, filling fish dish

## The Deluxe Poke Bowl is a protein-rich, seaside dream



Chelsea Lake Roberts

The Deluxe Poke Bowl

of sesame seeds and green onions. The base is white rice. Smooth fish and creamy avocados contrast the acidic pickled daikon (a giant white radish) and earthy red onion.

It comes with a choice of four sauces:

Roasted Sesame, Spicy Mayo, Lemon Ginger or Gochujang (a popular red chili paste). The dish is not spicy, save for the choice of sauce. I typically go for the Gochujang and the spicy mayo. Spicy mayo, while I have you here, should be in your fridge. It is a perfect condiment.

Just when you get to the bottom of the Deluxe Poke Bowl, when your chopsticks are scraping for those last few bits of rice, don't forget you still have one more flavor to enjoy: a soothing side of umami-packed miso soup sprinkled with a few green onions.

From tangy to crunchy, from spicy to earthy, the Deluxe Poke Bowl is a protein-rich, seaside dream that perfectly serves up a slice of Hawaii's coastal cuisine.



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