

CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us

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Nov. 6-12, 2024



Comics Artist
Ryan Claytor Takes Life
One Bite at a Time



Locally owned

See Page 12



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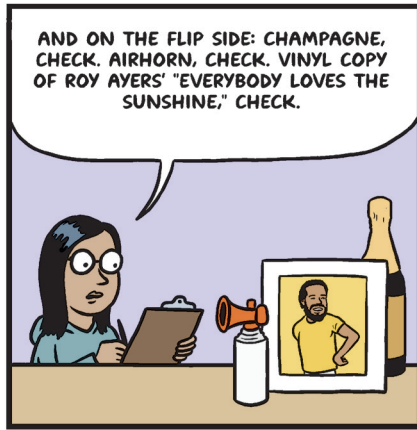
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CityPULSE

**VOL. 24
ISSUE 13**

(517) 371-5600 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • www.lansingcitypulse.com



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Women in the Arts Festival creates space for radical inclusion



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Riverwalk hopes satirical comedy will resonate post-pandemic



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Dimitri's is unrivaled in the Delta Township breakfast game

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

SPECIAL "PRE-ELECTION DEADLINE" D.I.Y. FUNNIES
(CIRCLE OPTIONS WHICH BEST REFLECT ACTUAL OUTCOME OF ELECTION!)

IT HAS BEEN AN **UNPRECEDENTED** ELECTION YEAR, BIFF! BUT NOW WE CAN SAY WITH CERTAINTY THAT IT'S ALL (finally over)/(going to drag on for weeks if not months)!



AND (unfortunately)/(fortunately) ELECTION DAY (was)/(was not) **DISRUPTED BY** (voter intimidation)/(MAGA violence)/(events someone writing a cartoon in advance could not possibly have anticipated)!



YES, THE ELECTION RESULTS ARE (too decisive to question)/(already being challenged)/(decisive but being challenged on spurious grounds anyway because Donald Trump has made it clear that he will not accept the results of any election he loses)!



AND SO, WE CAN DEFINITELY STATE THAT THE 47TH PRESIDENT WILL **BE** (a normal human being)/(a rage-filled authoritarian in obvious cognitive decline)/(determined after an interminable period of chaos and uncertainty)!



AND OF COURSE, DEMOCRATS ARE (extremely dismayed)/(intensely relieved) THAT THIS ELECTION (may possibly)/(definitely will not) **ULTIMATELY BE DECIDED BY** (a corrupt right-wing Supreme Court)/(a Republican-controlled House)!



ONE THING IS CERTAIN--OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS (barely survived)/(utterly failed) **THE CHALLENGE OF THIS MOMENT!**



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Experts: 'People we trust' target youth for sex

Detective Thomas Gladney's proclivity for computers helped him rise through the Michigan State Police ranks rather quickly.

"Like a lot of people my age, I got into computer games when I was younger. Law enforcement officers and computers don't get along very often. So, it was an attractive transition for me," he said.

Three years into his career, in 2019, he was promoted to its Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Since then, Gladney, 30, based in Dimondale, has led one of several regional Michigan efforts to investigate adults targeting children and youth online.

In 2023, Michigan task force investigators arrested 108 statewide and 35 in Greater Lansing. Those numbers have risen to 116 and 31, respectively, this year. Gladney said the phenomenon only seems to be growing.

"Unfortunately, during COVID, we saw an explosion of the amount of work that we have. There's a line from pre- to post-pandemic where people were shut up at home and more chronically online than they were before, and we saw that reflected in the number of incidents," he said.

In Greater Lansing, the spike is visible in several recent arrests of high-profile individuals.

The most prominent was Delta Township Supervisor Ken Fletcher, 58, caught by the task force in an August sting operation after authorities said he used an LGBTQ+ dating app to contact and organize a meet-up with an undercover officer posing as a 15-year-old boy. Fletcher resigned after he was arrested.

Former Waverly Community Schools teacher Robert Herzing, 32, was arrested by Eaton County sheriff's officers in September under nearly identical circumstances.

In May, former Holt High School boys basketball coach Muhammad El-Amin, 36, allegedly responded to a police post on a prostitution website and agreed to meet up for "oral sex" with an agent he believed to be a 15 year-old girl. He was arrested by Lansing Police at a local Quality Dairy.

In July, former teacher at Lansing Community College Joseph Tenbrink, 42, was arrested for allegedly meeting

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| State of Michigan 56A Judicial District | AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE | MSP Complaint Number: CCU-1621-24 |
| Charge: Accosting a Minor for Immoral Purposes | Date of Offense: 08/19/2024 | |
| Michigan State Police Lansing Post #11 | Location: 8613 Doe Pass | |
| MSP Complaint #: CCU-1621-24 | City/Township/Village: Eaton County | |
| Defendant Name: Kenneth Russell Fletcher | Race: <input type="text" value="White"/> | Gender: <input type="text" value="Male"/> |
| THE COMPLAINING WITNESS, ON INFORMATION AND BELIEF, SAYS: | | |
| On 08/18/2024, D/Tpr/Spl Tucker was notified of a joint task force investigation conducted by the Eaton County Sheriff's Office. D/Tpr/Spl Tucker learned that Detective Scheib (Eaton County Sheriff's Office) engaged in undercover chatting with a male subject on the application, "Grindr" which lasted from 08/13/24 to 08/14/2024. Detective Scheib was utilizing an undercover account and identified herself as being a 15-year-old male. Detective Scheib was contacted in the Grindr chat feature by an adult male subject using the Grindr username, "Love to suck". "Love to suck" engaged in sexual conversations with Detective Scheib and advised they wanted to perform oral sex on Detective Scheib's undercover persona. The conversation eventually transitioned to text message. | | |
| Detective Scheib was contacted by phone number 517-582-7688. During the text messaging conversation, Detective Scheib advised the suspect that she was a "15-year-old boy". Following this, the male subject continued to send enticing messages and expressed they would be willing to meet with the "15-year-old boy" at the Lansing Mall for the purposes of "just talking". The text message conversation was terminated on 08/14/2024. D/Tpr/Spl Tucker learned that the phone number "517-582-7688" was associated to a male named Kenneth Russell Fletcher. D/Tpr/Spl Tucker also learned that Kenneth is the Delta Twp Supervisor, and the phone number used in these undercover conversations is the same used in his official signature line in his emails. | | |
| On 08/21/2024, Investigators with the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force executed a residential search warrant at 8613 Doe Pass, Lansing, Michigan - the residence of Kenneth Fletcher. Kenneth was located at his residence and interviewed following the waiving of his Miranda Rights. Kenneth was interviewed by D/Tpr/Spl Tucker and D/Tpr/Spl Kwiatkowski. Kenneth admitted to engaging in conversations on Grindr and text messaging with a male whom he believed was 15-years-old. Kenneth admitted to making sexual requests of the male prior to knowing his age. Kenneth also admitted to continuing the conversation, sending further sexual messages, and offering the meet the "juvenile" at the Lansing mall after being informed the person was 15-years-old. | | |
| Kenneth was not arrested following the search warrant. A warrant request for the charges of Accosting a Minor for Immoral Purposes and Use of a Computer to Commit a Crime was forwarded to the Eaton County Prosecutor's Office. Both charges were authorized by the Eaton County Prosecutor. | | |

The arrest of Delta Township Supervisor Ken Fletcher in August called attention to the work of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which made 35 arrests in Greater Lansing in 2023 and 31 this year through September.

another decoy disguised as a 15-year-old girl. Police said he engaged in sexual conversations with them on the anonymous social media app, Whisper, and was busted in a joint operation with the LPD and Eaton County.

The four have pleaded not guilty.

All four were hit with the primary charge of accosting a minor for immoral

purposes. In Michigan, this is defined as "a person who accosts, entices, or solicits a child less than 16 years of age, regardless of whether the person knows the actual age of the child." It carries a maximum felony punishment of four years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$4,000, or both.

Because those cases are all ongoing, Gladney couldn't comment on his team's

role in them. "It's one of those things where anonymity is key to our success in those investigations," he said.

He did, however, comment on the nature of sting operations as a whole.

"I can't get too far off into the weeds, but what I can say is that we start to conduct these investigations when we iden-

People we trust

from page 3

tify that there is attempted human trafficking of juveniles on these platforms. We're trying to be proactive to try to stop these offenders before they have actual live victims," Gladney said.

'The real big predators'

Husband and wife duo Karen and Tom Holt, both professors at Michigan State University's School of Criminal Justice, have spent much of their careers exploring the intersection of sexual criminology and the internet. The former's research revolves around "sexual deviance and offending, media and sexual violence," while the latter studies "the role of the internet in facilitating crime and deviance."

"Dating apps and social media have definitely made things a lot easier for people who are seeking to do harm, because they've changed the way that people can access victims and the type of harm people can commit," Karen Holt said.

Holt believes the cases against alleged offenders like Fletcher, Herzing, El-Amin and Tenbrink are just scratching the surface of the issue. The sex offender registry is oversaturated with similar individuals, she said.

"Many of them don't have criminal histories," Holt said. "The that do end up meeting people in public are what we researchers in law enforcement call the 'low

hanging fruit.' The real big predators, the ones doing the most damage, are the ones we never get to."

Holt offered a similar metaphor to drive the point home.

"In terms of the psychology of law enforcement, if we're thinking about sexual violence as a tree, it's better to get the leaves off than to do nothing. You're probably not going to get the whole trunk. The idea is to trim the branches and hopefully, someday, get to the trunk. But right now, this is what we can do with the resources we have."

Gladney echoed this take. His task force is part of Michigan's spur in a larger federal effort that dedicated \$40.8 million in 2023 to combat internet predators nationwide. However, he said more support is needed to address a rising caseload.

"That money allows us to do the training that we need to stay current on emerging technology trends. That being said, the digital forensics field is cutting edge

by its nature, which is always top dollar. While software companies are in business to make money, their tools are very expensive, and those increasing prices have been difficult to keep up with," Gladney said.

According to Gladney, Michigan's statewide ICAC officials receive anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000 calls per month about individuals seeking minors on the internet for sex, sharing explicit sexual images or videos of minors and similar crimes.

"Two thousand tips is too many per month for the 20 investigators we have statewide. So, a triage is necessary, and the only way to arrest more people is to get more bodies," Gladney said.

He cited affiliate programs, which are essentially law enforcement internships providing the tools and education for forensics, plus the adoption of emerging artificial intelligence technologies as two possible strategies to increase their impact.

Tom Holt is doing his part to bolster the ranks. In September, he launched the Center for Cyber Crime Investigation and Training to help train law enforcement agents of all levels to better respond to these threats.

Larger cities often establish dedicated cybercrime units, Holt said, but resour-

es are more limited for rural agencies. He hopes to help bridge that gap through the program, which was funded through a \$1 million federal appropriation in May. Their first training session, with the Michigan Department of Corrections, is set for January.

"Research generally tells us there's a need for this kind of training and growth. Historically, police agencies in the U.S. have put a substantial focus on traditional offenses. But we know that, especially at police academy level, there's not great exposure to cybercrime education," he said.

The ICAC task force has been around in some form since 1998, but Holt said dating apps and social media have provided a new "opportunity factor" for would-be offenders to victimize minors.

"The subset of people using technology for this kind of behavior has been there, but it's been simplified in dramatic ways. There's always going to be people who are interested in doing this kind of thing, but there are others who might not have thought about it previously who use social media to try to engage with youth," he said.

Muddy water

Karen Holt said some patterns have remained consistent before and after the advent of dating apps. At the top of the list is the tendency for perpetrators to seek out the most vulnerable victims. Often, this includes those in "minority groups and stigmatized populations like gay men."

"They're going after people who are more marginalized. They're good at picking up on the people who don't have as much protection, with lower self-esteem

See People we trust, Page 5



Fletcher



Gladney

Eagle Township, Clinton County Board Meeting Synopsis

October 17, 2024, at 6:00 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee M. Hoppes, Trustee Strahle and 8 citizens.

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved bills for October 2024.
- 2) Approved legal action regarding zoning violation.
- 3) Approved assessor to receive a temporary key code to access hall when needed.
- 4) Approved newsletter to be included in the winter tax mailing.
- 5) Approved changes to the Eagle Township Board Policy.
- 6) Approved request to Planning Commission to further review proposed IZO changes.
- 7) Approved the following treasurer policies:
Resolution 10-17-2024-01 Investment Policy, list of financial institutions, Resolution 10-17-2024-02 ACH and Electronic Transaction Policy, list of vendors to be paid by ACH, Resolution 10-17-2024-03 Impose Property Tax Administration Fee, Resolution 10-17-2024-04 Impose 3% Late Penalty Fee, Resolution 10-17-2024-05 Tax Payment Date and Receipt Policy, Resolution 10-17-2024-06 Over/Under Payment on Property Taxes Policy, Bill Payment and Post Audit Policy.
- 8) Approved Vision, Mission, Values and Strategic Plan.
- 9) Approved a purchase of printed copies of the Master Plan.
- 10) Approved applying for an Election Security Grant.
- 11) Approved correction to September 19, 2024, meeting minutes.
- 12) Approved budget amendments.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is November 21, 2024, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

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

CP#24-720

Eagle Township, Clinton County Board Meeting Synopsis

October 22, 2024, at 6:30 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee M. Hoppes, Trustee Strahle and 8 citizens.

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved joining Foster Swift legal action regarding the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) interpretation of PA 233.
- 2) Approved modifications to the winter tax newsletter.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is November 21, 2024, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

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

CP#24-719

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CP#24-713

People we trust

from page 4

and who may have been abused, because they're more accessible to them," she said.

"I think credibility is a big part of it," she added. "If a victim were to come forward, the more the offender can challenge their claims, the better, from their perspective. They want to make the victim seem less credible. In terms of selecting victims, I think that's a big part of it."

A notable throughline in the four prominent local cases was the age investigators chose to attribute to their decoy officers. At 15 years old, all were theoretically within a year of reaching Michigan's age of consent.

In Gladney's words, the age of consent can "muddy the waters." Karen Holt said it also complicates cases where men like Fletcher and Herzing allegedly sought same-sex relationships on the internet.

"If you're saying you're a 15-year-old boy and the age of consent is 16, and then you throw in the stigma and marginalization of the gay community, it gets really difficult. Some of these kids may have this attraction and be struggling with their orientation, and when they get on an app like Grindr, they realize they're also looking for mentorship," she said.

She attributed this perspective to one of several gay men she's spoken to for her research.

"He said it can be really tough, because you may remember how, when you were a teenager, you couldn't talk about it. It wasn't that long ago that homosexuality was criminalized and considered a mental disease. So, I think there are more dynamics going on there than we necessarily see," Holt said.

There's plenty of data to support this theory. A 2017 study published in the Journal of Adolescent Health noted that "gay adolescents are more likely to report online partner seeking."

Meanwhile, a 2021 study in the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry stated that dating apps "targeted toward sexual minority people provide platforms whereby youth can explore their identity from the

privacy of their smartphones." It noted that more than half of teens aged 14 to 17, regardless of sexual orientation, fabricate their age to use dating apps.

While this doesn't exonerate those men, Karen Holt said there needs to be a greater effort to "explain and understand" their behavior to help prevent similar cases in the future. This is stymied by what she described as a cultural distaste for "open discussions about sex."

"We can't even talk about normative sexual behavior without kind of panicking. I think we really fail in terms of giving our young people the tools that they need, in my opinion, because we're constantly putting band-aids on, rather than addressing the root problem," she said.

Of the many platforms state ICAC investigators conduct sting operations on, Gladney said Grindr is "not one that we focus on." "Our investigations cover the gamut of media apps, and we try to be on as many platforms as we can. Grindr is just one of the many that we have a presence on, and simply where those two cases happened to stem from," he said.

He reiterated that busts often come as a result of broader efforts to identify human trafficking operations.

"It's not always just apps. There are also websites out there that serve as human trafficking forums. While we still care if juveniles are involved, no matter what, the primary focus of operations like this are on the human trafficking side. And we see that on any and all platforms," Gladney said.

To him, it's not so much the method, but the motive, that fuels these offenders.

"Most apps are typically created for positive reasons. It's just that some people are very good at exploiting those services for their own bad intent," Gladney said. "If it exists and the platform doesn't catch it, people will use it for those means, because, typically, the offenders go where the customer base is."

What are dating application companies doing to mitigate the issue?

Other services, including some online gambling outlets and recreational marijuana dispensaries, require users to upload an image of a state-issued ID to verify their age before they can register.

Gladney is familiar with that strategy. He cited a 2023 Texas state law requiring pornography viewers to verify their age before accessing the explicit content as another example. It led Pornhub to block user access altogether in the state and is now being challenged in court.

"The main concern around that law is privacy. People don't want to have everything that they're doing on the internet tracked. Some of it lies in a desire for anonymity, which also ties into personal safety," he said.

Karen Holt isn't optimistic that dating app companies will adopt age verification protocols. Under the Communications Decency Act, dating app companies are protected from legal liability involving sexual abuse or exploitation.

"I don't think appealing to their sense of morality or values is going to do much, unfortunately," she said. "But I always keep wondering, what's the tipping point going to be?"

Sting operations can only do so much, she explained. The rise of child sexual abuse material, or explicit sexual content depicting a minor, is another major concern.

"The law enforcement that I have worked with and talked to are all cognizant that this is not ideal. These are guys who are not necessarily good people,

and who are in some cases looking to do harm. But you don't know that for sure, because, in a sting operation, there's no real victim. We don't know what would have happened, so it's harder to hold them fully accountable for something they didn't even do," she said.

It's just one tool in a broader effort to combat the victimization of minors.

"We all want to stop sexual violence. But if you look at who is the biggest danger, it's not the internet predator online, it's mostly people we know and trust. Law enforcement is trying to do something, but at the same time they know that they don't have the impact that they would like with sting operations," Karen Holt said.

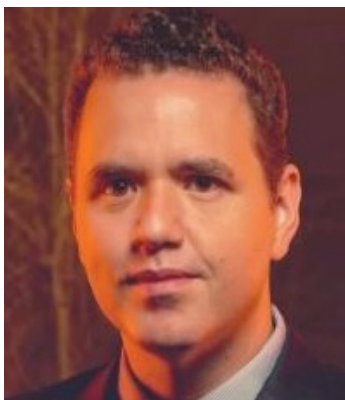
Gladney urged youths who are interested in getting into the field to stay engaged to help curb the rising numbers in the future.

"If that looks like not majoring in criminal justice and majoring in a computer field instead, I would personally recommend doing that," he said. "The academy will teach you how to be a police officer, but departments don't have the capability to teach you how to be a computer engineer. Having those skills will set you apart from the other people that are also in the same seat as you."

— TYLER SCHNEIDER



Karen Holt



Tom Holt

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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Four people were killed Saturday, including three from Lansing, and 17 injured after a semi struck more than a dozen vehicles stopped for a traffic backup on westbound Interstate 96 in Leroy Township near Webberville. The Lansing victims, two women, ages 20

and 43, and a 47-year-old man, were in a Chevy Trax and were related, police said. A 29-year-old Carson City man driving a Ford F-150 pickup was also killed. The stretch of highway, near M-52, had been closed so DTE Energy crews could install power lines across it. The crash caused a large fire. Two of the injured remained hospitalized Monday, including the driver of the semi. Police added that it appeared the driver of the semi did not see the backup and could not stop his vehicle.



Bradli Stoutmiles (right) and Aiden Wilson were convicted by an Ingham County jury Tuesday of first-degree premeditated murder in the 2023 shooting

death of Jose Flores. They were also convicted of additional related charges, including assault with intent to commit murder in the case of a surviving victim, felony firearm and discharging a gun from a motor vehicle. They were also acquitted of a charge of felony firearm as it related to the fleeing and eluding charge. Stoutmiles will be sentenced on Jan. 22 and Wilson on Jan. 29. Because they were each under age 19 at the time of the murder, they do not face automatic mandatory life in prison and each will undergo a pre-sentencing investigation, said Ingham County Prosecutor John Dewane.

Vice President Kamala Harris made her second Lansing-area campaign stop Sunday, speaking for 22 minutes before about 6,000 people in a rally at Jenison Field House on MSU's campus. Harris told attendees that she would do everything in her power to "end the war in Gaza and to ensure the rights of dignity, freedom and security for the Palestinian people." Multiple protests on MSU's campus have called for the end of U.S. involvement in the 13-month-old Israel-Hamas War and divestment from Israel. Harris spoke at UAW Local 652 hall in Lansing in invitation-only event in October.



The state Christmas tree, a 60-foot spruce donated by the Albertson family of Eagle, was harvested and delivered Saturday to the Capitol. The lighting ceremony will be Nov. 22 during the 40th annual Silver Bells in the City. The tree was transported with help from the Michigan Association of Timber, the Great Lakes Timber Professional Association and the state Department of Technology, Management and Budget's Christmas tree crew. Local Boy Scout troops untied it. The Lansing Board of Water & Light and the Michigan Capitol Commission will decorate it.



LOCAL AGENCY BRIDGE BUNDLE PROGRAM

The East Elm Street bridge over the Red Cedar River in south Lansing will be replaced starting in 2026, thanks to a \$34 million federal bridge investment program grant for eight spans statewide in the Michigan Department of Transportation's Bridge Bundle program. The bridge will be replaced to restore its load-carrying capacity to accommodate larger freight vehicles for businesses such as the Grand River Assembly Plant. The program is an initiative to repair and expand Michigan's bridge system to drive economic development in the state.

The East Elm Street bridge over the Red Cedar River in south Lansing will be replaced starting in 2026, thanks to a \$34 million federal bridge investment program grant for eight spans statewide in the Michigan Department of Transportation's Bridge Bundle program.

PECSH MI NURSES Association

Professional Employees Council of Sparrow Hospital

The contract for registered nurses with the Professional Employee Council of Sparrow

Hospital/Michigan Nurses Association expired Wednesday, leaving nurses at U M Health-Sparrow without one. U M Health-Sparrow and the union both said there is no work stoppage and nurses are continuing to provide care. Negotiation sessions are scheduled throughout November. Association president Jeff Breslin told WKAR News that the hospital and union are "a ways apart" on key issues, including wages, health insurance and workplace safety. The union plans an informational picket Tuesday outside the hospital.

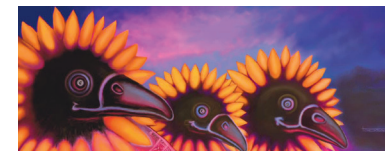
Emma Huver, 27, pleaded no contest to involuntary manslaughter and two other charges Monday in the 2023 death of her 2-year-old son, King Muhammad. Sentencing is Dec. 13. Huver had already been sentenced to five years in prison in a federal case. The toddler shot himself in the head with a loaded handgun in a vehicle at a gas station in the 3000 block of Dunckel Road.



The Potter Park Zoo entrance sign (pictured) on Pennsylvania Avenue is being replaced after 16 years due to deterioration. A new sign will be installed this fall, thanks to a Team Lansing Foundation grant, and will symbolize "the continued progress we strive for every day," zoo officials said in a blog post. The previous sign, designed by Robbin Sawyer, was installed in March 2008.



PUBLIC Art OF THE WEEK



Crows

Local artist Theresa Rosado has been busy the past few months. She completed a poetry broadsheet for the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. She executed the letter "N" for Lansing's new urban welcome sign. She planned and carried out a "Day of the Dead" art exhibit at the Michigan Historical Museum. And a piece of her work was installed at the Board of Light REO Town Central Substation.

Her REO Town installation of "three crows, tres cuervos," was inspired by her observation of the crows at Washington Park. In Latinx culture, according to Rosado, crows gently guide the spirits between the living and dead.

The new crow installation is part of the Arts Council of Greater Lansing's "Art Moves REO," which highlights local artists and contributes to placemaking.

Meghan Martin, Arts Council executive director, said the art "adds an element of surprise to one of our most popular neighborhoods."

Rosado is also the director of Casa de Rosado Galeria and Culture Center, which celebrated a three-day Dia de Los Muertos Celebration at the Michigan History Center featuring decorative altars called ofrendas, celebrating our ancestors. They use symbolism and historic items to tease the dead to return to the state of the living.

BILL CASTANIER

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

Welcome to the agrihood: Lansing's booming farm scene

By JOAN NELSON

Every quadrant of Lansing has an agrihood, where urban farmers grow crops to sell at 20 mid-Michigan's farmers markets. Or to restaurants. Or to the Eastside Lansing Food Co-op, a neighborhood grocery store that prioritizes locally grown foods.

These uber-local farms are small, independent operations, many spread over several non-contiguous lots. An example is the eastside's Urbandale Neighborhood, where a dozen or so growers have found farming to be the best and highest use for that 100-year floodplain.

Many entities straddle a blurry line between farming and gardening. For instance, Lansing's agrihoods include 54 community gardens operated by the Lansing Garden Project, a 42-year-old Greater Lansing Food Bank program. They range from a corner lot to 8 acres where nearly 2,000 people grow food. Participants have access to gardening education programs, seeds, vegetable transplants and other resources.

"While many neighbors use their plot to raise food for their families, others sell food to markets," Garden Project manager Julie Lehman said. She added that many community gardeners are new Americans, often with well-developed farming skills, who raise food to sell to members of their immigrant community, e.g., Burmese, Nepalese, Bhutanese, and Hmong.

Of Ingham County's 80 community gardens, 54 are in Lansing. These include Hill Community Garden on the south side, Airport Community Garden on State Road, Paradise, Foster, Pegasus and Eastside Action Center on the east side and Webster Farms, managed by the South Lansing Community Development Association, on Hughes Road.

The Garden Project also supports the Ingham County Community Greenhouse, at the Hill Center, utilized by 18 "entrepreneurial growers." Farmers whose primary languages include English, Karenni, Burmese, and Swahili are among them.

Finally, the Garden Project also supports home gardeners — about 6,000 across mid-Michigan — who make use of educational classes and annual distribution of seeds, transplants, at-cost materials (e.g., fertilizer) and tool lending library.

The Garden Project is only one of several institutions that provide exten-



Courtesy Allen Neighborhood Center

The Hunter Park GardenHouse, on Lansing's east side, is a project of the Allen Neighborhood Center. It serves as a demonstration site and hub for year-round garden education.

sive support to urban growers.

Ingham County Land Bank's garden program has leased 90 vacant lots to 100 urban growers since 2009.

"These gardens convert empty lots and foreclosed houses into beautiful community assets that range from small personal gardens to large-scale urban farms," its website says. Besides leasing to individuals, the Land Bank sells parcels to long-term gardeners and farmers.

The Land Bank also makes its own compost in collaboration with Eastside Compost for distribution to its 23 acres of growing sites. "Once a gardener purchases a water tote (250 gallons), we will fill it up for them for free using a bulk water permit we purchase from BWL," said garden program coordinator Cody Mohr, who also offers planning and logistical guidance to growers.

Allen Neighborhood Center's Hunter Park GardenHouse is one of the oldest and urban demonstration farms in Lansing. Opening in 2008, it offers year-round gardening and farming education in its large, heated greenhouse or on the acre under cultivation in the park. It also operates a grant-funded tool lending library for use by urban farmers.

ANC's year-round Allen Farmers Market and the Incubator Kitchen Program offer growers additional support. The latter includes several licensed commercial kitchens used by entry-level food entrepreneurs who buy ingredients from local farms. Finally, Veggie Box, which offers a subscription to local food to nearly 700 members, sources from dozens of local farmers and food producers, including nearby urban farms

Lansing Urban Farm Project, founded by retired MSU professors and expert growers Laura Delind and Linda Anderson, established the Urbandale Farm in 2009. The purpose of this half-acre site on Hayford Street was to provide training to aspiring urban farmers. Between 2011 and 2017, 25 people participated in the year-long apprenticeship program, half of whom are still involved in urban agriculture.

In September, LUFPP sold Urbandale Farm to the Fledge Foundation. Fledge director Jerry Norris had realized that people of color operated fewer than 30 of Ingham County's 1,580 farms. Now, most of Urbandale's farmers are African Americans.

Upcoming plans include hosting a fundraiser to support small farmers and exploring co-ownership models. "Actually, everything I am doing is an exploration right now," Norris said. "The only thing I am certain of is that I

have blueberry bushes planted!"

The Eastside Lansing Food Co-op, 1605 E. Kalamazoo St., whose roots go back 40 years, moved into Allen Place in late 2022 to provide walkable, affordable grocery shopping to eastsiders and to prioritize selling locally grown food. ELFCO's year-round, seven-day-per-week operation has been a boon to small local growers, eager for venues beyond farmers markets with their limited seasons and days.

General manager Milt Shoup notes, "Our commitment to selling locally grown goes beyond a few shelves at the end of an aisle — local food is at the heart of our operations. ELFCO purchases from 20 local farms and makers while another 20 or so come from other parts of the state." The coop is open to everyone without membership.

Over 20 farmers markets (up from only two markets back in 2003) provide lively venues for farmers to sell their products. These generally operate from May to October, though Allen, Holt and Meridian are all year.

All of these entities have durable, interwoven connections to one another and have collaborated for years to assist urban farms of varying size and complexity.

Importantly, the farmers themselves

See Nelson, Page 8



Opinion

The CADL situation: 'No substitute for the Clarence H. Rosa Library'

By DAVID MCCARTHY

(The writer is the director of the Arts Living-Learning Community at Michigan State University. He lives in Lansing.)

Capital Area District Libraries' leadership is considering moving its downtown branch out of the Clarence H. Rosa Library and into a different space within the surrounding blocks. Director Jenny Marr explained to me in an email that CADL leadership has been working toward this move for several years. "I'm coming in at the end of this process and have been tasked with getting this project over the finish line," she said. In her view, the project is a sound one. She said she would like to save money on maintenance costs and "spend our budget on books, programs, and retaining our excellent staff."

This may sound practical, but it overlooks important aspects of the vital and complex role libraries play in the maintenance of a diverse American city like Lansing. I have worked in libraries as a library assistant, researcher and teacher, and I have often heard it said that libraries are not just buildings: They are books, programs and staff. True. But they are also buildings, brick-and-mortar spaces of assembly activated by patrons who move through them.

The downtown building is one of very few secular, alcohol-free and publicly funded and accessible spaces of assembly in the city of Lansing. It is the only space of its kind anywhere in the region. The Foster, Holt, South Lansing and Okemos branches, each of which I have visited, are all housed in lovely spaces with lots of books, ex-

cellent staff and great programming. But the Rosa building was designed as a unique central hub for Lansing's public library system, a highly varied building supporting the varied needs of an American city.

This building, at 401 S. Capitol Ave., could not serve its purpose anywhere else. Just one block away from the CATA central bus station, it is readily accessible from anywhere in the CATA system. As a former CADL employee working at the Foster and South Lansing branches, I frequently pointed patrons downtown for opportunities that were not available anywhere else in the CADL system. Without the Rosa building, there will be nowhere else to turn for those opportunities.

Admittedly, this precious resource has been underutilized in recent years, as have many spaces of assembly across the United States. Lansing residents have suffered as a result. But we are already organizing to reclaim and revitalize our public spaces. As a community organizer, I work with numerous community partners to help activate spaces throughout Lansing, including the Allen Neighborhood Center, the Fledge, the Ingham County Youth Center, the Turner-Dodge House, and the South Lansing Unitarian-Universalist Church.

Lansing residents are more than equipped to create our own programming. But we need varied, centrally located public spaces for that programming. My outstanding community partners all enjoy excellent spaces. But none of them offer or would ever claim to offer any sort of substitute for a city's central library. The Rosa building is fundamental.



Opinion

Nelson

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are perhaps the most important source of support to one another — sharing tools, labor, and encouragement. As Cait Schneider, an Urbandale apprenticeship program advocate, pointed out, "People committed to growing food for themselves and the community have found it most beneficial to collaborate with other growers dedicated to doing this work. In this way, we can better

avoid burn-out, expand our knowledge and capacity, and build a more food secure community."

Hillary Coleman, who farms 1991 Greenery Homestead in Old Oakland Neighborhood, echoes those sentiments.

"I've lived in Lansing for 13 years, and I have found my community in urban farmers."

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

Carr took a bite out of doing government right

Back when Todd Cook was a young staffer for U.S. Rep. Bob Carr, D-East Lansing, an MSU professor named Jim Anderson sent a package to Carr's Washington office.

At the time, President Bill Clinton was pushing his budget proposal. Carr, who chaired the transportation subcommittee, hadn't yet committed one way or the other.

Anderson's son was involved with the Clinton apparatus and had a vested interest in making sure the budget was passed. He overnights Carr a waffle, with the obvious message being to not waffle on the budget.

This was in the 1990s, before 9/11 and increased security, so the staffer who opened the package pulled out this Eggo-style waffle and looked at it, perplexed.

As Cook remembers the story, Carr came up to the young staffer and asked if the waffle had come from Jim Anderson, to which Cook said yes.

At that point, Carr took the waffle and bit off a piece.

Carr likely ended up voting for the budget, but that's almost secondary to the story.

Cook said what he admired about Carr was that in a job where political favoritism can guide decisions on transportation projects, Carr put an objective weighing system to all of the requests and suggested moving ahead with those projects that had the most merit.

It wasn't until later that Cook found out how admirable this was.

"He was serious about his role and his commitment to Michigan and the country," said Cook, now director of the Michigan Senate's business office.

Another Carr staffer, former Ingham County Treasurer Eric Schertzing, is putting together a local memorial for their deceased boss from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday (Nov. 12) at one of Carr's favorite local hangouts, Beggar's Banquet in East Lansing. The get-together is open to anyone who wants to celebrate Carr's life, but Schertzing asked those interested to RSVP to schertzing@aol.com.

Carr died in August at age 81 after battling cancer.

A native of Rock County, Wis., Carr

came to MSU in the 1960s for graduate work. He passed the Michigan bar in 1969 and starting practicing law in Lansing the following year. He was an assistant attorney general from 1970 to '72.

While under the tutelage of "Eternal General" Frank Kelley, Carr got the bug to run for public office and made an unsuccessful bid for Congress in 1972. He ran again when the Republican incumbent, Charles Chamberlain, decided not to run. Carr wanted to approach a fellow assistant AG to come manage his campaign.

But the colleague — James Blanchard — had plans to run for Congress himself, Schertzing said. They both won. Blanchard went on to be Michigan's governor for two terms.

Carr ran in the mid-Michigan-based seat and served from 1974 to 1980, when he lost in the Ronald Reagan landslide. But he won again in 1982

and kept winning until 1994, when he made an unsuccessful attempt at the U.S. Senate.

Congressional candidate Curtis Hertel Jr. described Carr as a "force for peace abroad," someone who worked to deescalate the Vietnam War and a leader

in the Cold War SALT II arms control negotiations.

As transportation subcommittee chair, Carr is credited with modernizing the country's transportation system. Mid-Michigan and communities across the country received the money they needed to fix their roads.

After losing his Senate bid to Spencer Abraham, Carr became an adjunct professor of ethics & Congress at the Graduate School of Political Management at George Washington University.

He spent countless hours helping new members better serve their constituents.

"Every step along the way, he has improved the political discourse and helped hundreds of civil servants get an inside perspective of this institution we love," said U.S. Rep. Andre Carson, D-Ind., on Carr's 80th birthday. "His career has helped set an example for all of us on how to work together to improve our government and our country."

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS



Carr

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Women in the Arts Festival builds bridges and bonds

By AJ GLAUB

For nearly 40 years, East Lansing's annual Women in the Arts Festival has been a space for solidarity that celebrates voices often pushed to the margins, offering a platform for women artists to be heard, seen and celebrated.

"Our mission is rooted in the LGBTQ+ community, especially the lesbian community," event treasurer Julie Haan said. "It's always been about showing what women are capable of — organizing, producing and sustaining a festival of this scale. It's a gathering place for so many women who come together just once a year. It's hard to explain how powerful that is."

The festival began as a small gathering in 1985 but has since grown into a regional event that draws attendees from across Michigan and neighboring states.

"Back in the early days, it was much harder for women to find spaces to showcase their art and music. The festival started as a platform for musicians, especially younger women, to perform in a supportive, welcoming community," Haan said.

That welcoming atmosphere has not only kept the festival going but also fueled its expansion with more vendors, national musicians, a vibrant artist market and partnerships with organizations like the Ten Pound Fiddle.

This year's festival will be held Friday and Saturday (Nov. 8 and 9) at Edgewood United Church. It will feature headline performances both evenings as well as a day stage highlighting local musicians on Saturday.

"In the past, we had volunteer musicians, but now we've grown enough that we can pay them," Haan said. "Part of our mission is to support local artists, and that includes compensating them for their performances. It's a way for the community to discover new or established local talent."



Photo by Roxanne Frith

Attendees of East Lansing's Women in the Arts Festival enjoy food, beverages and a colorful artist market.

Saturday's headliner, Holly Near, is a singer-songwriter and activist who's been interweaving music with social justice for more than five decades.

"I've performed in theaters my whole life, but local events like this carry a special personal touch," Near said. "The audience here has a rich mix of culture and community activism, so we lift each other up."

Near's connection to the festival is personal. She works closely with Lansing-based women's music distribution company Goldenrod Music, one of the event's organizers.

"I'm happy to be part of the Women in the Arts Festival," she said. "The Goldenrod team has supported my work all over the country, and it feels like coming home."

The festival's mission aligns closely with Near's own values. From performing for soldiers resisting the Vietnam War to drawing inspiration from Nina Simone's unapologetic rage and commitment, Near has always seen music as a tool for change.

"Caring can be hard," she said. "My work is challenging and filled with humor. We can laugh together, feel deep emotion together and at the same time not fall prey to either depression or false hope."

Near's music, much like the festival itself, encourages listeners to stay en-

gaged and compassionate, no matter how challenging the times.

"Music can heal, inspire, challenge, educate and entertain," she said. "I hope people leave feeling stronger than when they arrived, with a few ideas about how they want to carry on."

With performers like Near, Haan noted this year's festival resonates with a particular energy, especially days after a major election.

"Holly's music touches on social justice issues, which is something our audience cares deeply about. People come to the festival looking to reflect on these issues, and the messages in the music align with that," she said.

Beyond the music, the festival features a café run by Lansing women's chorus Sistrum, which has become a social hub where attendees can relax, eat and connect.

"The café has always been a big part of the festival,"

Haan said. "It's a space where people can gather, reconnect and just enjoy being in each other's company."

Attendees can also immerse themselves in a lively and eclectic marketplace offering handmade crafts, art and gifts.

"All our vendors are women-owned businesses," Haan said. "It's really special to see everyone come together."

Though rooted in the LGBTQ+ community, the festival offers a warm, inclusive atmosphere open to all.

"We do have men who attend — some come with Ten Pound Fiddle, so we see couples and more men now, too," Haan said.

In a world that can often feel divided, Near said festivals like this help build bridges.

"Being part of the world is a recipe for an interesting life," she said. "We don't have to be afraid of change or challenge. Instead, we can stay curious, stay connected and keep caring."



Photo by Irene Young

Saturday's (Nov. 9) headliner, Holly Near, is a singer-songwriter and activist who's been interweaving music with social justice for more than five decades.

Late MC5 members bare it all in new biography

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Although its existence was short-lived, MC5, one of the seminal Detroit bands of the '60s, lived on in the music of some of the most prominent punk and grunge bands of all time. The band was noted for its loud, hard-driving pre-punk rock, which could chase concertgoers from a venue, according to the new book "MC5:

An Oral Biography of Rock's Most Revolutionary Band," by music writers Brad Tolinski, Jaan Uhelszki and Ben Edmonds.

The book was originally a solo project for Edmonds, who spent 10 years interviewing the late band members and their close friends. He passed the project on to Tolinski, former editor-in-chief of Guitar World magazine, and Uhelszki, a co-founder of Creem magazine, prior to his death in 2016.

The book tells of the pair's surprise

when they learned that Edmonds had left them with unedited, handwritten transcripts of interviews. Over a period of years, the authors melded the oral histories into a cogent history of the hard-rocking group.

The book follows the band from its founding in 1963, when it was known as the Bounty Hunters, to its rise to national stardom in 1968 after playing in the middle of the protests at the Democratic National Convention and being lionized by an article in Harper's Magazine, and finally to its fall from grace.

The musicians of MC5 — vocalist Rob Tyner, guitarists Wayne Kramer and Fred "Sonic" Smith, bassist Michael Davis and drummer Dennis Thompson — were "hometown heroes" in Detroit, perhaps partly due to

being one of the house bands at the legendary Grande Ballroom, where they played often. Lansing-area residents

and Michigan State University students had several opportunities to catch the band locally at venues like Grandmother's and the MSU Union.

The band was anointed by the counterculture movement as its revolutionary balladeers and was at mid-career managed by John Sinclair, a proponent of cannabis legalization and a founding member of the White Panther Party. The band's reputation caused conflict with the Detroit police, prompting a move to Ann Arbor in 1968. The stories of the Hill Street commune in Ann Arbor will tickle your fancy if you ever made it to the city during those heady days when Sinclair would hold court while sitting on a toilet.

What makes the book insightful are the interviews with the band members, except for Smith, who wasn't interviewed. Reading these interviews is like sitting on a couch with MC5 — they're very casual and honest, pulling no punches about who they were in their youth. A couple of the band members talk candidly about their juvenile delinquency and jail time.

In one section of the book, Sinclair, Tyner and Thompson all trash psychedelic-rock band Big Brother and the Holding Company. Thompson calls vocalist Janis Joplin a "screaching bitch" for browbeating her own band.

The musicians are as blunt about their fellow band members. One interview relates how the group's style evolved



Photo by Leri Sinclair

The members of MC5 — (from left) guitarist Fred "Sonic" Smith, drummer Dennis Thompson, vocalist Rob Tyner, guitarist Wayne Kramer and bassist Michael Davis — were "hometown heroes" in Detroit during the band's short-lived career in the 1960s and early '70s.

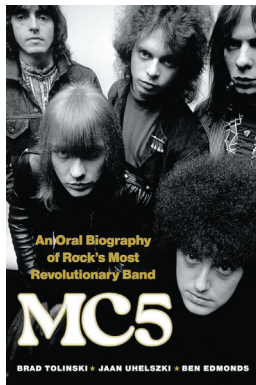
into what Tyner calls "sparkly, futuristic clothes."

Toward the end of the book, both Thompson and Kramer take a swipe at the band members' use of heroin. Tyner's wife, Becky, says, "I think drugs had a lot to do with what went wrong with MC5."

Other book news:

Michigan Humanities announced Curtis Chin as the 10th Great Michigan Read author at its author reunion last month at the Wharton Center. Chin's memoir, "Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant," is a 2024 Michigan Notable Book.

Chin's family owned a successful Chinese restaurant in Detroit for more than six decades until it was bulldozed for an expressway. His memoir is a touching description of his love affair with Detroit. It also describes his family's move to the suburbs, where they faced racism. These stories are told against the backdrop of Chin coming to embrace his life as a gay man.



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Tech Forward: Men of Color

Nov. 8 · LCC West Campus · lcc.edu/tfmen

Learn how to get started in trades and technologies and enjoy a free networking lunch.

Lansing Community College prohibits sex discrimination in any educational program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator. The notice of nondiscrimination is located at lcc.edu/consumer-information/equal.html.

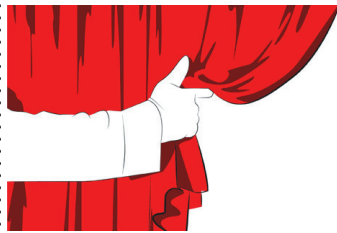


Riverwalk's 'Urinetown' promises thought-provoking hilarity

By MARK GMAZEL

There are few plays that would dare attempt to dramatize such serious and disparate subjects as pollution, the exploitation of the poor and the corporatization of public services, let alone set the whole thing to a musical score, but "Urinetown," running at Riverwalk Theatre Thursday (Nov. 7) through Sunday (Nov. 10) and Nov. 14 through 17, encompasses it all in a thoughtful and entertaining package. "Given the heavy subject matter, most people tend to run from these concepts and do 'Urinetown' in a very over-the-top, slapstick sort of way. The biggest challenge is finding a balance between the comedy of the show and not running away from the very real, important messages," director Brian Farnham said. "Urinetown is about many things, but more than anything, it's a darkly comedic look at what the world looks like in extremes. There's a danger in extremism, and 'Urinetown' paints a bleakly comedic portrait of that fact."

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



The funny and fast-paced musical satire was modeled after the works of playwright-composer duo Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill. It tackles capitalism, populism and corporate malfeasance in a near-future world suffering from a horrific 20-year drought that has exacerbated class stratification. Water conservation initiatives have led the government to ban all private toilets and replace them with pay-per-use public facilities owned and operated by a single corporate entity known as Urine Good Co. Those who don't pay to relieve themselves face being sent to the dreaded gulag-like holding area known as "Urinetown."

Bobby Strong, played by Robert Mueller, is a young, working-class man who leads a rebellion against the oppressive Urine Good Co. Hope Cladwell, the idealistic daughter of Urine Good Co.'s powerful CEO, played by Kira Elena Billard, becomes disillusioned with her father's avarice and joins Strong's rebellion. The play is narrated by the corrupt, cynical and self-serving policeman Officer Lockstock, played by Anthony Mandalari.

"Water scarcity is a huge problem because water is such an essential part of life. Our society is heavily re-

liant on water, and most of us don't think twice about how we use it," Aaron Wittbrodt, who plays father figure Joseph "Old Man" Strong, said. "It's important to put protections in place now to ensure we continue to have access to clean and reliable water sources. Those who don't have access to it face dire circumstances."

Though its themes are bleak, the show also finds moments of fun and sweetness.

"Who can't relate to doing something stupid for love?" Ron Meyer, who plays Officer Barrel, said.

Meyer considers his character more an instrument of society than a productive member.

"He represents violence, and fear of that violence is employed to encourage and enforce conformity," Meyer said. "Despite this, he's not a member of any of the classes that benefit most from his position as an enforcer. He sides with the rich but is poor. He's just happy to be the one holding the truncheon and embodies one of the greatest obstacles to individual action, the violent consequences of standing apart from the crowd."

The musical's eclectic score ranges from gospel to Broadway power ballads. Some songs are more difficult to master than others. Meghan Malusek, who plays jaded public restroom operator Penelope Pennywise, said "Why Did I Listen to That Man?" is "a beast with rhythm and layering."

"But it's my absolute favorite song to sing in this show," she added. "I should also mention 'It's a Privilege to Pee' purely for the insane diction needed to be able to understand the lyrics at such a fast pace."

The show sounds like a complicated undertaking, but after several years in the making, Farnham's production is more than ready for prime time. This is the director's third attempt to stage the show after "five years' worth of cancellations related to the COVID-19 pandemic and revolving venues."

"I was floored by the amount of talent that turned out for this show," Farnham said. "It was incredibly difficult to do, but I'm so proud and pleased with this cast."

He feels performing the show in the aftermath of the pandemic and a divisive election makes the themes especially relevant.



Photo by Ariniko Artistry

From left: Meghan Malusek, who plays public restroom operator Penelope Pennywise in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "Urinetown," charges fellow cast members Carmen Zavala-Kelly, Luka Pawsek, Michael Palmer and Tim Edinger to use a porta potty at Michigan State University.

"Urinetown' says so much about the importance of moderation in our political discourse, the importance of preserving the environment and the dangers of extreme thinking, and it does so in a way that's incredibly funny," he said. "It's the best of both

worlds, and I feel like November 2024 is the perfect time to be putting up this musical, with our society having recently been through a natural disaster, crazy extreme politics and finding the will to demand change, just like 'Urinetown.'"

November theater productions:

"Urinetown"
Nov. 7-10 and 14-17
7 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
riverwalktheatre.com

"A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes"
MSU Department of Theatre
Nov. 8-10 and 13-17
7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday; Nov. 16
Wharton Center Pasant Theatre
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu

"Cosplay"
LCC Performing Arts
Nov. 8-10 and 15-16
7 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
LCC Black Box Theatre
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
lcc.edu/showinfo

"Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic"
All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre
Nov. 8-10
7 p.m. Friday
3 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing
allofusespress.org

"What the Constitution Means to Me"
Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
Nov. 8-10 and 14-17
7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday; Nov. 16

Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
peppermintcreek.org

"The Magic Flute"
MSU Opera Theatre
Nov. 13 and 15-17
7 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Saturday
3 p.m. Sunday
Fairchild Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
music.msu.edu

"A Very Williamston Christmas"
Nov. 14-Dec. 29
Opening weekend showtimes:
7:30 p.m. Thursday-Friday
2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
Rest of run showtimes:
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Thursday, Saturday-Sunday
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
williamstontheatre.org

"Sherlock Holmes and the Great Royal Goose Chase"
Starlight Dinner Theatre
Nov. 15-16 and 23-24
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday (dinner at 6:30 p.m.)
2 p.m. Sunday (dessert at 1:30 p.m.)
Waverly East Intermediate School
3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing
facebook.com/StarlightDinnerTheatre

"MSU UnScripted"
MSU Department of Theatre
Nov. 21 and 23-24
7:30 p.m. Thursday
2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday
8 p.m. Saturday
6 p.m. Sunday
Studio 60 Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Comic artist Ryan Claytor. His latest book, "One Bite at a Time," marks the 20th anniversary of his multifaceted publishing empire, Elephant Eater Comics.

'I'm over the moon'

20 years of comics with artist Ryan Claytor

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Whenever Ryan Claytor faces an overwhelming situation or a daunting task, he thinks about something his father used to say: "It's like eating an elephant. Take it one bite at a time and before you know it, you're done."

Claytor is one of the visionary comic artists and educators who set their minds more than 20 years ago to an elephant of a challenge. They wanted comics to have the same cultural reach, expressive range and artistic excellence as music, literature, film and visual art.

Today, comics and graphic novels tackle any subject you can think of, from intimate autobiography, punk rock and hip-hop history to nuclear physics, Nazi death camps and wars in the Middle East. Graphic novels win Pulitzer prizes, inspire hit Broadway plays and top bestseller lists around the world.

Claytor's gentle, kind-hearted yet clear-eyed visual diaries have long filled a quiet niche in this expanding literary universe.

In a promotional book-mark, Claytor drew three wee images of a car chase, a giant robot and an explosion. An ornate scroll announced that these things are "regretfully absent" from his comics.

Another sign that the elephant of respect-

ability has been eaten is that Claytor is a professor at MSU, but he's no ivory tower dweller. For the past few weeks, he's been touring the nation to celebrate the release of a hefty tome marking the 20th anniversary of his multifaceted publishing venture, Elephant Eater Comics. The last of 20 stops is scheduled at Lansing's The Novel Concept bookstore this Saturday.

The copper-edged puzzle box of a book, fittingly titled "One Bite at a Time," revels in Claytor's design work, not only in comics, but in graphic design for neon signs, wristwatches and pinball machines.

Amid the doldrums and anxieties of the pandemic, he perfected the ephemeral medium of "art pancakes," delighting his young son and thousands of online followers hungry for fun.

For Claytor, creating comics is just one of many ways to break life down and figure it out, one image, one frame, one line of dialogue, one pancake at a time.

The book is big, beautiful and packed with unexpected delights like a double fold-out (and a double fold-down), a night-black section to showcase the neon, and die-cut pages that reveal the artist's creative process in visible layers.

It even smells good.

"I'm partial to that new print smell," Claytor agreed. "There's not many people who appreciate that."

'That's very tender'

To get to the heart of Ryan Claytor, look no further than a sweet strip from "One Bite at a Time" called "Initial Conversations."

In 2014, Claytor was starting a family with his wife, Candace, and infant son, Owen, having moved to East Lansing from California in 2008. Owen, now 11, will serve as moderator of Saturday's artist talk at downtown Lansing's A Novel Concept bookstore.

In the strip, Claytor holds his baby son up to a window and they behold the wonder of a fresh snowfall together.

"Hey, honey! Look at all that snow!" he exclaims. There is no further dialogue for the remainder of the page, only murmurs of "mm" from both father and son.

Claytor's quiet craftsmanship manipulates time and space to capture an elusive reverie, subtly varying the point of view, panel size and framing.

To his regret, Claytor only drew about half a dozen strips chronicling his earliest months as a new father — not enough to collect into a book. His son was growing up so fast, he couldn't bear to steal any more at the drawing board and miss a big moment.

But the strips he finished are classic Claytor, proudly grounded and defiantly small-scale.

"I want comics to be imbued with thought and meaning and significance," Claytor said. "It doesn't mean they all have to be. They can

of them all: Spanish-Aragonés, creator of *Boogeyman*, crawled up, down and the magazine.

Claytor's interest in comics lay dormant until the mid- to late '90s, when a wild variety of approaches and styles began to crowd muscle-bound superheroes off the shelves and get serious attention from literary and cultural critics.

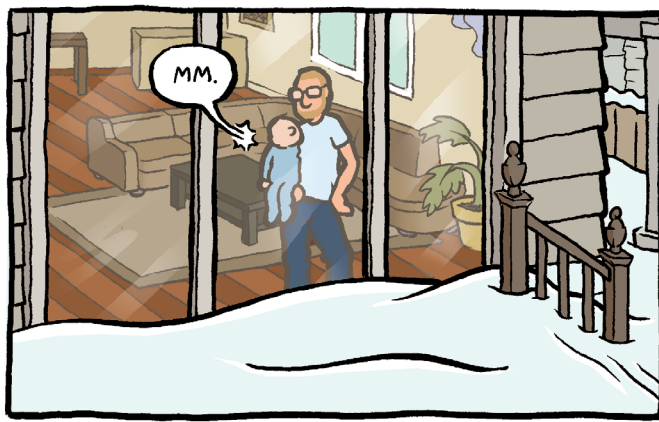
"Maus," Art Spiegelman's bold, multi-layered dive into his father's experience in Nazi concentration camps, portrayed Germans as cats and Jews as mice in comics fashion, earning Spiegelman a Pulitzer Prize and an exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

"Once I rediscovered comics, it was all over for me," he said. "I started."

Claytor's spark was "Boogeyman," a droll written and drawn by an old favorite from Mad. By then, Aragonés was



Ryan Claytor
"One Bite at a Time" book release
Owen Claytor, moderator
4:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9
A Novel Concept
222 S. Washington Square, Lansing



A panel from Claytor's 2014 strip "Initial Conversations" as the new father shows his infant son, Owen, snow for the first time. Owen, 11, will serve as moderator of Claytor's appearance Saturday at A Novel Concept bookstore in downtown Lansing.

margins of Mad to build a wild and woolly body of work, including "Groo the Wanderer," a subversive parody of overblown barbarian comics (and, by extension, testosterone-driven comics in general).

"Boogeyman" was so passionately illustrated," Claytor said. "That's the book that got me back into comics. I found myself gravitating to historical fiction and comics that are autobiographical, more true to reality."

Determined to pursue comics seriously, Claytor got an art studio degree at the University of California Santa Barbara, but there was still a lot of elephant left to eat. There was no comics curriculum anywhere in California when Claytor enrolled at the University of San Diego for his master's degree.

"I was trying to make a place in a fine arts program, not only for comics, but for myself," he said. "There were professors who were friendly to me, and to comics, but there were also professors who were not."

He opted for a multimedia concentration, with an eye on a teaching gig, but relentlessly worked comics into his assignments. He designed a video game ("Educate or Passively Agree?") that follows a "fashion inept" Claytor avatar, in socks and sandals, as he encounters a phalanx of comics skeptics. A librarian tells him, "Sorry, we only carry real books." All the dialogue in the game came from Claytor's own experience.

Fitting comics into a fine arts program led to some awkward feedback. To fulfill another assignment, Claytor filled a large broadsheet with a typically low-key, two-color strip about a quiet moment he shared with his father. To his bafflement, the professor told him he liked the brown layer, without the line art (which had all the facial expressions and the dialogue) and should consider exhibiting it that way, thus missing the whole point of the comic.

However, a short while later, Claytor's disappointment turned to joy when he put the same broadsheet up at a comics convention and observed a familiar figure scrutinizing every panel. His lifelong comics hero, Sergio Aragonés, turned to him and said, "That's very tender."

Armed with the feedback, Claytor returned to the drawing board, and the result was "Accepting yourself," a comic strip that became a fan favorite.

'Accepting yourself'

Staying true to the core of his being, as a comics creator and chronicler of life, wasn't always easy for Claytor. But everyone, whether they are interested in comics or not, can relate to being misunderstood, underestimated and brushed off. Like many other comics creators of the 21st century, Claytor devoted himself wholeheartedly to the medium he loves. Over the past 20 years, the payoff has been huge, for himself, his fans and his students at MSU.

"There's something powerful to accepting yourself," Claytor said. "Somehow, magically, in turn, it helps people to find their own acceptance for what makes them happy in the world."

thing many people dismiss out of hand.

In 2007, Claytor embarked on a 50-stop tour of bookstores, museums, colleges and specialty comic shops that he believes was the biggest such tour ever attempted. He shoehorned another tour into his big 2008 move to Michigan to marry his wife, Candace, who teaches at MSU.

In his first few years in Lansing, Claytor patched together teaching gigs at various colleges, including MSU, along with small self-publishing ventures.

When Candace was seven months' pregnant in 2013, Claytor made a few extra bucks "for diaper and milk money" by drawing an anthropomorphic marijuana leaf for a City Pulse cover. His credit line read "Piere Clayton," a nickname given to him by an uncle, because Claytor was still working toward a professorship at MSU and didn't want to "sabotage" his chances.

Since then, he's done two more City Pulse covers, one of them in conjunction with a book, "A Hunter's Tale," based on a poem by his grandfather and serialized in these pages in 2022.

Needless to say, these covers appeared under his real name. In sync with national and international literary trends, Claytor's status, and that of the comics medium, has inexorably risen to nearly full equality with the long-recognized forms of art.

Since Claytor became director of the MSU Comics Forum in 2010, the annual symposium and celebration of comics art has grown in scope and renown.

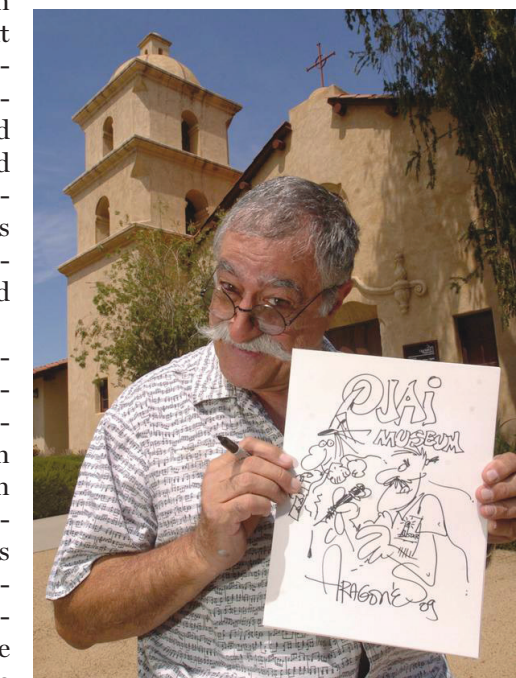
"I still get the occasional eyebrow raise when I mention that I'm a cartoonist, and I'm a professor who teaches comics," he said.

be a gag a day about a cat eating lasagna, but they can also be more thoughtful than that."

Claytor admits to not being much of a reader as a kid. He started out reading Walt Disney comics like Donald Duck and Uncle Scrooge at 6 or 7 years old.

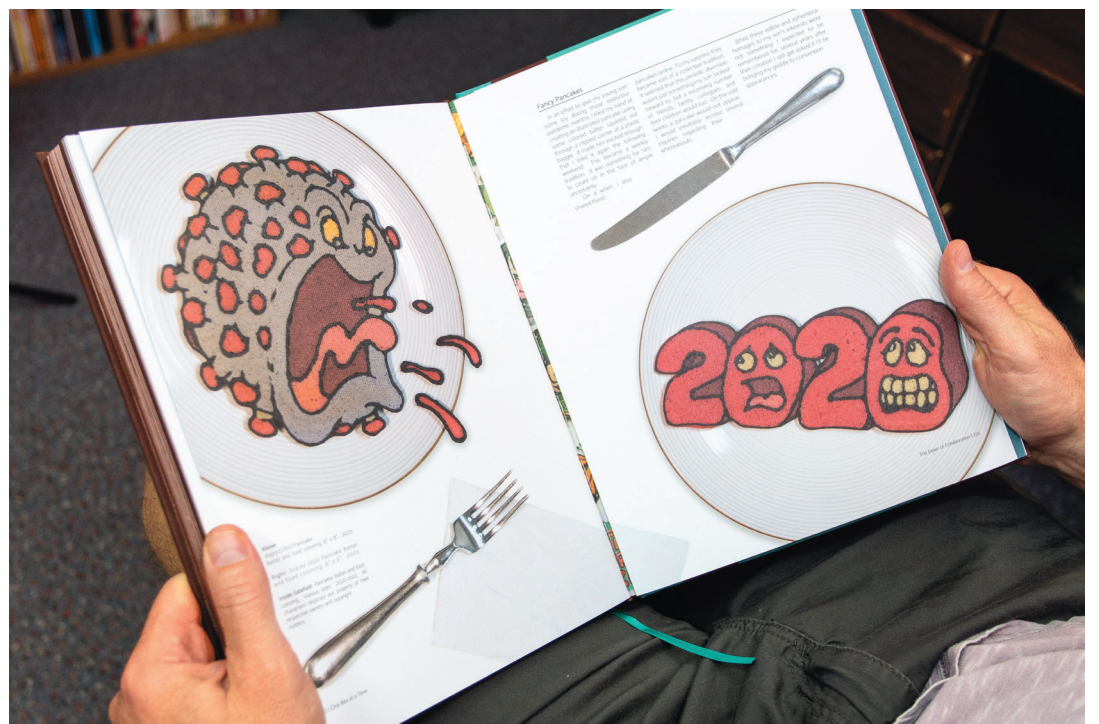
A bit later, he discovered Mad magazine and began to appreciate satire.

The Mad artist that fascinated him the most was the most (literally) marginalized Mexican artist Sergio Aragonés, the tiny doodles that across the margins of



Sergio Aragonés, best known for his Mad magazine illustrations, was a major influence on young Claytor.

ted reading voracious- s kindled largely by set of morality tales y none other than his was bursting out of the



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Amid the doldrums of the pandemic, Claytor started creating "art pancakes." They have become his most popular work.

Typically, he seemed abashed at venturing such a sweeping proposition.

"I don't know. It's a weird thing."

Many bites of the elephant are chronicled in the book, beginning with the self-published series of autobiographical comics Claytor launched in 2004, "And Then One Day," a labor of love that flourished through six collected volumes.

Claytor enjoys book tours, and he's taken quite a few of them, including the one ending Saturday. The national comics community is a mutually supportive, unpretentious and fun crowd to be in. For decades, comics lovers also shared the experience of loving a

"It's still surprising to a lot of people. 'You teach comics? Really?' So I don't think the stigma is completely gone, but it's in a whole lot better place than it's been in the past."

After 20 years in the comics trenches, "One Bite at a Time" is the physical embodiment of Claytor's personal triumph as an established comics artist and professor, and of the coming of age of comics in general.

"I'm over the moon at the way it came out," he said.

In spite of all its fancy features, from fold-outs and cutouts to copper-foil edges, "One Bite at a Time" is not a mere vanity project.

See Claytor, Page 14



Thank you for voting!

Winners will be announced November 13th.

Claytor

from page 13

Claytor is a teacher as well as a creator down to his bones. Early on, he decided to lift the veil on his artistic process, showing how every piece came to be.

A page with die-cut holes lines up an earlier draft of a drawing with the final version. A vertical “fold-down” allows the reader to see a poster in its original size, 18” by 24.”

“That’s the close as you’ll get to the original art without actually owning it,” he said.

Claytor didn’t even know if a vertical foldout was possible in a hard-cover book. The printer had to cut a gap between the two sides of the foldout so it wouldn’t rip when you pull it down.

A design for a pinball machine includes an overlay sheet, in transparent vellum, that shows how Claytor used tracing paper to layer the machine’s complicated moving parts. Claytor’s fascination with pinball could fill a separate book, beginning in his childhood, when his father owned several pinball machines.

Only last week, Claytor’s current book tour made a stop at a pinball expo in Chicago. His only major departure from autobiographical comics was “Coin-Op Carnival,” a history of pinball in words and pictures that featured an interview with 100-year-old pinball icon Wayne Newens, who designed over 150 machines.

There’s plenty of pinball lore and love in “One Bite at a Time,” including a complete Groo the Wanderer machine designed by Claytor in homage to his hero, Aragonés, who also happens to be a fan of pinball.

Claytor compared the white pages of “One Bite at a Time” to a plain gallery wall, but that wouldn’t do to showcase another art form that fascinates Claytor: neon.

So, about halfway through, the book moves into from day into



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

One of Claytor’s challenges was fitting comics into the fine arts program at Michigan State University, where he is a faculty member. Pictured with him are students Eric Zheng (left) and Yannick Gueye.

night, with vivid photographs of neon signs printed on rich black paper.

“You can see neon in the daytime, but man, they really pop at night,” Claytor said. “There’s something so captivating about standing in front of an actual neon sign, bona fide gas and glass neon, not that new LED stuff.”

In 2019, Claytor joined with Josh Goodacre, a neon maker based in Vermontville, Michigan, to create a string of gorgeous signs for businesses and private clients united in their love of “actual” neon. The book lovingly displays many of these, from an elaborate emblem for the Sunfield Historical Society’s Welch Museum in Sunfield, Michigan, to a sign for a private client that depicts a giant lizard (you know its name; no sense getting people sued) vaporizing Dallas.

The neon section also shows that simplicity of purpose is not limited to Claytor’s comics work.

“I get excited about things,” he said. “I get excited about neon, to

see if I can find my place in it.”

He’s creating a neon sign for a client whose son is fascinated with labyrinths and mazes and finds them calming.

“We’re working on this neon sign that will be a maze, and, hopefully, it will be a reminder to his son that he can find this meditative space in the chaos of the world.”

Claytor hopes that the book’s many twists and turns, along with its layered exposure of the process of making art, will attract and hold the attention of curious kids as well as adults.

“I wanted to make an object a young person could discover,” he said. “What is this quadruple page spread? Pancakes? How did he do that?”

Ah, yes, the pancakes. Claytor admits that in spite of all the other things he’s done, his “art pancakes” almost steal the show. A captivating quadruple page spread in the book documents a panoply of “art pancakes,” from plucky Captain Underpants to an angry COVID virus,

outlined and colored so confidently you’d think pancake batter were standard issue at your local art supply store.

To create the pancakes, Claytor mixes up batter in various colors and squeezes it from a plastic bag with one end snipped off.

“After doing a hundred of them, you get to know the medium,” he said.

Fine black lines call for thinner batter. A higher viscosity is required to paint in colored areas.

In a few weeks, he got to the point where he could re-create Edvard Munch’s famous painting, “The Scream,” in vivid, edible, unsettling fidelity to the original.

From indelible ink to edible pancakes, there is a strong theme running through all of these varied projects.

“It sounds like a mish-mash, but I view all these as integrally related to the medium of comics,” Claytor said. “A custom puzzle-solving experience is at the core of comics making for me. I see that in all of these projects, and that’s very exciting to me.”

And there’s always something new around the bend. Early in the current tour, Claytor got a chance to branch into a spectacular new format at a presentation Sept. 10 at MSU’s Abrams Planetarium.

Taking advantage of the immersive planetarium dome, he showed a 360-degree movie of his workspace and displayed his art in ways it had never been seen before.

He worked with MSU Planetarium production coordinator John French to program an immersive ride through “Mirror Drawings,” a book of abstract, geometric patterns totally different from Claytor’s other work.

Claytor was amazed at seeing the mirror drawings float across the planetarium dome.

“While we were working on it, we stopped in our tracks and looked at this thing for a while,” Claytor said. “It was really incredible.”



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

“One Bite at a Time,” revels in Claytor’s design work, not only in comics, but in graphic design for neon signs, wristwatches and pinball machines.

Middle Eastern restaurant owner doubles down on his American dream

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

Khaled Eshkuntana, 40, and his family fled their home country of Jordan in 2012 after government corruption and high inflation crippled the nation's economy. They settled in Lansing, where Eshkuntana began working 70 hours a week at multiple jobs, including driving for Uber and Lyft part time.

His hard work paid off when he saved enough to open his first restaurant, Siraj Cuisine, on the southwest side of Lansing in 2018. After navigating through the pandemic, he decided to open a second location on the south side. The new spot, at 6030 S. Pennsylvania Ave., began business on Oct. 19. Eshkuntana describes his success as the result of "13 years of nothing but work." Over that time, he said his three sons have grown into dependable business partners. Today, the majority of his staff comes from his own home.

Siraj Cuisine

6030 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing
11 a.m.-10 p.m.
Monday-Sunday
(517) 220-2120
sirajbakerygrill.
wixsite.com/halal

“My family is happy here, so I’m going to keep doing it. I’m not stopping now,” he said.

Siraj’s halal menu includes familiar Middle Eastern appetizers and sides like hummus, baba ghanoush, falafel and lentil soup; entrees like chicken shawarma, lamb kabob and manakish, which are similar to flatbread pizzas; and desserts like baklava and mahalabia, a milk pudding topped with fruit.

“They have shawarma and falafel everywhere, but my recipes are special. I put my own touch on them,” Eshkuntana said.

He’s confident in the quality of his food but also wants to make sure it’s as affordable as possible. Almost everything on the menu is under \$10.

“At other restaurants, the shawarma will be \$18.99. I set the prices so low because I see that some people here have lower incomes, and I try to help them as much as I can. I don’t need too much money,” he said.

After more than a decade in the country, Eshkuntana considers himself an American above all else. His memories from before he moved to Michigan are now distant, he said.

“Siraj means ‘light’ in my country. I picked that name because here,

there’s the freedom for everything. You can open a restaurant, you can buy a house — whatever it is you want, you can make it happen,” he said. “It’s not easy, and you have to work for it. But in my country, it’s not like that.”

Although his workload has grown with the opening of the new restaurant, Eshkuntana said he still spends just as much time cooking as he does managing and budgeting. He credits his hands-on approach as a major factor in Siraj’s growth.

“The U.S. has helped me so much. I have my two locations, my house, my car, my family, my safety and freedom. I have everything. That’s why I want to keep giving back to the community,” he said.



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Khaled Eshkuntana’s proclivity for hard work paved the way for him open his second Lansing restaurant last month.

Earn REWARDS on Holiday Shopping

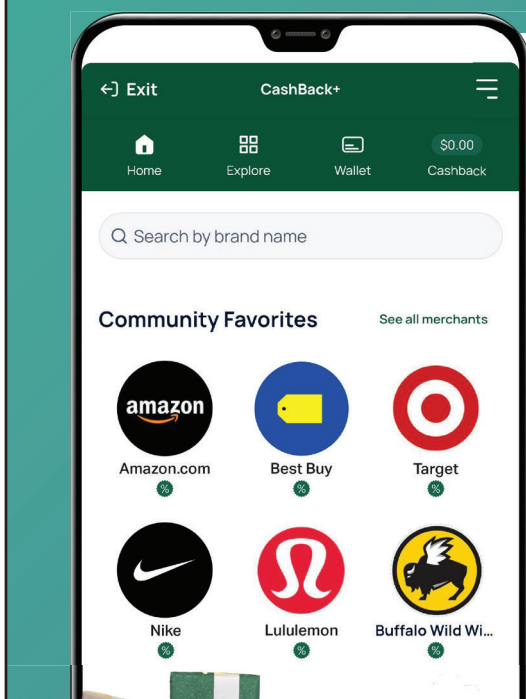
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Landscapes and borderlands

Lansing Symphony Orchestra confidently strides into jazzier realms

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

In the midst of a swinging, spectacular and songful Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert Friday evening (Nov. 1), one small gesture stood out.

Settling onto the bench, guest pianist Willis Delony switched sheepishly to a different pair of reading glasses, drawing a chuckle from the audience.

Was the glasses routine a feint to break the tension, nudge the skeptical purists in the audience to unclench their sphincters and get everyone in a receptive mood? If so, it seemed to work. Washington composer Greg Yasinitzky's piano concerto was not a lightweight diversion but an earnest and bold flight into seldom-traversed musical borderlands between classical music and jazz — or at least jazz-adjacent realms.

It began with a swirling melody that suggested an Irish dance, underpinned by steely chords out of the mid-20th-century playbook of Aaron Copland or Paul Hindemith. Clearly this music was going somewhere fast, and sure enough, the orchestral energy shapeshifted with uncanny ease into a swinging jazz trio positioned at stage center, with Delony in the lead. The music churned along so confidently that there was no time to wonder, "How is this going to work?" It was already working. Joyful orchestral blasts punctuated the trio's buttery licks, serving double duty both as a musical counterpoint and an unfiltered emotional projection, as if shouting to Delony and the trio, "Yeah! Go!"

Delony's more deliberate solo passages took the swirling melody apart, slowed it down and stretched it out until the full orchestra returned to hammer out a con-

cluding flourish — at which point a man in the audience couldn't hold himself back and yelled, "AAAHHH!" The classics are great, but it's fun to be surprised at the symphony.

Delony and the orchestra drifted into exquisite balladry in the wistful and lyrical slow movement, a not-so-jazzy idyll that felt like stepping out of a smoky club and watching the moon float over the city skyline.

Suddenly, it was back to the bebop as Delony and the orchestra knocked out an angular, heavily accented melody in the ultra-hip-for-1955 vein of Leonard Bernstein's "Cool" from "West Side Story." Delony's trio featured two stellar local artists, one of them conveniently in house. Principal bassist Ed Fedewa, a stalwart of many jazz groups long renowned as a master of both classical and jazz styles, got a rare chance to depart the ranks of bassists parked at the far edge of the stage and show his other good side. Despite being surrounded and outgunned by much louder instruments, Fedewa found melodic and meaningful ways to dig into the groove amid the orchestral tumult.

Drummer Jeff Shoup, a local favorite and impresario of Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's Pub, kept the chang-a-lang well oiled, exhibiting his trademark delicate brushwork, but managed to whack out some thunderous accents that inspired the orchestra to dizzying heights.

Both Delony and the orchestra had plenty of fun with the propulsive melody of the last movement, an urbane tower of chords à la composer Lalo Schifrin (and more than a little reminiscent of Schifrin's run-cop-run theme from the 1967 TV series "Mannix"). To wind it up,

all forces coalesced into a swinging jazz waltz, with Fedewa setting the groove and slick rim shots from Shoup egging everyone on.

Delony displayed enough mastery not only to nail the trickier parts but to slow things down and improvise, keeping the narrative fresh from moment to moment.

LSO maestro Timothy Muffitt clearly reveled in the musical challenge, unleashing some athletic moves heretofore unseen in his 18-year tenure in Lansing. At one point, while cuing the brass in a high-energy rhythmic blitz, he seemed to be throwing hand grenades at the back of the stage.

To cap the night, Delony returned to the piano stool to take part in a grand 100th-anniversary performance of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." If you like a lot of loose juice in your "Rhapsody," Delony is not your man. Abandon and ecstasy aren't his things, let alone schmaltz. In compensation, he delivered clarity, authority and a buttoned-down humor you had to tune in to carefully to appreciate. But the orchestra more than made up for Delony's dry delivery by pumping out verve, oomph and swing by the barrelful, with maximal milking on muted brass by principal trombone Ava Ordman and principal trumpet Neil Mueller.

The night began with another fresh



Photo by Olivia Beebe/courtesy Lansing Symphony Orchestra

Lansing Symphony maestro Timothy Muffitt unleashed some fresh moves on Friday (Nov. 1) to lead the orchestra and guest soloist Willis Delony through a night of jazz-inflected music.

revelation for most of Friday's listeners, William Grant Still's rich, full-throated Symphony No. 2. It's a purely orchestral piece, but the human voice, often tinged with the blues, is at its core. The orchestra tapped Still's endless wellspring of song with breathtaking unity, pouring out one gorgeous, singing melody after another, now triumphant, now tragic, now swaggering, now wistful.

Still is a master of the imperceptible yet suddenly overwhelming buildup, and, conveniently, so is Muffitt. No sooner did the cellos get hold of a meaty melody in the first movement, with the double basses thrumming underneath, than the entire brass section thrust itself upward, like a mountain range, behind them. There was much more sonic wonderment, but you get the idea. The symphony, though unfamiliar to many music lovers, is a national treasure, and the home team did it proud.

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FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1936
PEPPERMINT STICKS
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QD Quality Dairy
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PUMPKIN PIE
PREMIUM ICE CREAM

Jonesin' Crossword

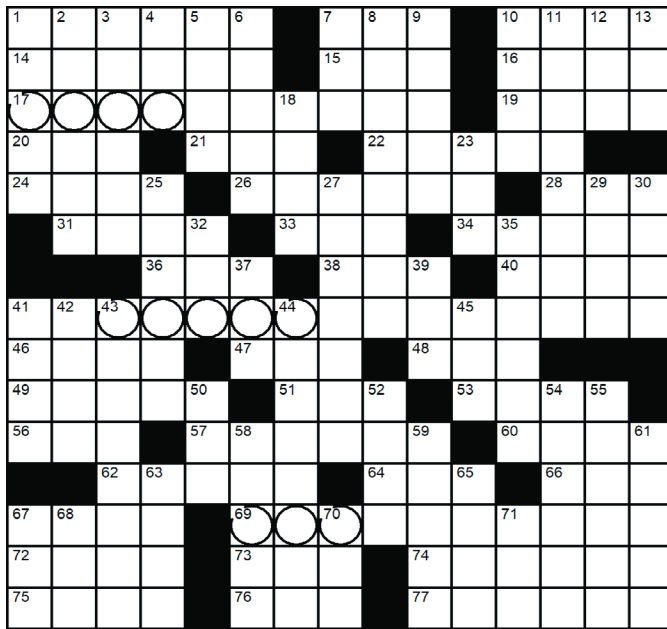
By Matt Jones

"My Kind of Town" -- with three examples in the circles.

by Matt Jones
© 2024 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Garden pests
- 7. J. Edgar Hoover's agency
- 10. Crocheter's tool
- 14. She's asked to "peel me a grape" in a Mae West film
- 15. Golfer Ernie
- 16. Tupac Amaru, for one
- 17. Keepsakes on VHS, perhaps
- 19. Innings score or wickets, in cricket
- 20. Pop singer Rita who appears in "Detective Pikachu"
- 21. Trip up
- 22. Language where "crossword book" is "lyfr croesair"
- 24. Cheese coating
- 26. How something might be dissolved
- 28. Night before
- 31. Out on the water
- 33. Bear, in Barcelona
- 34. Black of "Inside Out 2"
- 36. Sch. with a Shreveport campus
- 38. Mischievous rascal
- 40. With 25-Down, "Video Games" singer
- 41. Head-over-heels comment
- 46. French friend
- 47. One of many grains in an "overnight" jar
- 48. Ambient musician Brian
- 49. U.S. children's fitness center chain with a palindromic name
- 51. Cage component
- 53. Coffee vessels
- 56. ___ whisker (narrowly)
- 57. Satellite (whose name is an abbreviated shortening) from a 1961



- NASA program
 - 60. Inauguration Day words
 - 62. Star-giver?
 - 64. "You've got mail!" ISP
 - 66. Mrs., in Madrid
 - 67. Salad with bacon and hard-boiled egg
 - 69. TV ad subject mentioned with "And now a word from ..."
 - 72. Hand sanitizer additive
 - 73. Union behind a 2023 Hollywood strike
 - 74. ___ terrible (hellion)
 - 75. Send a quick message
 - 76. 1099 ID
 - 77. Heavy rainfall
- DOWN**
- 1. Detest
 - 2. Illinois city of a "Will it play in" phrase
 - 3. Aliens' enemies, in schlocky sci-fi stories
 - 4. Tahiti, par exemple
 - 5. Wendy's founder Thomas
 - 6. "UnREAL" star
 - 7. Charged amount
 - 8. Two-in-one electric hairstyling tool
 - 9. First-generation Japanese-American
 - 10. Annoyed cat noise
 - 11. Soon to arrive
 - 12. Edible Andean tuber
 - 13. Kit ___ (candy bar, or nickname in the movie "About Time")
 - 18. First Bond film (1962)
 - 23. Cholesterol type, for short
 - 25. See 40-Across
 - 27. Like some elephants
 - 29. Trattoria glassful
 - 30. Person paired with Jacob
 - 32. Words before rule or whole
 - 35. "Bullish" nickname of the late Dodgers star Fernando Valenzuela
 - 37. "Orange Is the New Black" actress ___
 - 39. Poet whose "A Dream Within a Dream" has been likened to
 - 41. Poetic meter unit
 - 42. Credit card exp. date format
 - 43. Old container for stogies (or other keepsakes)
 - 44. Small floor coverings that might be crocheted
 - 45. Former Burmese prime minister
 - 50. WY winter hrs.
 - 52. Squeezing snakes
 - 54. Bahamian capital
 - 55. Like dark-roast coffee
 - 58. Comic book shrieks
 - 59. Two-wheeled ride
 - 61. Author Bret who wrote about the California Gold Rush
 - 63. Partner in crime?
 - 65. Word in a Dallas state nickname
 - 67. Olivia Benson, for Taylor Swift
 - 68. Futbol fan's cheer
 - 70. Sought office, like Kamala Harris
 - 71. Raiders and Vikings group, for short

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Nov. 6-12, 2024

ARIES (March 21-April 19): I rarely recommend acquisitive behavior. But my analysis of the astrological omens tells me you now have cosmic authorization to indulge in a sublime version of voracity. We might also refer to it as a license to practice a spiritually correct variety of greed. Here's the fine print: You should NOT interpret this as permission to amass materialistic treasures and status symbols. Instead, the things you gather will be rich feelings, encounters with inspiring beauty, epiphanies about your divine purpose and exquisite states of consciousness. You can also ask for and receive colossal supplies of love and affection.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The last time I ate a hamburger was in 1994. I doubt I will ever eat another. Why? The taste is not enjoyable to me, and no matter how well I chew it, my stomach always rebels. There's an additional problem: For several reasons, cattle farming is a significant factor contributing to the climate crisis. I would rather not contribute to that decimation. Does my attitude toward hamburgers mean I am a judgmental, closed-minded zealot? No, it doesn't. I don't proselytize to those who relish burgers, especially if they take other measures to reduce their carbon footprint. In this horoscope, dear Taurus, I am illustrating an approach I hope you will cultivate in the coming weeks. Be extra-zealously devoted to your ideals and proclivities without condemning and dismissing those who don't share them.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): There are numerous approaches to getting good results from meditation. One is to sit silently and still in a tranquil sanctuary. Another is to lie on the ground under a dark sky and beseech the stars to bestow inspiration. One of my personal favorites is to sing rowdy hymns to birds, insects and trees while hiking vigorously in nature. How many other varieties can you imagine, Gemini? The coming weeks will be a favorable time to develop and expand your meditation skills. Here's a key consideration: How can you achieve maximum fun while meditating? I recommend you free your mind to experiment with a host of interesting approaches.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If there was ever an appropriate time for you to indulge in creatively rowdy thoughts and inspirationally unruly behavior, it would be now. Life is giving you license to de-emphasize decorum and formalities — and to emphasize boisterous enthusiasm and plucky adventures. For the sake of your mental health, I believe you need to engage in experimental improvisations that include maverick expressions. What areas of your life need liberation? What feelings need to be released from their constraints? What worn-out theories and opinions should be abandoned?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Are your talents even slightly underrated and overlooked by others, Leo? Have your gifts received less than the full appreciation they deserve? Could you be of greater service and inspiration to your fellow humans if only your offerings were better known? If you answered yes to any of those questions, I'm pleased to tell you that the coming months should bring remedies. Life will be conspiring with you to help spread your influence and boost your clout.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I wish it were true that the forces of darkness are lined up in opposition to the forces of light. Life would be so much easier for you. But I'm afraid it's not that simple and clear. In my view, a more accurate metaphor might be that the energies of smokey gray are squaring off with the energies of dusky beige. Each side has a touch of both wrongness and rightness, a bit of ugliness and beauty. So, what is the most honorable role you can play in this showdown? My suggestion is to develop a third side, an alternate way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In the early part of his career, Libran author Mario Puzo wrote short stories and novels, but never a screenplay. At age

49, he was asked by director Francis Ford Coppola to co-write the script for the film "The Godfather." It turned out to be a sensational rookie effort. He was ultimately awarded an Academy Award for it and later garnered another Oscar for his screenplay for "The Godfather Part II." It was only then that Puzo realized he had found his calling and decided he should study the art of screenwriting. In the first chapter of the first book he bought about the subject, he read with great amusement that the ideal screenplay was the one for "The Godfather." I bring this story to your attention, Libra, because you are approaching a time with resemblances to Puzo's situation before Coppola solicited his work. Trust your rookie instincts!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): In the life cycle of a butterfly, the earliest stages are larva and pupa. As a larva, the future beauty crawls around as a caterpillar, cramming itself with nutritive substances. After it transitions into the pupa state, it's inert for a while, working on the inside of its cocoon to transform itself into its ultimate form. I don't want to be too literal about the comparison, but my sense is that your time as a larva will last another two months, whereupon you will begin your pupa phase. When will you emerge as a winged creature? It depends on how earnestly you work as a pupa, but I expect no later than March 2025.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Brian Wilson, co-founder of the Beach Boys, is one of the most innovative and imaginative songwriters ever. Many of his compositions have become best-selling tunes. But he had a rough start in his craft. The first song he ever wrote was "Surfin'." He submitted it to fulfill an assignment for his high school music class, but his teacher gave it an F, the lowest possible grade. Fifty-eight years later, Wilson returned to the school for a visit, and the new principal changed his original grade to an A. I foresee a comparable event occurring in your life sometime soon — a vindication, restitution or reparation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Earlier this year, 79-year-old rock singer Rod Stewart performed his greatest hits during a multi-city tour in many countries. "I shall never retire!" he proclaimed. Can you guess what astrological sign he is? Capricorn, of course. Many members of your tribe age very well, displaying stamina and vitality into later life. I bring this to your attention because I think you are close to discovering new secrets and tricks that will serve you well as you ripen. Here are some meditations that might be helpful: 1. What haven't you been ready to do before but might be soon? 2. What fun things would you love to be doing years from now, and how can you seed their future growth?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Scientists have discovered the fossils of more 700 dinosaur species buried underground. But the experts agree there are many more down there. Previously unknown species are still being unearthed every year. Let's use these facts as a metaphor for your life in the coming months. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you could learn a host of fresh truths about your history. You may have imagined that your past is finished and finalized, but it's not. I encourage you to have fun hunting for revelations and investigations that will transform the story of your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You haven't fully tapped into all your vast potentials, Pisces. Latent talents and aptitudes within you may still be at least partially dormant. It's even possible that some of your future powers are so foreign to your self-concept that they will feel like magic when they finally come into full expression. Now, here's the very good news: The coming months will be an excellent time to figure out what you need to do to express a more complete version of yourself.

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Answers on page 22

SUDOKU

Beginner

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Fun By The Numbers

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

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, Nov. 6

Aaron Johnson at Dublin Square - 9 p.m. 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2222. facebook.com/dublinsquare.

"A Course of Love" Zoom Discussion Group, with Lucille Olson and Bill Dietrich - Group reads a section of the book each week and discusses the insightful ideas. 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - 15-week class. Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

AI-Anon Meeting - Are you concerned about someone else's drinking? This group welcomes any adult looking for help. 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. cmialanon.org.

Beginning Ballet for Adults - 6:45 p.m. The Studio Performing Arts Center, 5015 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. 517-336-4088. dancesingact.com.

Beginning Tap Dance for Teens & Adults - 7:45 p.m. The Studio Performing Arts Center, 5015 Park Lake Road, East Lansing. 517-336-4088. dancesingact.com.

Broadway Jazz Dance for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Code Club - Learn to make websites, apps, animations and more! No coding experience necessary. Grades 3+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

DJ Trivia at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Join us for some fun trivia and great food and beer. Prizes for first, second and third-place teams. 7 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

How to Research Your Own Home - Bob Myers of the Michigan Historical Society discusses how to conduct historical research on your home. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Improv Acting for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Lansing Live Open Stage Night - Whether you're experienced or just starting out, the stage is open to all. Not a performer? Enjoy dinner, drinks and live music. No cover, all ages welcome. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Fall Art Show - The guild presents its first exhibition of the season, featuring original artwork in an array of media. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Mindfulness Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Mar-

tin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamc.info.

Read Between the Wines Book Club (First Wednesday Group) - We'll discuss Kristin Harmel's "The Winemaker's Wife." Glasses of wine \$1 off. Registration req. 5 p.m. Choice Farm Market, 4212 Holt Road, Webberville. 517-655-2883. burgdorfwinery.com/events.

Switch Gaming: "Overcooked" - Feel free to bring your Switch to play between turns on the big screen. All skill levels welcome. Ages 8+. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Tap II for Teens & Adults - 15-week class. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Walk-in Wednesday - Make a work of art, then take it home! This week's theme is pastel transfer drawings. All ages welcome. Children under 7 must attend with a registered adult. 4:30-6 p.m. REACH Studio Art Center, 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Weaving the Web: Relative Truth - Join us online or in person every Wednesday for discussions, rituals, meditations and more! 6 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Thursday, Nov. 7

Aaron Johnson at the Graduate Rock Bar - 8 p.m. 133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing. 517-348-0900. facebook.com/graduaterockbar.

Acting 101 for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

AI-Anon Meeting - Are you concerned about someone else's drinking? This group welcomes any adult looking for help. 6:45 p.m. Mason Sparrow Urgent Care, 800 E. Columbia St., Mason. cmialanon.org.

AI-Anon Meeting - 8 p.m. Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing. cmialanon.org.

Beginning Hustle Group Dance Class - Seven-week class. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800.

Beginning Ukulele Workshop for the Family - Learn a brief history of the instrument and all the basics you need to start playing. Ages 8+. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Capital Area Audubon Meeting - Board member Susan Elbin helps us explore the complicated world of turkey vultures and shares data from the vulture roost of Grand Ledge. 7 p.m. Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Parkway, Okemos. capitalareaaudubon.org.

Capital Area Modelers Society Meeting - Learn about building scale models, display what you're working on and get to know others interested in the hobby. 6:30 p.m. Judson Baptist Church, 531

East Lansing Film Festival

Thursday, Nov. 7-Nov. 14
Studio C!
1999 Central Park Drive,
Okemos

The 27th annual East Lansing Film Festival, the longest-running non-experimental film festival in the state, according to the event website, kicks off Thursday (Nov. 7) at Studio C! in the Meridian Mall with a screening of "Unlikely Allies," a documentary following Weldon Angelos, whose 55-year marijuana-related prison sentence led entertainers like Snoop Dogg and Alicia Keys and political figures like U.S. Sen. Cory Booker and right-wing financier Charles Koch to help him fight his case. Director Anthony Pedone and Angelos, who was released in 2016, are both expected to attend the showing. The evening will also feature a screening of another 2024 documentary, "Homeschooled," which follows homeschooled students preparing for their first prom.

The festival continues through Nov. 14 at Studio C! with several blocks of short films and full-length titles like "Sweet Dreams," a 2023 drama depicting the fallout after a Dutch sugar plantation owner dies and leaves his entire estate to an illegitimate son he had with his Indonesian housekeeper; "Oliver Sacks: His Own Life," a documentary about the late neurologist and writer; "Between the Lights," a 2023 romantic drama set in England; "The Diamond Couple," a 2024 documentary about a husband and wife who have both made it past 100 years old; and "The Teacher Who Promised the Sea," a 2023 historical drama set partially during the present day and partially during the Spanish Civil War. All full-length films are slated to be shown twice throughout the festival.

For a full schedule of screenings, visit elff.com. Tickets for each range from \$8 to \$15 and can be purchased at the theater or in advance at celebrationcinema.com/cinemas/Studio-C-Meridian-Mall.



Glendale Ave., Lansing. capitalareamodelersociety.wordpress.com.

Clayworks Pottery Fall Sale - A great opportunity to support local artists and find unique gifts for your holiday giving! Noon-7 p.m. Faith Church, 2300 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. clayworkspottery.net.

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

Darin Larner Jr. at Dublin Square - 9 p.m. 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2222. facebook.com/dublinsquare.

Greater Lansing Potters' Guild Fall Sale - Find unique, handmade ceramics that make the perfect gifts. New items are put out each day. 5-8 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. greaterlansingpottersguild.org.

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Ice Cube, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiessilverblades.org.

Michigan Made Holiday Exhibition & Market - Shop for fine art and creative gifts by more than 50 Michigan artists! 3-7 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Lansing. lansingartgallery.org.

MSU Men's Basketball vs. Niagara University - 8 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Fall Art Show - The guild presents its first exhibition of the season, featuring original artwork in an array of media. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Parkinson's Exercise: Boxing - Exercise program proven to help enhance strength, balance and agility. Free for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. lapsg.org.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble for All Ages - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

See Events, Page 19

'STOMP'

**7:30 p.m. Wednesday,
Nov. 6-Friday, Nov. 8
Wharton Center Cobb
Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East
Lansing**



Internationally touring stage show "STOMP" returns to East Lansing for performances 7:30 p.m. tonight (Nov. 6) through Friday (Nov. 8) at the Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall. The percussion-focused show began as a series of street performances in the London metropolitan area in the early 1990s and has spent three decades touring the world and racking up numerous awards, including an Emmy for the HBO musical film "Stomp Out Loud." The performers make rhythms "out of anything we can get our hands on," with the exception of traditional percussion instruments, according to co-creator and director Luke Cresswell. Examples include household and industrial objects such as dustbins, suitcases, radiator hoses and hub caps. The soundscape is bolstered by dance, movement and visual comedy.

Tickets to the shows start at \$40 for the public and \$30 for Michigan State University students. They're available at the Wharton Center Ticket Office, online at whartoncenter.com or by calling (5177) 431-2000. For more information on "STOMP," visit, stomponline.com.

Events

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Soldiers of Production: Lansing and the Arsenal of Democracy - MSU librarian Michael Rodriguez discusses the role of Lansing's automotive industry during World War II. 5:30 p.m. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

Thursday Night Open Forge - Try your hand at blacksmithing and create your own metal masterpieces! 6-9 p.m. Artfire Michigan, 4567 Churchill Road, Leslie. artfiremichigan.com.

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

Friday, Nov. 8

Cindy Souders Exhibition Opening Reception - Explore Cindy's unique artistic expressions and meet the artist in person. 5-8 p.m. Arts Council of Greater Lansing, 1208 Turner St., Lansing. facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL.

Clayworks Pottery Fall Sale - A great opportunity to support local artists and find unique gifts for your holiday giving! 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Faith Church, 2300 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. clayworkspottery.net.

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

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

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

The Future of Comedy Show at Spare Time - Performances by Niecole "Big Juicy" Middleton and FOCS regulars Steve Kaz, Nicole Melnyk and Dan

Grinnell. Doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m. 3101 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. mikeballdotcom.com/focs.

Greater Lansing Potters' Guild Fall Sale - Find unique, handmade ceramics that make the perfect gifts. New items are put out each day. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. greaterlansingpottersguild.org.

Jeremy Kratky at Summerlands Brewing Co. - 8 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. 517-709-3647. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

JP & the Energy at Mash Bar - 9 p.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mashbar.net.

Michigan Made Holiday Exhibition & Market - Shop for fine art and creative gifts by more than 50 Michigan artists! 3-7 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Lansing. lansingartgallery.org.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Fall Art Show - The guild presents its first exhibition of the season, featuring original artwork in an array of media. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

MSU Jazz Nonets with Dan Wilson, jazz guitar - Dan Wilson is a distinguished guitarist, celebrated for his soulful tone, intricate improvisation and masterful blending of jazz and blues with gospel influences. 8 p.m. Murray Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

MSU Men's Ice Hockey vs. Ohio State University - 7 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

MSU Women's Basketball vs. Yale University - 7 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball.

Parkinson's Exercise: Movement for Vitality - Free group class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. lapsg.org.

"Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic" - 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. alloufsexpress.org.

Rory Nevins at the Peanut Barrel - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. peanutbarrel.com.

See Events, Page 20

Eagle Township, Clinton County Special Board Meeting Synopsis

October 30, 2024, at 6:04 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Trustee M. Hoppes, Trustee Strahle and 1 citizen. Absent: Treasurer C. Hoppes

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved hiring of new hall maintenance person.
- 2) Approved funds for background check.
- 3) Approved overlap of old and new maintenance people for cross-training.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is November 21, 2024, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

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

CP#24-722

CITY OF LANSING SUMMARY OF ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 2635

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 1236 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances Section 1236.02, 1236.03, and 1236.07 to correct internal references and clarify lot size requirements for residentially zoned lots

Effective date: November 27, 2024

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

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

CP#24-718

PEACE EDUCATION CENTER'S

ALTERNATIVE HOLIDAY SALE!

A 50+ year tradition!

Holiday shopping, music, & food!

TWO DAY SALE
FRIDAY, Nov 15 5PM - 9PM
SAT, Nov 16 10AM - 4PM

HELD AT EDGEWOOD
469 N Hagadorn Rd
East Lansing

Discover unique, hand-crafted gifts and support local artisans at the Alternative Holiday Sale! Join us for a warm, community-focused shopping experience filled with meaningful, ethical, and earth-friendly gifts.

A 50+ year greater Lansing tradition!!

<https://rb.gy/dlyudr>

peacecenter.org This ad was donated in part by City Pulse!

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MT HOPE MONUMENT
employee owned | established 1917

A PLACE TO plan ahead

FOR A LIMITED TIME RECEIVE

10% OFF

Select Granite Colors

Connect Today to Learn More.
Sandra Stanich | 517.482.6266
SandraS@SunburstMemorials.com | Lansing, MI
SunburstMemorials.com

Events

from page 19

Serita's Black Rose Duo - Self-professed "funka-teen" and award-winning singer Serita Crowley, alongside her partner Jon Hayes, plays feel-good music from the '60s and '70s alongside original songs. Opener Greg Nagy. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Smokey Bear at the Irish Pub - 9 p.m. 1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. 517-253-8713. facebook.com/IrishPubLansing.

Sounds of the '90s, 2000s and 2010s, with DJ Face - Dance the night away to classic hits. Ages 21+. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

Todd Martin Youth Leadership Champion's Reception - Enjoy cocktails, auctions and meet our special guest, Todd Martin. Your participation supports TMYL's mission. 6-8 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. tmyl.networkforgood.com.

"Urinetown" - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Women in the Arts Festival - 5-9 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. witafestival.com.

Saturday, Nov. 9

Alternative Holiday Gift Fair & Bake Sale - Shop for fair-trade items made by survivors of abuse or human trafficking and artisans from around the world struggling to earn a livelihood. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Grace United Methodist Church, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. facebook.com/Lansing-GraceMissions.

AWD - This Lansing-based smooth jazz/R&B band delivers quality music that will calm your soul and soothe your senses. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Capital Pro Wrestling - 3 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. 517-894-4589. american-luchalibre.com.

Dueling Piano Show at the Creek - Main Street Dueling Pianos entertains with popular tunes and audience requests. Get ready to sing along, dance and laugh. 6 p.m. Country Creek Reception Hall, 5859 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. countrycreekreceptionhall.com.

Geech at the Green Door - 8:30 p.m. 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. greendoorlive.com.

Greater Lansing Potters' Guild Fall Sale - Find unique, handmade ceramics that make the perfect gifts. New items are put out each day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. greaterlansingpottersguild.org.

Inebriated Insights - A night of intoxicated witchcraft! Variety of tarot cards, oracle cards, bone readings, astrology, runes, reiki and more. 5-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

Intermediate Ballet for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 11 a.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Joe Hertler & the Rainbow Seekers - A ride on the rainbow will take you across the mountains of Motown, through the fjords of folk, over the archipelagos of Americana and into a funky firth. 8 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 10 am.-2 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-712-2395. meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket.

Michigan Made Holiday Exhibition & Market - Shop for fine art and creative gifts by more than 50 Michigan artists! 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Lansing.

lansingartgallery.org.

MSU Men's Ice Hockey vs. Ohio State University - 7 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

Neil Hilborn "About Time" Book Launch - Special guests Masaki Takahashi, Galaxy the Poet, Claire Donohoe and RJMC. 7 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/The517PoetryRoom.

Parent-to-Parent Sale - Shop for lightly used children's items. Early bird admission (\$2) at 9 a.m., general admission at 10 a.m. Event runs until 1 p.m. Drolett Community Center, 7550 W. Willow Hwy, Lansing. facebook.com/deltatownship.

"Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic" - 3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. allofusexpress.org

Sensory-Friendly Spartan Concert - Enjoy interactive music-making activities and performances by chamber ensembles in a setting designed to accommodate individuals with sensory sensitivities. 3 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

"Urinetown" - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Women in the Arts Festival - 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Edgewood United Church, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. witafestival.com.

Sunday, Nov. 10

Adult Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp - Four-month roller derby training course. 7-9 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

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

FREE Gentle Nidra Yoga Class - Designed for all levels to ease you into deep relaxation and stillness. Noon. Firefly Hot Yoga Barre, 118 S. Washington Square, Lansing. fireflyhotyogabarrefitness.com.

GLAD Drum Circle - We offer a welcoming space for all, from beginners to advanced drummers. Bring your own drum or borrow one! 2-4 p.m. Lake Lansing Park North, 6260 E. Lake Drive, Haslett. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

Grand Sousa Concert - The Meridian Community Band performs selections by Sousa, Sullivan, Pryor, Tchaikovsky, Elgar, Dukas, Brahms and more! 3 p.m. MacDonald Middle School, 1601 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. meridiancommunityband.org.

Harmony Sundays - Weekly DJ event featuring Aura the Brave and special guests. 9 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. instagram.com/macsbarsmsu.

JUGGLERS AND WOULD-BE JUGGLERS - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pump House 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. mike-marhanka@gmail.com.

Karaoke Kickback - Ages 21+ welcome. Hosted by Genesis Terrell. 9:30-11:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Lunar String Quartet - The LSO's chamber series is designed to showcase the artistry of symphony musicians in a unique setting and introduce audiences to classical programming. 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

Paint Party at Wooden Nickel II - Paint a pre-traced highland cow with step-by-step instructions. There will also be themed trivia with prizes. 2 p.m. 1029 Jackson St., Dansville. paintyourpoison.com.

"Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic" - 3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. allofusexpress.org.

Neil Hilborn 'About Time' release show

Saturday, Nov. 9

7 p.m. Doors, 7:30 p.m. show

The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing



The Poetry Room has invited North Carolina-based poet Neil Hilborn, whom it last hosted in April, to perform Saturday evening (Nov. 9) at the Robin Theatre in REO Town. The event will celebrate the release of Hilborn's third poetry collection, "About Time," which focuses on the struggle to maintain positive mental health during recent global crises.

"With his distinctly conversational tone and dark humor, Hilborn breaks down the cycle of mental illness — small improvements, setbacks and the process of recovery," a description of the book on the publisher's website reads. "This collection fights against itself as the poems try to find a place for hope, love and goodness in a lonely, terrifying world, ultimately inspiring belief in and connection to all the small joys that we can find."

In addition to Hilborn, several special guests from Michigan's spoken-word scene will perform, including former Lansing Poet Laureate and Poetry Room founder Masaki Takahashi; Detroit poets and educators Ashley Adams, also known as Galaxy the Poet, and Robert Cohen Jr., also known as RJMC; and Michigan State University Poetry Club president Claire Donohoe.

Guests are invited to bring their own beverages from Sleepwalker Spirits and Ale, which is located next to the venue. Tickets are \$21 and can be purchased at therobintheatre.com.

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

Six Voices in Autumn: Prose - Enjoy coffee, conversation and an afternoon of prose read by area authors. Ages 16+. 2 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. glad.org.

Summerlands Sunday Brunch - Noon-4 p.m. Summerlands Brewing Co., 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

"Urinetown" - 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

"Writing from the Heart," SALT Presentation by Michaelle Washington - Learn to engage your creative writing from the force within by writing without a prompt and without critique. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

Monday, Nov. 11

Al-Anon Meeting - Are you concerned about someone else's drinking? This group welcomes any adult looking for help. 8 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. cmialanon.org.

Beginning Salsa Group Dance Class - Eight-week class. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800.

Bingo Night at Summerlands Brewing Co. - Free to play, with fun prizes every game! 8-9:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Broadway Jazz Dance for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

See Events, Page 21



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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Breakfast for lunch at Dimitri's Restaurant

By **COURTNEY BOWERMAN**

There aren't many restaurants in Delta Township that serve a good breakfast. Sure, you can brave the crowd at Cracker Barrel or Denny's, but if you want a homestyle meal at a reasonable price, the family-owned Dimitri's Restaurant is unrivaled. The eatery was a staple of downtown Lansing for nearly 40 years until it relocated to the west side in 2010. The downtown crowd still misses it dearly, but for Delta Township residents like me, their loss is our gain.

Dimitri's has a very relaxed and homey atmosphere. The staff is friendly, greeting you right at the door and getting you a table as quickly as possible. Be-

ing a place that mainly caters to the breakfast and lunch crowds, the menu consists of omelets, egg skillet, pancakes, burgers and sandwiches. There's also a display of pie slices right by the cashier's desk, which is the first thing customers see when they walk in, almost like a warning not to fill up so much that they won't be hungry for dessert.



Cheese omelet
\$8.99

Golden pancakes
\$5.29/two or \$6.29/three

Dimitri's Restaurant
6334 W. Saginaw Hwy.,
Lansing

8 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday-Monday

7 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

(517) 323-6867

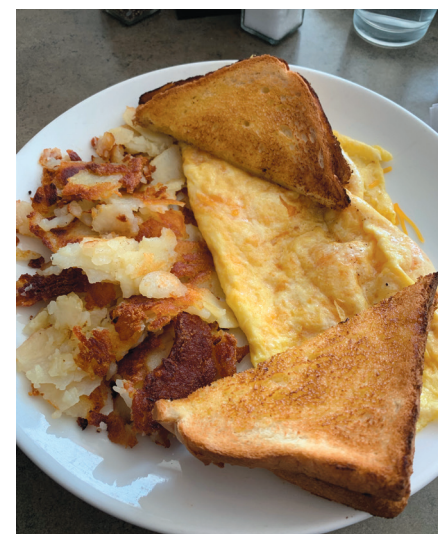
dimitrislansing.com

Breakfast is served all day, so don't feel obligated to switch to the lunch menu just because it's noon. My family always orders breakfast for lunch — specifically the omelets, which come with American fries and a choice of toast for \$8.99. I usually order mine with cheddar cheese because I don't like veg-

gies or meat in my omelets. What can I say? I have very plain taste.

Consequently, my omelet usually isn't as thick and fluffy as the more topping-heavy ones my family orders, but that doesn't make it any less delicious. Rich in both flavor and protein, it's the perfect start to the day — or the afternoon. Equally as enjoyable are the flawlessly golden-brown potatoes. I prefer American fries to hash browns because the potato pieces are thicker, crispier and less greasy than the thinly shredded hash browns you find at other breakfast places, and they go great with ketchup. As for the white toast, it always has the perfect amount of melted butter spread on top.

I've also ordered the pancakes before, which are delicious but very large. Don't plan on finishing them unless you have a sufficiently empty stomach. My mother once ordered the triple stack of blueberry pancakes, and once the waitress brought them out, she immediately wished she had ordered the double stack instead.



Courtney Bowerman for City Pulse

Dimitri's is the go-to spot for the classic American breakfast in Delta Township.

I don't know what the downtown version of Dimitri's was like, but the Delta Township location offers a very satisfying experience on all fronts, from service to flavor to price. My only regret is that I'm always too full to try one of the oh-so-temping chocolate pie slices — but there's always next time.

Events

from page 20

Finance Committee - 6 p.m. Laingsburg City Hall, 114 Woodhull St., Laingsburg.laingsburg.us.

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

"The Four Agreements" Zoom Book Study, with Kathi Frederick - 1:30 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Improv Acting for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz/Ballet II for Kids - 15-week class. Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Lansing Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series: Caroline Winterer - Winterer, a professor of history and American studies at Stanford University, discusses Benjamin Franklin's inventions and ideas to make life simpler, cheaper and easier. 11 a.m. Eagle Eye Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath. For tickets, call 517-323-1045. lansingsymphony.org.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Fall Art Show - The

guild presents its first exhibition of the season, featuring original artwork in an array of media. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

MSU Women's Basketball vs. Eastern Michigan University - 6:30 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-basketball.

Open Mic Night, hosted by Kathy Ford - 6:30-9:30 p.m. One North Kitchen & Bar, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 517-901-5001. onenorthdining.com.

"The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery" Zoom Book Study, with Jeff Benoit - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble for All Ages - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Veterans Day Brunch - Military members (active duty or veterans) and a guest are invited to a FREE brunch and ceremony featuring music by Marcus Shelton and the Waverly High School Marching Band. 8:30-10:30 a.m. One North Kitchen & Bar, 5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/@OneNorthLansing.

Yoga for Parkinson's - Free group class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. lapsg.org.

See Events, Page 22



TOP 5 BAKERIES

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2024 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

1. Bake N' Cakes

Long-established bakery offering a range of sweets, plus custom cakes
3003 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
(517) 337-2253
bakencakes.com

8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday

8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday

2. Flour Child Bakery

Family-owned, made-from-scratch bakery and cafe
323 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
(517) 622-4772
flourchildbakeryandcafe.com

6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday

6 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

3. Mitten Raised

Bakery and café serving hand-crafted, gourmet treats
1331 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
(517) 490-3918
mittenraised.com

8 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday

4. Sweet Encounter Bakery & Cafe

Gourmet bakery specializing in gluten-free, peanut-free and vegan desserts

300 S. Washington Square, Lansing
(517) 730-5005
sweetencounterbakery.com

8 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday

9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday

5. Sweetie-Licious

Bakery and cafe with a selection of confections, plus sandwiches and coffee
108 N. Bridge St., DeWitt
(517) 669-9300
sweetie-licious.com

7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Friday

8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday

Winter watermelon radish soup

By **ARI LEVAUX**

At the final farmers market of the summer, I bought winter melons from a farmer named Nancy. She's from northern China and often sells produce I've never heard of. After filling my bag with those obscure melons, Nancy pivoted smoothly into trying to sell me a tuber the size and shape of a russet potato. She had one left. It had grown so quickly that its pale green skin had split open, revealing red-pink flesh inside. This root crop was another



melon of sorts, an heirloom radish known as watermelon radish.

"Very good for soup," Nancy assured me in her thick, endearing accent. "So good with pork," she added, speaking my language fluently.

Also known as a Chinese red meat radish and sometimes called a beauty heart radish, the watermelon radish is an heirloom variety of daikon. It can keep for months if stored properly, making it a favorite among winter-market farmers. Since Nancy put it on my radar, I've noticed the radish at specialty grocery stores, too. While the skin is spicy



Photo by Ari LeVaux

Also known as a Chinese red meat radish, the watermelon radish is an heirloom variety of daikon. It can keep for months if stored properly, making it a favorite among winter-market farmers.

and slightly bitter, the flesh is mild, whether raw or cooked.

I didn't learn any of those watermelon radish facts from Nancy. In fact, I had somehow managed to walk away from her stand thinking that I had just bought a red-fleshed turnip.

This misidentification wasn't an issue at first because I followed her directions and made a glorious batch of brothy soup. I use the term "directions" in a very loose sense because Nancy isn't a micro-manager when she gives a recipe. So, the recipe is partly my own.

"Cook the pork," she said, "then chop the onions very small." After that, she instructed to add ginger, salt, pepper and vinegar.

I started with bacon and added potatoes and cabbage because I

have a hard time not messing with recipes. But these lowkey additions didn't disrupt the subtle nature of the soup. The radish flesh turned soft, watery and sweet, and the resulting soup was mellow and satisfying. Other than the ginger and rice vinegar, there were no Asian ingredients, but the subtle flavor had an exotic vibe. Nobody could stop eating it — even my son, a picky eater who can be suspicious of vegetables. "I can't believe how much food you're eating," I commented.

"Well," he explained, "this good food is really good."

A few days later, I went looking for red-fleshed turnips at the supermarket. I couldn't find any, of course, because they don't exist. I

See Flash, Page 23

Events

from page 21

Tuesday, Nov. 12

"A Course in Miracles," with Lisa Schmidt - Group reads a passage from the book and discusses its meaning and how to apply it to real-life situations. 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting 101 for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Al-Anon Meeting - Are you concerned about someone else's drinking? This group welcomes any adult looking for help. 9 a.m. Alano Club South, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. cmialanon.org.

Al-Anon Meeting - 7 p.m. St. Jude Church, 801 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. cmialanon.org.

Beginning American-Style Rhumba Group Dance Class - Eight-week class. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800.

Buck's Funhouse - Live experience that blends the thrill of a game show with the intimate vibes of a podcast. Attendees can put their name in the "Buck Bucket" for the chance to take the stage! Doors 7:30 p.m., show 8 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. bucksfunhouse.com.

Intermediate Ballet for Teens & Adults - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz Tuesdays - Weekly series showcasing the best and brightest mid-Michigan jazz musicians. 7 p.m. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/jazztuesdaysatmoriartys.

Level I Dance for Kids - 15-week class. Ages 5-8. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Fall Art Show - The guild presents its first exhibition of the season, featuring original artwork in an array of media. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

"Minecraft" Mania - We'll have our "Minecraft" server set up and laptops ready to go. All levels of players/builders welcome. Ages 8-12. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

On the Same Page Book Club - Each participant reads the same book beforehand and comes to the meeting ready to chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 7-12. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Parkinson's Exercise - Free group class for people with Parkinson's, led by exercise professionals. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8888. lapsg.org.

Parkinson's Support Group - Small group meeting for support and information sharing. People with Parkinson's meet in one room, caregivers in a separate room. 1 p.m. Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. lapsg.org.

"The Quest: A Journey of Spiritual Rediscovery" Book Study, with Rev. Sharon Ketchum - 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

Summerlands Karaoke Night - Family-friendly until 9:30 p.m. Enjoy food and beverages, both alcoholic and nonalcoholic. 7:30-11 p.m. Summerlands Brewing Co., 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

Trivia at Lansing Shuffle - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4365. lansingshuffle.com.

Walk with Ease - Walking exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health. Group will meet Tuesdays through Dec. 17. 1-2 p.m. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedo@tcoa.org.

Wednesday, Nov. 13

"A Course of Love" Zoom Discussion Group, with Lucille Olson and Bill Dietrich - Group reads a section of the book each week and discusses the insightful ideas. 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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Flash

from page 22

brought home some regular white turnips instead, and the resulting soup wasn't the same. It was harsh, thanks to the spicy turnip.

I added kale, carrots and chunks of baked squash and seasoned with soy sauce and fish sauce. I added meat and green tomatoes, my new favorite fall ingredient. The flavor improved with each addition, and I ended up with a complex and satisfying cold-weather stew. So, if you find yourself with some turnips you don't know what to do with, this dish is a great option. But it's nothing like the mild, comforting, otherworldly flavor of radish broth.

I've previously written about a chilled daikon radish soup called naengmyeon. That soup is also a showstopper. Since daikon is a close relative of watermelon radish, I gave Nancy's recipe a shot with daikon. The flavor was equally mesmerizing.

If you happen to be lucky enough to find watermelon radish, run home and make this soup. Otherwise, daikon is available everywhere. It's not quite as pretty or sweet, but nonetheless, you have no excuse not to make this soup.

Here's Nancy's recipe as best I understood it, plus my added potatoes and cabbage, which you can omit if you want to stay true to her version. I've also made her soup with beef instead of pork. It's good, but it's slightly thinner without the irreplaceable glaze of pig fat. Of course, if you're not a pork eater, you won't miss it.

Whatever tweaks you make, don't overdo it like you're trying to out-wrestle a turnip. With radish soup, less is more.

Watermelon radish soup

If you can find watermelon radish at a specialty vegetable store or your local winter market, grab it. If not, use daikon.

I wish I could advise you to cook it with the peel on because that really makes it resemble a watermelon. But the peel makes the flavor too spicy and bitter, which breaks the spell.

Serves four

- 1/2 pound pork or red meat, cut into 1/2-inch chunks (optional)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 pound potatoes, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- One onion, chopped small
- 3 teaspoons grated ginger
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 8 cups water (or vegetable stock if you're not using meat)
- 1 cup shredded or finely

chopped cabbage

- A pinch of black pepper
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 teaspoons rice vinegar
- 6 ounces peeled watermelon or daikon radish flesh, cut into 3/4-inch cubes

Add the olive oil and meat to a heavy-bottomed soup pot on medium heat. After five minutes, add the potatoes. Five minutes later, add the onions. Cook with the lid on for 10 minutes, until they're translucent. Add the ginger and garlic and cook briefly until the garlic smells fragrant. Add the water, cabbage, salt, pepper, vinegar and radish. Simmer on medium heat until the radish is soft but not soggy, about 15 minutes.

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Michigan Supreme Court That Protects Our Civil Rights

In November, Michigan voters will decide who fills two spots on the Michigan Supreme Court. Why is this a big deal? Because these justices will make decisions about the laws that impact all of us, and Michigan is one of only 24 states where voters are empowered to elect the members of their state's Supreme Court.

It's the job of the Michigan Supreme Court to act with fairness and integrity, ensuring justice for everyone in our state. That includes protecting and even broadening civil rights protections.

In the recent past, the Michigan Supreme Court has frequently ruled in favor of equity when it comes to civil rights. In 2018, the court ruled that the independent group Voters Not Politicians could launch a ballot initiative to establish an independent citizen's redistricting commission. The success of the ballot initiative empowered Michiganders to pick their elected representatives by taking away redistricting power from partisan control.

In 2022, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that a 1976 law – the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act – bans firing someone, evicting them, or otherwise discriminating against them because they are a member of the LGBTQ community. Despite opponents' opinions to the contrary, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that the law's ban on discrimination based on the basis of sex includes sexual orientation.

The Michigan Supreme Court ruled in 2023 that judges must use the preferred pronouns of defendants, litigants, attorneys, and others with business before the court. Michigan's Supreme Court was the first in the nation to mandate this change through court rules, setting a precedent for respecting people's dignity. Those who choose not to use preferred pronouns can simply refer to "the defendant" or "the plaintiff," making the rule fair regardless of personal beliefs.

Just this spring, the Michigan Supreme Court set a new state precedent with a ruling that allows civil rights claims alleging indirect workplace retaliation. The lawsuit was originally filed by two employees who said they were fired because of claims made against them by a fellow employee as an act of revenge. The 7-0 unanimous decision, which cites similar federal civil rights protections, sends the case back to the Circuit Court where it originated.

The Michigan Supreme Court presides over the most significant and challenging cases in our state. Vigorous discussions among those who preside over Michigan's highest court, which serves as the guardian of justice, keep our state in harmony through fair and equitable outcomes.

The Michigan Supreme Court plays a crucial role in our state's government – and in protecting our rights and freedoms. But you have an equally important part to play, because it's your vote that determines who sits on that bench.

When filling out your ballot this fall, don't stop at the top. Look for the non-partisan section of your ballot and individually select the two candidates that have earned your vote. Although Supreme Court justices in Michigan are nominated by a political party to serve an eight-year term, their party affiliation isn't included on your ballot. So even if you vote for a straight-party ticket, it won't apply to the non-partisan section.

Selecting two Michigan Supreme Court justices is too important to skip—your choice could impact civil rights in the state for the next generation. Learn more about the Michigan Supreme Court, the voting process, and how to spread the word about the importance of choosing who will sit on our state's highest court. Visit www.MISupremeCourtRocks.com to get all the information you need to do your civic duty in this year's election.

-Steve James, Michigan United Movement Politics Director

