

A newspaper for the rest of us

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CityPULSE

Jan. 15 - 21, 2025
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Ch-ch-ch-changes
Michigan politics in the second coming of Trump
By Kyle Melinn

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New Year's Resolution: Help the Ingham County Pet Adoption Program



Thanks to pet adoption advertisers, City Pulse donated \$450 to the Ingham County Animal Shelter in 2024 and more than \$10,000 in 24 years. Ads are just \$35, and \$6 of that is donated. Please help City Pulse help the animals find homes.

Ads appear in the third issue of each month. The next deadline is February 14th.



Please call Berl Schwartz at (517) 999-5061 or email him at publisher@lansingcitypulse.com.



Holley Shiftwell

Sponsored by Allison Range

Holley

and her sister Sally are two sweet worried torties who came to the shelter when their owner moved and couldn't take them. They aren't sure what happened and will need some time to settle in. They love other cats and would enjoy having a friend in their new homes. Both cats were allowed to go outside but Sally was more of a homebody than her sister. Some cats that are used to being allowed outside when they choose cannot adjust to life as an indoor only cat. Potential adopters wishing to make one of them an indoor pet, will need to be patient and to keep in mind that there could be potential behavior issues and that some cats never lose their desire to roam.



Chicory

Sponsored by Susan's cats

Chicory

is a sweet older cat who came to the shelter when his mom could no longer care for him. He didn't understand that she was not going to be able to come home this time. Her friend tried hard to find him a home so that he wouldn't have to come to the shelter but he's a shy boy and no one wanted him. He is looking for a special family with a quieter home where he can grieve and feel safe again. It only took a couple of days before he came out of his box, and he is slowly warming up. Just today he came up to the door and meowed at us! He has lived with cats and dogs and is going to be a gentle friend for someone willing to give him a chance!



Wooper

Sponsored by "The Fonz"

Wooper

is a sweet older beagle/spaniel mix who was adopted from us a while back and recently came back when his owner could no longer care for him. He lived in a home with several cats and another dog but would probably do best with an easy-going friend. He was nervous when we placed him with a playful dog. He just wants a big back yard and plenty of long sniffy walks! When Wooper was adopted from us he had been treated for heart worm. Unfortunately, his new family did not follow up on his treatment and our sweet little guy is heart worm positive again (or still). We will be treating him again, but he would love to recover in a home especially one that knows how important it is for him to stay up to date on his monthly heart worm pills.

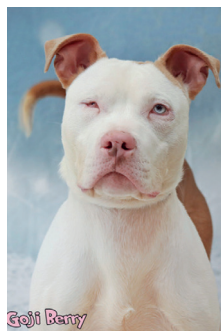


Yam

Sponsored by little old me

Yam

is a big goofy looking cane Corso who came to the shelter because his owner wasn't taking good care of him. He has some sores that are healing up and he needs to put on some weight. He has big buggy eyes that give him a derpy expression! He's a very sweet boy who is looking for a family with some guardian breed experience. He hasn't been in playgroup yet, but we haven't seen any issues with dogs. A big tolerant female would be ideal.



Goji Benny

Sponsored by Schuler Books

Goji

is a 9-month-old pitbull pup with a heart full of sweetness and a spirit ready for a fresh start. Despite his young age, he's already a pro at spreading joy with his wagging tail and loving nature. Goji is eager to learn, explore, and grow with a family who will show him the love and care he deserves. If you're looking for a loyal and playful companion, Goji is ready to be your new best friend! Goji came to us in a neglected condition. He has some staining and burns from living in a crate which will heal up in no time but also came to us with limited vision in one eye due to a birth defect. It doesn't bother him (except in bright sun) and he hopes it won't keep someone from taking him home!

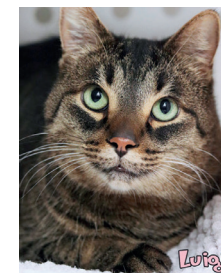


Rhubarb

Sponsored by Anne & Dale Schrader

Rhubarb

is an adorable 8-month-old puppy with a sweet and spunky personality. While he might feel a little shy when meeting new people, it doesn't take long for him to warm up and show his loving side. With a bit of patience and some tasty treats, you'll quickly see his tail wagging and his eyes sparkling with trust. This little social butterfly loves other dogs and thrives in canine company. Whether it's a game of chase, a playful wrestling match, or just lounging side-by-side, Rhubarb is happiest when he's with his furry friends.



Luigi

In memory of Rodica's Cats

Luigi

is a big handsome tabby who came to the shelter with his brother Alfredo when their owner moved and couldn't take them. They're scared and confused right now but are settling in and we are starting to see the friendly, affectionate boys that they are!

INGHAM COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

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CityPULSE

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IT'S 2025. TIME TO BE OLIGARCHICALLY CORRECT

USE HIGHLY IDEOLOGICAL LANGUAGE IN A SMUG, SCOLDY TONE.

WOKE! DEI!

I'M JUST TRYING TO ORDER A SANDWICH.

ANY CRITICISM OF THE LEADER MUST BE "BALANCED" BY A COLUMN SUPPORTING HIM.

L.A. End Times Opinion

Herding immigrants into sewage pits is going too far

They aren't sewage pits—they're freedom holes

DON'T TEACH ABOUT ANY MARGINALIZED GROUP BEING TREATED UNFAIRLY

AND THEN THE JIM CROW LAWS WERE INTRODUCED BY MOSTLY-WHITE STATE GOVERNMENTS.

I'M REPORTING YOU FOR RACISM!

SORENSEN

DON'T INSULT OUR HEROIC BILLIONAIRES, ESPECIALLY IN THE NEWSPAPERS THEY OWN.

REJECTED

THE SACKS OF MONEY WE GET FROM BEZOS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH OUR SACKING THIS CARTOON!

The Post

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2025 Martin Luther King Jr. Day events in Greater Lansing

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Hannah Plaza welcomes new mac-and-cheese-focused eatery

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SaltRock Brewing Co.'s beef is deliciously memorable

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

ELON MUSK SAYS LOS ANGELES IS ON FIRE BECAUSE OF D.E.I!

THEY HAVE A WOMAN FIRE CHIEF! CAN YOU EVEN BELIEVE IT?

PRESIDENT TRUMP SAYS IT'S ALL BECAUSE GAVIN NEWSOM REFUSED TO SIGN THE VERY REAL WATER RESTORATION DECLARATION!

LYING DEMOCRATS CLAIM THAT NO SUCH DOCUMENT EXISTS!

THEIR SHAME-LESSNESS KNOWS NO BOUNDS!

ALEX JONES SAYS THE FIRES ARE A GLOBALIST CONSPIRACY TO WAGE ECONOMIC WARFARE BEFORE TRIGGERING TOTAL COLLAPSE--AND ELON AGREES!

THANK GOODNESS FOR X, THE EVERYTHING APP, WHERE WE CAN DO OUR OWN RESEARCH!

I WONDER IF DROUGHTS AND RISING TEMPERATURES RESULTING FROM CLIMATE CHANGE COULD HAVE POSSIBLY PLAYED ANY ROLE IN THESE FIRES!

I'M KIDDING! DO I LOOK LIKE A CONSPIRACY NUT?

HAH! YOU HAD ME WORRIED FOR A MOMENT THERE.

I BET IT WAS THE SPACE LASERS!

TOM TOMORROW © 2025-01-13 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

More merchant complaints surface about Downtown Lansing Inc.

Downtown Lansing Inc. recruited Sedona Wanderlust Boutique owner Ashleigh Rogers to join its Middle Village “retail accelerator program” in early 2024.

The program places multiple female and minority-owned businesses in a shared space for one year, where DLI works to eventually equip them with the know-how to open stand-alone enterprises.

Rogers and four other businesses set up shop at the Atrium Building, 215 S. Washington Square, last May. She said it didn’t take long for her and some of her peers to notice some issues.

“When we first got there, it reminded me of the Fisher Building in Detroit, where I’m originally from. I thought it could be a good historical monument. Unfortunately, I do not think they had all their ends tied up because we did not have a completed ceiling at the grand opening. That was one of the first things that made us Middle Villagers raise an eyebrow,” she said.

Through August, the space also lacked a Wi-Fi connection, forcing Rogers and others to use personal hotspot connections. She said it took “several months” to fix the roof.

Above all else, Rogers said a lack of customers was paramount. She argued that the Middle Village members believed that the marketing was a shared responsibility between them and DLI. However, they often felt that DLI was not taking those efforts seriously.

“When we asked about it, it was constantly thrown back in our face. They told us that we had the responsibility of doing our own marketing. But we believed that they, as DLI, were already marketing the building before we moved in,” Rogers said.

Downtown Lansing Inc. is a quasi-government organization whose board members are nominated by the mayor and approved by the City Council. Its funding is a mixture of public and private funds, including from the businesses it is charged with promoting and assisting in downtown Lansing and Old Town.

In a call with City Pulse, DLI executive director Cathleen Edgerly acknowledged the problems at the Atrium building, though she also said that



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Sedona Wanderlust Boutique owner Ashleigh Rogers stands outside of the Atrium Building in Washington Square. Last year, Rogers set up shop there with Downtown Lansing Inc.’s Middle Village program, but left early after she said DLI failed to fulfill their promises to help her and other participating businesses.

DLI waived rental payments for three months to make up for it.

“We shared those same frustrations and worked with the landlord and IT providers to get the space finalized. It wasn’t finished as quickly as we would have hoped, but that is the nature of a new build-out,” Edgerly said.

In August, Rogers, Amara Hoddy of Hoddy Collective and Beeka Monique of CocoBella Boutique opted to leave the program early. Black Rose Designs and Ornamaloo stayed put, and DLI later recruited Bebe’s Boutique to fill one of the vacant spots. Today, Rogers’ business is entirely online.

“All three of us left all at the same time because we were frustrated and felt defeated. After investing so much of our time and money into this, we just decided that we were done,” Rogers said.

For Hoddy, their failures were “not due to unmet goals, but due to unfortunate circumstances that could have been strategically prevented.”

Rogers, Hoddy and others began to speak out after they heard about a website created by Faun Donald and Luke Trusnovac, co-owners of former downtown houseplant shop Neva Lee’s. The

site, titled “Downtown Lansing Incompetence,” outlines issues the pair experienced after DLI’s director of downtown community development, Julie Reinhardt, allegedly contacted them about moving their shop from their existing space on Kalamazoo Street to a larger storefront at 109 S. Washington.

After moving in June 2022, the pair encountered plumbing and structural concerns that hindered their progress. They also claim that Reinhardt incentivized them to move through promises of a \$25,000 relocation assistance grant, which they say they never received \$15,000 of. However, they also gained just under \$50,000 through a state reimbursement grant.

Still, they were forced to close in March 2023, they said.

Last week, Edgerly told City Pulse the negotiations between Neva Lee’s and their landlord weren’t DLI’s responsibility. She added that DLI has never done a “relocation grant” and said Neva Lee’s, for its part, did end up receiving far more than \$25,000 in total when all was said and done. Since the website launched in late December, DLI’s lawyers have threatened Neva Lee’s with a

libel lawsuit.

Former DLI employees like Whitney Jessup have also started weighing in. She was hired for her “dream” job as a marketing communications specialist at DLI in late 2021 and served in that role until she said she was fired in April 2023.

Jessup said she suspects her termination was related to her criticism of DLI’s Kringle Market program at Rutter Park. The park was known as a gathering space for the city’s homeless population, and she believes DLI selected the site to drive them away and help “gentrify” the area.

“Apartments had just gone up right across from the park, and the idea was to start putting in things like the Kringle Market to make the unhoused feel uncomfortable. I don’t know whose idea it originally was, but it was very clear that that is why they chose to activate that park in that way,” Jessup said.

Jessup cited problems with Reinhardt and Edgerly’s leadership, including a tendency to “micromanage” employees and withhold information that “would have been in my wheelhouse to know about.”

“There were also weird little instances where Cathleen was acting like a mean girl, but I kind of wrote it off at first. Over time, the more I was myself at my job, the more it seemed to upset her and get on her nerves,” Jessup said.

She also disagreed with the direction of the Middle Village program. She recalled occasional efforts to eat lunch with the business owners, which she said helped her get to know them better and cater her marketing efforts to suit their needs. She said Edgerly discouraged her from doing so.

“She really had a problem with that because she was not friendly with them,” Jessup said.

Edgerly told City Pulse she couldn’t comment “on HR issues with former employees,” but she reiterated that her office has always followed the law.

Former Middle Village members Elizabeth Kruger and Byron Pepper also contacted City Pulse about their time with DLI. The married couple opened Honey Bun Bakery in 2021 and worked with Reinhardt to open a stand-alone

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

FOR TIERED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Ingham County
315 S Jefferson St.
Mason, MI 48854

On or about January 24, 2025, Ingham County will request the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to release CDBG funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

Program funds will be used to undertake a project known as Ingham County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Improving Local Livability (Chill) housing rehabilitation program for the purpose of administering a grant award of \$425,000 from Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It is a Home Improvement Project (HIP) project to assist residents who are at or below 80% Area Median Income. It provides qualified residents with the opportunity to address health and safety concerns maintenance issues, utilizing a grant or interest free, forgivable loan totaling up to \$40,000 per household. The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

Estimated Project Cost: \$75,000 expenses for administration paid for by Ingham County/ARP funds, \$425,000 HIP paid for by CDBG Funds.

The Tier I broad assessment of the project area revealed no serious environmental adverse impacts for: Coastal Barrier Act, Clean Air Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, and Executive Order of 12898.

Tier II site-specific environmental analyses will be conducted as project sites are identified and will include the following factors:

Airport Hazards, Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Act Reform Act of 1994, Contamination and Toxic Substances - 24 CFR Part 50.3 (i) & 58.5 (i)(2), Endangered Species Act of 1973, Explosive and Flammable Hazards - 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C, Floodplain Management - Executive Order 11988, Historic Preservation Native American Tribes, SHPO-National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Noise Control Act of 1974, Wetlands Protection - Executive Order 11990, and Environmental Justice - Executive Order 12898.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at Ingham County's Office of the Treasurer, 315 S. Jefferson St., Mason MI 48854 or by emailing ichtf@ingham.org for a digital file. The record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Ingham County Office of the Treasurer, 315 S. Jefferson St., Mason MI 48854 or to ichtf@ingham.org. All comments received by January 23, 2025 will be considered prior to requesting a release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Ingham County certifies to MSHDA that Ingham County and Diana Bartlett in her capacity as Housing Trust Fund Coordinator and Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. MSHDA's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows Ingham County to use HUD Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

MSHDA will accept objections to its release of funds and the Grantee's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Grantee; (b) the Certifying Officer has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by MSHDA; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to MSHDA - CDBG, 735 East Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48912. Potential objectors should contact MSHDA to verify the actual last day of the objection period.



Diana Bartlett, Certifying Officer
Ingham County Housing Trust Fund Coordinator

CP#25-009

Downtown

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shop at 205 S. Washington in 2022.

To secure funding, they contacted Lake Trust, the primary sponsor of the Middle Village program, which denied their application due to Pepper's credit history. After informing Reinhardt, they said she spoke to Lake Trust and convinced it to offer the pair a \$30,000 loan. According to Kruger and Pepper, Reinhardt told Lake Trust that DLI and Honey Bun Bakery were awaiting a reimbursement grant of up to \$50,000, which Reinhardt allegedly said would help the latter repay their balance.

After the pair's first choice for a space fell through, they accepted Reinhardt's invitation to join Middle Village in 2023.

Later, they discovered that their participation made them ineligible for the aforementioned reimbursement grant. They said Reinhardt advised them to "chalk it up to a mistake and learn from it."

Pepper, whose name was on the loan, said he had to file for bankruptcy.

"They kind of left us out in the lurch. I want to say it happens, but we're apparently not the only ones," Pepper said.

Edgerly contested Reinhardt's alleged role in securing the loan, noting that DLI doesn't "get involved in third-party discussions."

Pepper hopes city leaders will take a closer look at DLI's practices.

"For me, the 100% best-case scenario is that they pay fines to all of the businesses that they put in these positions that closed. They should no longer operate in the area," he said.

Responding Tuesday to a request for comment from over a week ago, Mayor Andy Schor defended DLI and criticized Neva Lee's criticism, which he said "presents one side of the story and does not represent the facts of the situation. It's disappointing they have decided to respond in this fashion after receiving tens of thousands of grant funding, more than many other small businesses in our community. In fact, they got more than double the grant funds initially sought from DLI — nearly \$60,000 total. Many of their complaints also center around the lease they signed, which the City, nor DLI, can legally interfere with or change."

A former DLI board member and employee, Trevor Benoit, agreed with Pepper on better city oversight.

Benoit noted that DLI was intended to be a principal shopping district, which is primarily responsible for maintaining the sidewalks and organizing trash pick-up, rather than promoting development,

which is traditionally the responsibility of a downtown development authority.

"City Council should abolish DLI, put in a true DDA and make sure nobody currently involved with DLI has anything to do with it," Benoit said. He added that DLI's board of directors "rubber-stamped whatever Cathleen wanted and gave very little pushback" while he was a member from 2021 to 2023.

Another question some have raised about DLI is a possible conflict of interest.

Jen Estill, who founded Redhead Creative Consultancy, is president of DLI's nine-member board. Her company has also worked with DLI on its recent rebrand and other marketing projects. Efforts to reach Estill for comment Tuesday were unsuccessful. Estill returned a call to City Pulse, but did not reach the reporter and did not call his mobile phone after the reporter left its number.

Benoit noted that Estill recused herself on any votes involving her company while he was on the board, which Edgerly confirmed.

Otherwise Edgerly did not respond to questions about Redhead that City Pulse sent her in two emails over the last two weeks.

Last week, City Pulse submitted a Freedom of Information request to the city for information on any contracts between Redhead and DLI. The city said Tuesday that it needed more research time.

Another former board member, Cara Nadar of Strange Matter Coffee, issued a statement about her experience with DLI last week.

"I resigned my position a few months into COVID after I watched as everyone sat idly by as businesses struggled. DLI and the city just seemed to have the most blasé, relaxed attitude about help and support," she wrote.

Jessup cited the recent allegations as evidence of a "pattern of behavior" at DLI.

"I think it just shows an attitude they have that they are somehow untouchable," she said.

Edgerly encouraged City Pulse Tuesday to talk to an owner of the downtown business Sweet Encounter for another perspective. However, the owner did not return a phone call.

Edgerly said she's sympathetic to the business owners who didn't see success under their program, but she noted that 93% of businesses that have worked with DLI are still operating.

"Unfortunately, statistics show that over 50% of businesses don't succeed in the first five years. While we work hard to help local entrepreneurs thrive, the success and longevity of a small business is ultimately the accomplishment of its owners," she said.

TYLER SCHNEIDER



Cathleen Edgerly

Blowing in the wind

A Lansing native recounts evacuating during the LA wildfires

By RICH TUPICA

(Rich Tupica has been a contributing City Pulse writer since 2009, including his still-going local music column, "Turn It Down." Now living in Crescenta Valley in central Los Angeles County, he details his experience with the 2025 Los Angeles wildfires.)

Growing up in the cornfields of Greater Lansing, I've lived through a few natural disasters. At 43, I've had a few close calls with tornadoes. Like thousands of others, I lost power for a solid week due to the overwhelming 2013 Mid-Michigan ice storm. I've sweated my way through plenty of extreme heat spells. The list goes on. Michigan weather is moody and changes on a dime. You get used to it.

However, a lot of that was left behind after moving to California a few years back with my partner, Nicole. One of my final Michigan memories was leaving my trusty snow shovel out by the road with a "FREE" sign on it. Moments later, we started our journey to Los Angeles, where scooping mountains of snow would no longer be an issue.

In fact, most of the time, the weather in Los Angeles is oddly nonchanging. The shifting of the seasons is such a mild change that you might not even notice "fall" turning into "winter." Back in Michigan, this was never an issue.

But, thanks to LA, we'd soon be introduced to a new set of wild weather conditions. Small earthquakes rattle our windows. Mudslides occur up in the canyons occasionally, and — of course — wildfires happen all the time. Thousands of wildfires scorch California each year. Most are controlled and contained. Others, spanning the last few decades, have caused devastation and death.

On Tuesday, Jan. 7, the worst wildfire to ever spread across Los Angeles County started, and we were here for it. In the days leading up to the onset of the historic blaze, text message alerts buzzed on Angelenos' phones, warning of high winds and the chance of fires. The strong Santa Ana winds are one of the few weather fluctuations out here, notorious for quickly spreading fires. Add to that the drought. The last real



Rich Tupica/City Pulse

Daytime near the Los Feliz neighborhood in Los Angeles a week ago (Jan. 8). The Eaton Fire cloud blacked out the sky.

rain we experienced was back in May 2024. It's been eight months since any measurable amount of precipitation was recorded. The vast terrain of hills and city streets was as dry as ever — a worryingly perfect landscape for a fire to travel quickly.

Early Tuesday, the winds slowly and steadily increased. While our daily lunchtime walk was normal, albeit tremendously breezy, it wasn't until the evening that things got progressively worrisome.

After hearing a news reporter recommend it, we downloaded "Watch Duty," an app that meticulously maps and sends breaking wildfire alerts. Over the next few days, hours would be spent fretfully checking this resource. It's strange how suddenly a free app on your iPhone has the power to tell you if your house is about to burn down or not.

By 6:15 p.m., it happened. A fire notice in our area popped up on the app. What's now known as the Eaton Fire would go on to burn approximately 14,117 acres, kill at least 17 people and destroy thousands of structures. The Pasadena and Altadena areas would

soon be repeatedly described as looking "apocalyptic" and "like a warzone." This is a few miles from our doorstep.

But on this first day, you try to remain optimistic. You hope it avoids people and neighborhoods. You hope the winds die down enough so firefighters can do their job.

Sadly, that first night, that didn't happen. The winds prevented aircraft from dropping water in hard-to-reach canyons. The other central fire zone, the "Palisades Fire," which burned over the Pacific Coast, was also propelled by strong high-pressure winds that clocked in at 50 to 80 miles per hour. Abandoned cars blocking emergency personnel from reaching fires were bulldozed out of the way by city officials. News reports lit up every channel in LA. It was apparent this wasn't going to be just another fire.

And then, 45 minutes into the Eaton Fire, the power goes out in our neighborhood. Being a rookie, my phone was only half charged. Huge mistake. I didn't even own a flashlight! Luckily, my booklight was fully charged. I regretted not taking those first emergency alerts seriously. I should have been

better prepared.

As daytime turned into nighttime, the Santa Ana winds shook tree branches and garage doors so ferociously that it created a constant, percussive clatter. With fading smartphone batteries and no TV to block out the ominous clanking outside, we only checked the Watch Duty app occasionally. We needed to save our batteries. I considered going to my car to charge up a bit, but the winds were too strong. Crossing paths with a falling tree branch was possible, and — back during the 2013 ice storm in Michigan — a neighbor of mine was killed after he stepped on a downed powerline in his backyard. I never forgot that sad event. So, I decided I'd stay indoors until the winds died down.

By midnight, the fire is only bigger, and the winds are not slowing. But we're exhausted. An out-of-control fire is a short drive away, and now you have to ... sleep? Never have I rested so lightly. And in what seemed like five minutes later, Nicole woke me up at 3:30 a.m. because the fire had significantly increased and was moving in our direction. Other smaller fires were

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Fire

from page 7

also cropping up in nearby areas. Feeling uneasy is an understatement, so we decided to evacuate.

If LA traffic wasn't so congested, we could have held out longer, but we knew the longer we waited, the higher chance of getting caught in a bottlenecked traffic jam was possible. It was still early, so we decided to get a jump on getting out of the affected areas.

At this moment, I filled my first "go bag," which is, in short, what you NEED to take with you because when you return, your home and everything in it might be gone. With only three hours of sleep at best, this task is challenging. Still, I grabbed a duffel bag and moved through the house, trying to prioritize a lifetime of possessions in a matter of minutes. The photo albums from the closet came first and then came the fireproof box with birth certificates and other vital documents. My laptop and my work hard drives

were also packed up.

But then came the more complex decisions. My bookshelf, crammed with dog-eared novels and marked-up notebooks, was impossible to touch. My favorite leather jacket? Replaceable. The record collection I'd spent years curating? It was painful, but it had to stay. Just then, we get an evacuation warning push notification. The bag grew heavier as the moments shrank shorter. Some things you can replace. Some things you cannot. The line between the two had never been more apparent in that moment. Not to mention, our safety was also a mounting concern. And that concern grew further when I raced to our car to load our go-bags in the trunk. From our street, you could see the fires burning in the distance. I knew it was time to go. And we felt terrible for the people who were close to the fire.

At this point, we didn't even know where we were going. We needed to charge our phones and look at maps. We needed to check the fire app and be sure we would not drive into a fire.



Rich Topica/City Pulse

The Eaton Fire, which devastated Altadena and Pasadena, shown here from nearby La Cañada early Wednesday morning (Jan. 8).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**, at Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823.

1. A public hearing for a Special Use request from 213 Ann St. Inc. (owner St. Anne LLC) for approval to modify the interior spaces at 213 Ann Street for expansion of the FieldHouse sports bar into adjacent suite B with alcohol service, and conversion of vacant suite C to be used as a pizza shop without alcohol service in the existing building. The property is zoned B-3 City Center Commercial District.

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

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may also participate virtually via Zoom. Please contact Interim City Clerk Amy Gordon at 517.319.6891, agordon@cityofeastlansing.com, (410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823) for additional information. Visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> for electronic access information.

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

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Council's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6869 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at sbent@cityofeastlansing.com.

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

Amy Gordon
Interim City Clerk

Dated: January 8, 2025
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#25-007

So, at first, we simply drove away from the black cloud. We drove toward the small portion of the sky that was still untouched by smoke. That led us to an IHOP breakfast joint near the Los Feliz neighborhood. And, bizarrely, it was open. A historic fire was breaking out across LA and IHOP employees were there, being polite and working. I was never so appreciative that they showed up for work that day, though it's unfortunate they were expected to do so. Over breakfast, Nicole and I decided to drive an hour south to Long Beach. No fires were in that area, and one hour is the max I could safely drive on little sleep in heavy traffic.

We evacuated to our hotel with a black haze and red sun looming overhead. That was our first evacuation. It was ill-planned, but somehow, it worked out well. Though, with your last thoughts being the flames across the way from your house, the uneasy feeling doesn't go away. It ebbs and flows. You try your best to block out negative thoughts while preparing for the worst.

Over the next few days, we remained glued to our hotel TV. News reports were not good. The fires were not quickly contained. As I type this,

the Eaton Fire is only 33 percent contained. Images of blazing hills and ashes where houses used to be are on a loop on every news channel. The Watch Duty app sends constant updates: Some of it is good news, most is terrible. The Kenneth Fire breaks out. The Hollywood Hills lit up but was luckily promptly extinguished and didn't spread far.

The brave emergency workers, some of whom had traveled far away to help, were dealing with a Whac-A-Mole situation. As of now, it's unclear if this was caused by flying embers or arson. As of now, 24 people have perished. More than 100,000 are displaced. Over 12,000 homes and businesses are now rubble. So, while we had to deal with a profoundly stressful week, it goes without saying: We are lucky. I am as lucky as I have ever felt about anything. As I type this, our house remains untouched by the Eaton Fire.

We got word that our power was finally back on Friday night after being off since Tuesday. The Eaton Fire was 15 percent contained. With those shreds of good news, we decided to head home. On our porch, a light dusting of ash covered the steps, carried to our door by the Santa Ana winds.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



The Professional Employee Council of Sparrow Hospital-Michigan Nurses Association and UM Health-Sparrow reached a contract agreement in principle Tuesday, avoiding a strike planned for Monday.

The deal includes wage increases of 20% to 32% for most members, extra late-shift pay, decreased healthcare costs with a plan equal or better to what the employer is ending, guarantees of replacing staff when employees leave and a ratification bonus. The previous contract expired last Oct. 30. The 2,000 union employees need to vote on ratifying it.

A resolution "reaffirming" Ingham County as a "welcoming community to immigrants" and sent to the rest of Michigan's counties has prompted the Livingston County Board of Commissioners to reject the letter unanimously. One Livingston commissioner

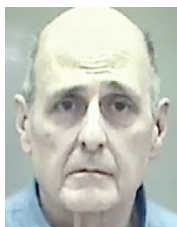


perceived the letter as pointed criticism of its September resolution, requiring its Sheriff's Office to track all interactions with "illegal" immigrants "no matter the nature of the contact," with suspects, victims and witnesses included to assess the impact of illegal immigration better. But the Ingham resolution didn't mention Livingston and was sent to all 82 counties. The Ingham commissioners wanted to send a message that the county is welcoming as a new Trump administration comes into office, pledging mass deportations, Ingham chair Ryan Sebolt said.



New U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Charlotte, opened his Lansing office at 328 West Ottawa St. on Monday, welcomed by Mayor Andy Schor, State Reps. Angela Witwer, D-Delta Township, and Jason Woodford, R-Howell, and State Sen. Lana Theis, R-Brighton. He said he plans to open satellite offices around the district, covering Clinton, Shiawassee, Ingham and Livingston counties, and part of Eaton and Oakland counties.

WLNS-TV fired Mark Silberstein, 65, as a producer after the Eaton County Sheriff's Office arraigned him on three felony charges: accosting a child for immoral purposes, third-degree criminal sexual conduct with a person between 13 and 15 and using a computer to commit a crime. The Shaarey Zedek Congregation in East Lansing also fired him as an administrator. Silberstein began communicating with a detective who was posing as a 15-year-old boy in a "joint task force child predator operation" over a dating app for members of the LGBTQ+ community, court records said. He agreed to meet the boy in early January at Grand Woods Park in Delta Township. Silberstein was freed on a \$2,500 bond and was scheduled to appear in Eaton County District Court this week.



Lansing police have identified a person of interest in the non-fatal shooting of three teen boys Saturday. The boys, two age 16 and one age 19, were shot near Oakland Av-



enue and Jenison Street. Police have not yet said where the victims, who sought treatment under their power for non-life-threatening gunshot wounds, were from.

Potterville Public Schools will have a deficit of more than \$900,000 by June 30, and the state will likely need to put the district on a deficit reduction plan, said Interim Superintendent Sam Sinicropi.

With a budget of about \$12.8 million for 2024-'25, the district has a fund balance of about \$283,000 — an improvement of where it was last June 30. However, flawed budgeting, like needing an additional \$973,000 to pay teachers, meant the district is on track to spend more than \$1.6 million than it had budgeted. Potterville's budget shortfall was discovered in an audit this fall.



Kerry Christian Heuhs of Holt, the owner of management companies that operate two family dental practices in the Lansing area, has pleaded guilty to tax evasion in U.S. District Court, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

According to a plea agreement, he must pay at least \$50,000 toward criminal penalties and might owe more than \$325,000 in restitution. Heuhs faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison. The IRS informed him during an audit that he mischaracterized personal expenses as business expenses and failed to report certain income in his personal tax returns, court documents said.

The impending trial of Reese Hammie, 23, who is accused of killing MSU student Oghenevwede (Wede) Okagbare (pictured), has been delayed again. No reason was reported for the rescheduling to May 12 of the Jan. 13 trial date in Livingston County's 44th Circuit Court. The court had scheduled it initially for last September. Hammie was charged with first-degree home invasion and domestic violence last Aug. 11, the same day Okagbare was killed. The home invasion and domestic violence charges were for a separate incident that occurred Aug. 1. Then he was charged Sept. 6 with one count of open murder and one count of witness bribing/intimidating/interfering. The court is trying the two cases together despite their being separate incidents.



Public safety

Lansing police have identified Deandre Luckey, 36, as the man fatally shot on the 900 block of Belle Chase Boulevard in south Lansing Dec. 29. The second victim, a 25-year-old man, was expected to survive. Police have not reported why they waited to release Luckey's name nor have identified any suspects.



1114 Camp St., Lansing

Ingham County foreclosed on this 792-square-foot, two-bedroom home near Old Town in February 2023 following a history of noncompliance by a handful of successive owners. Notably, it was red-tagged for safety concerns in 2017 and went on to be boarded up twice in 2021 and again in 2022 and 2023. After failing to sell in the county's 2023 auction, Nathan Wood's RENT 2 U LLC bought it at last October's county auction as part of a three-property deal that also included 2023 W. Malcolm X St. and 309 E. Potter Ave., Ingham County Treasurer Alan Fox said. Fox added that all three "are in pretty bad shape," which led them to not sell originally, but he has hopes that Wood and his company are able to turn them around. According to the Assessor's Office, RENT 2 U LLC doesn't own any other city properties, meaning their focus could very well be set on restoring all three. Efforts to contact RENT 2 U LLC were unsuccessful.

TYLER SCHNEIDER

"Eyesore of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Public Art, by Bill Castanier. Have a suggestion? Email eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call in a nomination at 517-999-5061.

LET'S BOOGIE! Bob Baldori & David Small



The unfortunate result of the last presidential election, which essentially ends the U.S. experiment in democratic governance — at least temporarily, if not permanently — is now crashing down on the electorate. Despite disingenuous denials, Bozo's administration is moving full steam ahead to implement Project 2025, the Heritage Foundation's fascist blueprint for an autocratic state. Project 2025's largest publication, "Mandate For Leadership," is a 900-page manual for reorganizing the entire federal government agency by agency to serve a conservative and fundamentally fascist agenda.

A part of this effort is a desperate and ongoing attempt to demonize the word "liberal." The wing-nut propagandists have now expanded their branding efforts to marginalize anything close to progressive policy.

A new phrase has worked its way into the wing-nut lexicon. The Heritage Foundation has coined "dangerously liberal!!!" as a promising epithet to describe anything resembling a progressive or equitable legislative agenda. As a general overview, when addressing the question of what is good for the country, anything that doesn't result in wealth transfer to the super rich is now deemed "dangerously liberal."

A list of dangerously liberal positions is posted on the Heritage Foundation website.

One example: Any governmental effort to expand voter registration and participation in what used to be our democracy is deemed dangerous.

Another example: Any effort by the federal government to protect a woman's right to make decisions about her reproductive health is dangerous. The Heritage Foundation, through one of its propagandists, whines that the government used "spurious legal arguments" to keep Idaho from restricting abortions in emergency situations. In that case, however, the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 against Idaho, confirming the government's position in that "spurious" effort. Surprise! There is no mention of the Supreme Court decision on the Heritage Foundation site.

Any advocacy in support of Social Security, freedom of choice, equitable tax laws, sane immigration laws, support for workers and the middle class, support for affordable education, "dangerously 'woke' DEI," medical insurance and much more — all dangerously liberal!

Everyone of these issues can be examined in light of a single question: "What is good for people?" Using that benchmark, the Heritage Foundation consistently comes to the conclusion that anything that is good for people is "dangerously liberal."

(The Boogie Kings is an e-newsletter written by Bob Baldori, with art by David Small. The Boogie Kings Newsletter is published several times a week. To subscribe, go to theboogiekings.substack.com.)

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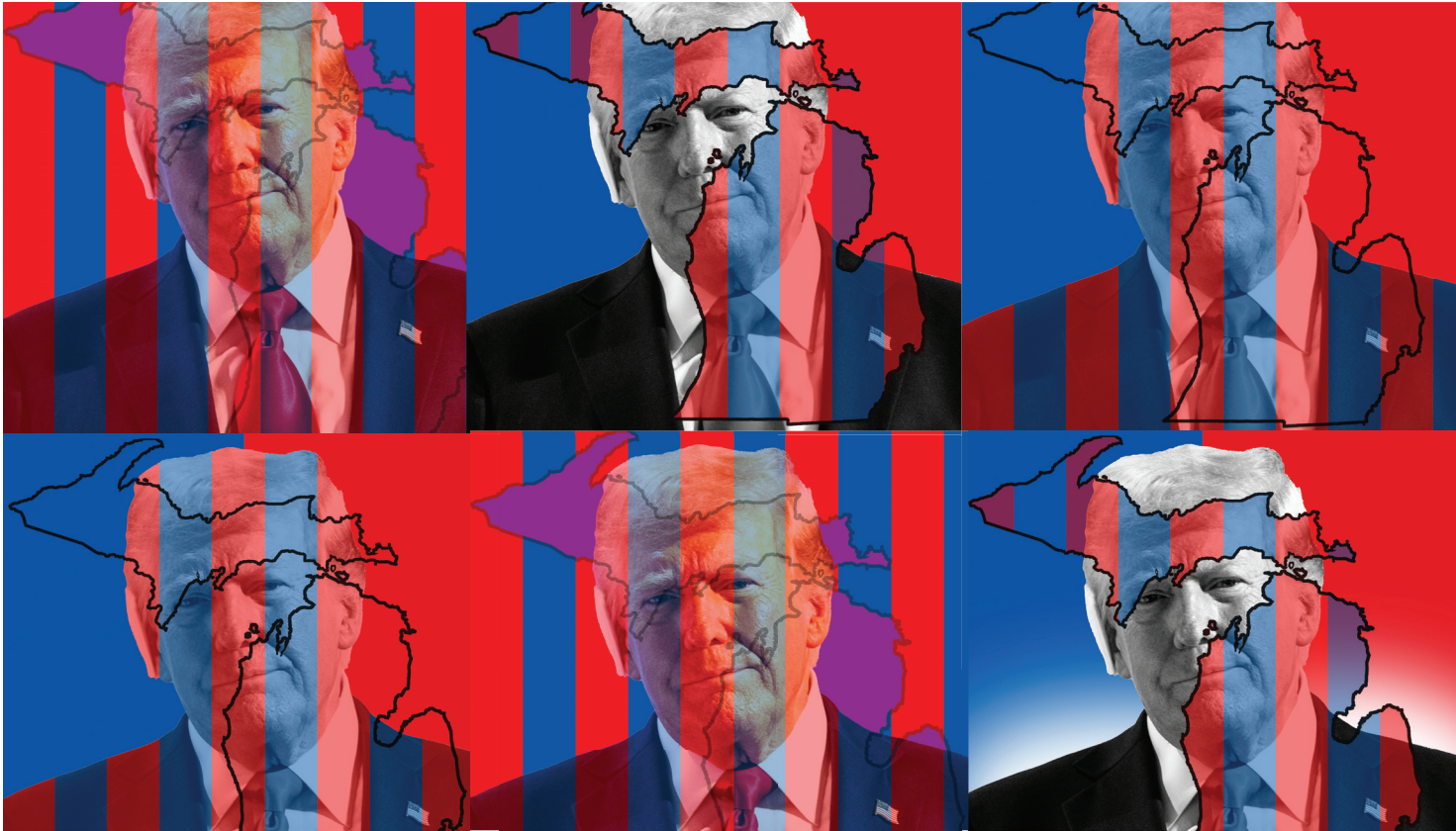
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Trump Is back, Michigan — and it's not the same thing

By **KYLE MELINN**

The man is back in town.

President-elect Donald Trump returns to Washington, D.C., Monday to be inaugurated, but in Michigan everything feels much different from the first time this happened.

Sure, the mechanics of transitioning to a new administration are happening. Biden appointees like Michigan's two U.S. attorneys — Dawn Ison and Mark Totten — are stepping down before the swearing-in.

Michigan people like former U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra are being appointed by Trump.

Hoekstra is stepping down as state Republican Party chair after Trump tapped him to be ambassador to Canada.

But this isn't 2017.

When Trump first took the keys to the Oval Office, the protests were all over the place. Remember Gretchen Whitmer launching her gubernatorial run from the Capitol steps in front of the largest state Capitol protest in modern history?

"If we stick together and if we fight, we can be a force of nature that no one can stop," she roared at the time.

Now, Whitmer is reaching out through back channels to work with the guy, she conceded on WKAR's "Evening with the Governor" last week.

She's not alone in changing her tune. The outrage in 2016-'17 has simmered to about nothing publicly, at least in Michigan. The pushback is "strangely muted," said Bill Ballenger of The Ballenger Report.

The election results were different, of course. Trump won the popular vote nationally in 2024, not just in Michigan.

After the billions of dollars spent against the Republican nominee, Trump still won Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. The Democrats needed all three to retain the White House. They didn't get any.

He's now the "Grover Cleveland" of the 21st century, said Ballenger. He's only the second president to be elected to two non-consecutive terms.

And, yet, the difference is striking.

In 2016-'17, Democrats had what Ballenger called "Trump Derangement Syndrome." It's all they could talk about.

This year, the pink "pussy hats" remain in storage. Democrats are yelping about Trump's questionable appointments. About Trump, personally? The president is drawing national leaders to his inaugural.

Now the grumbling feels more internal. What gives?

To this, Mark Grebner of Practical Political Data quoted philosopher Karl Marx, who wrote, "History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as a farce."

"It doesn't mean that the second time was less tragic, but only that our ability to appreciate the tragedy has been exhausted," he said. "So, the natural reaction to a second Trump term is to accept it as fate's sick joke on all of us."

Grebner, a Democrat and longtime Ingham County commissioner, is admittedly not a fan. Someone who is, conservative journalist James David Dickson, has a different take.

He said Trump was an unknown commodity to a lot of people in 2017.

Now, he's got a record. It's a record that's been exaggerated, again and again, he said. Beating at it through more protest or public outcry would be, politically, an act of futility.

"A lot of the anti-Trump fervor was fake news or things that didn't happen," said Dickson, who hosts Michigan's Enjoyer Podcast. "You saw how Barack Obama reacted to Donald Trump at Jimmy Carter's funeral. Obama commented in the campaign that he thought Trump was the end of democracy — and now we saw him sit next to the guy and joke around with him."

For Democrats, it can't be about Trump

Democrats already have a challenge in keeping the governor's position in 2026. Since the Great Depression, Republican and Democratic candidates have routinely traded the position.

With Whitmer being term-limited in 2026 and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan running for the office as an independent, the eventual Democratic nominee will have a challenge winning a plurality of voters.

If the Democratic nominee wants to use Trump as a foil, history will show it to be a failing strategy, said Katie Jesaitis of Bellwether Public Relations. Jesaitis was a longtime aide to Democratic Congresswoman Debbie Dingell.

Dems need to focus on what they're doing to support voters, she said. Why are people feeling disenfranchised, economically stifled, unsupported within their own communities and unprepared for their futures?

What, Jesaitis stressed, are they doing to reach and support those voters? What policies are needed to solve these problems? Which individuals can best address these challenges while motivating voters to trust their solutions?

"Once Democrats can answer these questions, they can win back their base, and more of the middle," she said.

Focusing only on Michigan counties, Trump in 2020 won 74 of Michigan's 83 counties. In 2016, he won 75. This is more than any presidential candidate from either party since Ronald Reagan's 1984 landslide.

Someone who watched Democrats attack Trump relentlessly for nine years is Republican strategist Jason Cabel Roe. Most recently, Roe worked to get Tom Barrett elected to Congress.

He said people are desensitized to Trump-bashing. They internally pivot from the Trump attacks to their

See Trump, Page 12



Bill Ballenger



Mark Grebner



James David Dickson



Katie Jesaitus



Jason Cabel Roe

Trump

from page 11

own personal lives.

The government is asking more of them, while doing less. All the while, the cost of living is eating up take-home income, while “progressive politicians focus on irrelevant issues at the expense of kitchen table issues.”

“A few Democrats have pulled their heads out of their asses, but most are still enjoying the fragrance of their flatulence,” Roe said.

In Michigan, the race to succeed Democratic Party Chair Lavora Barnes is coming down to three people. The frontrunner is former state Senate Curtis Hertel Jr.

Having lost the 7th Congressional District race in 2024, Hertel knows firsthand that Democrats fixate on Trump to their own peril.

“We have fallen into the trap about Donald Trump,” he said. “We are a party of working people and have to get back to a working people message.”

Democrats must be ready to push back when “terrible things happen,” but they can’t make their entire agenda on what Trump does or doesn’t do in the White House, he added.

Does Donald Trump make the job of the next Democratic Party chair easier or harder?

Historically speaking, it should be

easier.

A second-term president nearly always faces bad news in the midterm election, according to Brookings Institution research. For more than 150 years, until 1998, no second-term president’s party had gained seats in either the House or Senate at the midterm election.

Clinton broke this string in 1998 when Democrats picked up five House seats. The Senate numbers did not change. Keep in mind, though, that Clinton’s party lost so badly in 1994 that there was less to lose, and the impeachment and trial of the president rallied what might otherwise have been a divided Democratic Party.

“Whether it’s harder or easier will come to pass at some point,” Hertel said. “We shouldn’t be counting on anything other than our own work.”

This past week, Hertel scored the AFL-CIO endorsement, putting him in a prime position to be elected to succeed Barnes at the Feb. 22 convention.

He does have as an opponent in MDP Rural Caucus Chair Mark Ludwig, who said Trump is still a topic of conversation wherever he goes.

Trump’s choices for defense secretary, Pete Hegseth; education secretary, Linda McMahon; and national intelligence director, Tulsi Gabbard, are “breathhtakingly crazy,” Ludwig said.

“You don’t know where it’s going to go, but you know it’s nowhere good,” he said.

Will Trump Part 2 be trying to pivot toward actual governing — which Trump Part 1 wasn’t particularly good at — Ludwig said, or more bomb throwing?

Ultimately, he sees the Democratic Party “suing the dickens out of the Trump administration” and keeping the base motivated all the while.

Internal squabbles come with political parties, Ludwig conceded. If nothing else, Trump gives Democrats something they can always agree on.

“There’s always plenty of material to work with all of the time. We’ll just have to see what Donald Trump we’re getting this week,” he said.

The third Michigan Democratic Party chair candidate is Detroit community organizer Al “BJ” Williams.

For Republicans, it’s all about Trump

Last week, four well-known Michigan Republicans made their pitch in front of some activists in Frankenmuth. Why are they the best choice for party next chair after Hoekstra leaves for Canada?

None of four candidates — now, anyway — have Trump’s endorsement. It’s not certain Trump’s support would earn them a victory, anyway. It did not work out for Matt DePerno in 2022.

Still, each one went out of the way to espouse their Trump bonafides.

We had MeShawn Maddock, a ground-floor resident of the 2016 Trump movement in Michigan, who said “celebrating President Trump’s first 100 days is going to be a big part of my administration.”

Joe Cella, whom Trump named U.S. ambassador to Fiji in 2019, said, “We have to be steeled with resolve to advance the American First and Michigan First policies.”

Scott Greenlee is a political consultant who has had around 100 winning campaigns (and some losing ones, too) dating back to the early 1980s. He said Trump’s 2016 campaign was the most important election he’s worked on. Cella agreed with him on that.

State Sen. Jim Runestad, of Oakland County, didn’t say Trump ’16 was the most important race he’s ever work on. Trump ’24 was.

“I thought, ‘If we don’t win this, we’re toast. I honestly believe that if we had

not won this, there would not be a United States of America. They would flood this country with another 40-50 million people who have no loyalty to this country, and that would be the end.”

During the hour forum, Trump’s name was uttered 35 times — more than once every two minutes.

The Trump legacy

Yes, Trump has been at least the titular head of the Republican Party since his nomination in 2016, but his authority feels more complete in 2024. Nobody internally is disputing it anymore. No one is fighting it.

After winning a second term, Trump is approaching rarified air among Republicans — the kind belonging to conservative icon Ronald Reagan.

“I think Trump is already there,” said Dickson, the conservative journalist and Michigan Capitol Confidential alum. “I think Reagan didn’t face the adversities that Trump has. They both got the assassin’s bullet. Both had the other party line up against him.”

“But look at Jimmy Carter’s funeral. You had the Bush legacy and the Clinton legacy and the Obama legacy and the Biden legacy. They were all there. Trump ended them all by his lonesome.”

“And look at the sacrifices he’s made. This is a New York billionaire. He’s been black-tie since the 1970s. He’s going to be making less money than he ever has, and he’s having the least amount of fun he’s ever had, and he’s doing it for service.”

How long will this influence last?

Remember, Trump has never done well carrying anybody but himself into the winner’s circle in Michigan when he’s not on the ballot.

Republicans took a bath in 2018. They lost every single statewide race and control of both chamber of the Legislature in 2022.

So, yes, the GOP is more unified than ever in their praise of the man. Once a divisive figure in GOP politics, Trump has — some would argue — become the Republican Party.

His oft-repeated “Make America Great Again” slogan has already been lifted by the GOP gubernatorial candidate in the 2026 field, state Senate Mi-

See Trump, Page 13

Check out the ART!

Beat the winter blues with a visit to Okemos Library's Event Room to see unique and interesting artwork by members of the Lansing Women Artists Collective, a small group of local women artists who exhibit work in local galleries, theaters, libraries and businesses to make it more accessible to the public for viewing and purchase. The artwork — watercolor, acrylic, collage, fiber, mixed media and photography — will be on display through February.



Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos.
Mon.-Fri.: 9am-8pm; Sat.: 9am-7pm; Sun:12-6pm.
Phone: 517.347.2021

LWAC is also displaying artwork at the Robin Theater in REO Town and the Lansing Neighborhood Empowerment Center near Old Town.



MeShawn Maddock and Donald Trump



Joe Cella

Trump

from page 12

nority Leader Aric Nesbitt, who closed his announcement email with a pledge to “Make Michigan Great Again.”

Having any prominent state officials in the Trump era, though, is something Michigan has lacked.

In other battleground states like Georgia or Arizona, Republicans were able to see victories in off-year elections. Not so in Michigan.

“The 2018 election decimated the leadership of our party and Trump maintained a very loyal following among the grassroots,” Roe said. “There was no alternative voice to Trump in our party.”

Voices from the traditional wing of the Republican Party have long been shouted down. The Republicans’ former presidential candidates — George W. Bush, Mitt Romney, John McCain until his death — have wanted nothing to do with Trump.

Bush’s vice president, Dick Cheney, went as far as to say he was voting for Kamala Harris last year.

Anyone who has wanted to stay in Republican politics has had little choice than jumping on the Trump train.

“There were plenty of reasonable, well-meaning Republican elected officials who chose to step back or no longer pursue office when they realized that standing in lockstep with Trump’s Republican Party would undermine the morals and values they had pushed for so many years,” said Jesaitis.



Curtis Hertel Jr.



Mark Ludwig



Scott Greenlee



Jim Runestad

“Now the party, devoid of those beacons, has to move forward in a new direction. At this point, I don’t see those disaffected Republicans represented in the party in any kind of significant way.”

And, yet, Trump’s legacy, among Republicans, may end up rivaling that of Reagan, who was held up as the conservative politics’ standard until 2016.

Roe lost his position as the Michigan Republican Party executive director back in 2021 because he didn’t buy into Trump’s unproven claims of election fraud.

Yet, he said he understands that Trump’s popularity within the party over the last 10 years dwarfs that of Reagan’s. Depending on what happens over the next four years, Trump could establish him as a defining icon of the party for years to come.

“Love him or hate him, he’s made his mark.”

Trump has made a mark, but Grebner doesn’t see it as a positive one.

“Reagan guided existing Republican attitudes in ways that were a natural ex-

tension, updating and redefining them,” Grebner said. “It wasn’t a hostile takeover, and looking back 40 years, you never hear Republicans talk about undoing the change he brought about.”

“Trump is something else entirely. The fact no previous Republican presidential nominee would even endorse him is amazing. Operating the party as a cult of personality simply can’t continue once that personality becomes unavailable.”

“Trump has destroyed the traditional foundations of the party, and he’s leaving behind a trash-strewn lot defended by a pack of stray dogs. Once he leaves the scene, Republicans are going to find their agenda is set for them: reform and rebuilding.”

Ballenger thinks Trump’s legacy could outlast even Reagan’s if the Republicans can cement their incursions into the working class and minority groups from 2025 to ‘28.

“If someone like, say, JD Vance or Marco Rubio can carry the Trump leg-

acy forward and articulate the Trump message effectively and charismatically, they are positioning the GOP for long-term success.”

Asked specifically if Trump’s legacy will rival Reagan’s, Jesaitis said:

“Ronald Reagan was the mold from which all Republicans sought to cast themselves from the 1980s until 2016. What Trump and the MAGA movement has done to the Republican Party has nearly replaced the legacy of the Reagan conservative movement from the party.”

“Ronald Reagan’s landslide victory changed the makeup of this country within Congress that still persists today. Donald Trump created a divide within the Republican Party that may similarly fester for decades. For Republicans, Trump’s strongest legacy will not be a positive one of economic power, international prowess or domestic strength.

“It will likely be a negative one that leans into the continual fracturing of the Republican Party and national unity, more than anything.”



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The dream marches on

Annual events in Lansing and East Lansing commemorate Martin Luther King Jr.

By NICOLE NOECHEL

Martin Luther King Jr. is lauded as one of the most influential figures in American history — so much so that his birthday is honored each year with a holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, on the third Monday of January. Both Michigan State University and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan hold annual events in celebration of the holiday, inviting community members to gather and commemorate the nonviolent civil rights icon and Baptist minister's monumental life and legacy. For more information on this year's events, which begin Thursday (Jan. 16) and run through Jan. 24, read on.

Michigan State University

As always, MSU will offer a week-long series of events in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, kicking off with its annual Community Unity Dinner, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Thursday (Jan. 16) at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. The free event will feature a dinner buffet; musical performances; a keynote address by Sharon Chia Claros, a diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging practitioner and scholar who works with educational institutions; and additional speeches by MSU President Kevin M. Guskiewicz, MSU Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Jabbar R. Bennett and graduate and undergraduate students, including Dreux Baker, MLK Planning Committee co-chair and assistant director for diversity, equity and inclusion at MSU's Residence Education and Housing Services. The event is sold out, but interested parties can join the waitlist at go.msu.edu/mlkrsvp.

The celebration continues with a free wellness event Friday evening (Jan. 17) at IM East Fitness Center, featuring family roller skating from 5 to 7 p.m., an informational health and wellness fair from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and late-night skating from 8 p.m. to midnight. Skates will be provided, as will food and giveaways.

Participants must register by tonight (Jan. 15) at msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2f2K8psLvscuCa for the MLK Student Symposium, which runs from 2:45 to 6:45 p.m. Saturday (Jan. 18) at the MSU Union. Limited to students, the peer-led event will offer keynote speakers and presentations, live entertainment, a campus resource



Courtesy photo

Bernard LaFayette Jr., a minister, educator, lecturer and prominent civil rights leader of the mid-20th century, will deliver the keynote address at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan's 40th annual Day of Celebration luncheon on Monday (Jan. 20).

fair and a soul-food dinner. It aims to “empower students to raise their voices and advocate for themselves on critical issues faced while attending a predominantly white institution” encouraging attendees “to take ownership of their narratives and push for a more inclusive campus environment.”

Sunday (Jan. 19) will begin with an ecumenical service at 1:30 p.m. at the Alumni Memorial Chapel. The program will feature a speaker from campus ministry Truth Seekers and a performance by the MSU Gospel Choir, followed by a soul-food reception. Later, at 3 p.m., the College of Music will host its annual “Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest” concert at the Fairchild Theatre. In honor of King's “I Have a Dream” speech, Jazz Orchestra I, alongside College of Music jazz vocalists and alumni, will perform music inspired by King's messages of equality and justice for all. Selections will include songs by renowned jazz artists who were active during the civil rights era, such as Pharaoh Sand-

ers, Gary McFarland, Abbey Lincoln, Billie Holiday and Arthur Herzog Jr., as well as more contemporary artists who carry on the legacy of using music as a platform for social change, like Lauryn Hill, Stevie Wonder, Nickolas Ashford and Valerie Simpson. The event is free, but tickets are required. They can be reserved by calling (517) 353-5340 or at the College of Music's main office in the Music Building from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. Remaining tickets will be available at the door.

Monday (Jan. 20) will bring the MLK Commemorative March, beginning at 8:45 a.m. at Beaumont Tower and ending at the new Multicultural Center. The College of Music will also hold a free Martin Luther King Jr. Day carillon recital at noon at Beaumont Tower.

The week will end with a smattering of events from Tuesday (Jan. 21) through Jan. 24, including a screening of the documentary “Fannie Lou Hamer's America” at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday (Jan. 21) at the Main Library; a lecture by Shon-

dra L. Marshall, director of the Michigan Public Health Institute's Center for Racial and Social Justice, at 6 p.m. Jan. 23 at Conrad Hall; and a virtual tour of landmarks in Atlanta related to King's life and work at 11 a.m. Jan. 24, which can be attended in person at the Clara Bell Smith Center or via Zoom.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan

Bernard LaFayette Jr., a minister, educator, lecturer and prominent civil rights leader of the mid-20th century, will deliver the keynote address at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan's 40th annual Day of Celebration luncheon, beginning at 11 a.m. Monday (Jan. 20) at the Lansing Center. The theme of this year's event is one of King's most famous quotes: “I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”

LaFayette is a co-founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which held sit-ins to desegregate lunch counters in Nashville, Tennessee. He participated in the 1961 Freedom Rides to challenge segregation in interstate bus travel, facing violence and arrest. He played a crucial role in registering voters and leading nonviolent demonstrations during the voting rights movement in Selma, Alabama, helping pave the way for the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He also served as the national coordinator of King's 1968 Poor People's Campaign, which sought to address economic inequality.

“LaFayette embodies the principles of courage, resilience and nonviolence that defined the civil rights movement,” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan chair Elaine Hardy said. “His voice and vision are exactly what we need as we commemorate 40 incredible years of this event and recommit ourselves to the ongoing work of building a just and equitable society.”

The luncheon will also feature live music, including a performance by the Detroit Youth Choir. Tickets are sold out, but interested attendees can sign up for email or text alerts at mlkmid-michigan.com/tickets to be notified if any become available.

Playful chaos transpires in Riverwalk Theatre's 'Lustful Youth'

By **DANA DEMINK**

For anyone who took an introduction to theater class in college, Riverwalk Theatre's production of "Lustful Youth" will feel like déjà vu. In such a class, when you aren't rehearsing your first monologue — or watching someone else rehearse their monologue — you're playing theater games. The games are a great way for theater newbies to try out vocal techniques, brainstorm, problem solve, practice body awareness and loosen up. Many of the games involve improvisation and mimicking movements.



Review

For the first 10 minutes of Riverwalk's rollicking farce, my left brain thought, "What the actual hell is happening? Are they making this up as they go along? Why is Tony (Lewis Elson) channeling a villain from a Guy Ritchie movie? Why is Carl (Quinn Kelly) acting like a menacing Curly from the Three Stooges? Why are they forcing Walt (TJ Kelly), a TV statistician, to write a soap opera if

he's not actually a writer? Why does a goth pirate queen live in a middle-class neighborhood? Why does a grown professional have an imaginary friend?"

Luckily, my right brain won out. "Forget it," it told me. "It doesn't matter. Just sit back and give in to the absurdity." For 90 confusing, hilarious minutes, I was once again a college student, watching my fellow classmates play improv games.

Given the personal history between the director, Kait Wilson, and the playwright, Mike Eserkalm, that improvisational feeling makes perfect sense. Wilson met Eserkalm in 2010, when she joined his improv club, Comedy City, in De Pere, Wisconsin. They worked together to develop sketch-comedy vignettes and original plays and musicals. Wilson had seen a production of "Lustful Youth" a few years ago, and the two conspired to bring the production to Lansing. The story revolves around the creation of a TV soap opera, and the product place-

ments in the fictional soap opera script allowed Wilson to add a few nods to local businesses, such as Quality Dairy and Red Cedar Spirits.

This "meta-comedy" is a playground for its tremendously talented six-person cast. With the exception of TJ Kelly, all the cast members play two characters — although Kelly's golden mullet never stops moving and could almost be the seventh actor. Given the physical nature of the comedy — the slaps, falls and soap-opera-style "down-and-dirty moments" — Wilson brought in a fight choreographer and an intimacy coordinator to help the actors get comfortable with the physicality of their roles. The attention to the physical aspect of this farce has paid off: The cast members looked like they've been energetically rehearsing for a Three Stooges movie their entire lives.

I was on the edge of my seat, waiting



Photo by Ariniko O'Meara

From left: Quinn Kelly as Jake II, TJ Kelly as Walt and Lewis Elson as Jake I in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "Lustful Youth."

to see what this wild production had in store. Speaking of seating, this production is in Riverwalk's Black Box theater, which has an experimental vibe to it. It's a proscenium stage, and the audience sits quite close to the action. My recommendation would be to get there early to avoid sitting in the first row on stage right (across from the bar). You might get spit on — I'm not joking. As the announcer says at the start of production, "Enjoy the show — and try to keep up."

Historian says Civil War stories can 'help to draw us together'

By **BILL CASTANIER**



Courtesy photo

Plymouth Township-based author and Civil War historian Jack Dempsey said he can trace his interest in the war to when he was 3 years old and was boosted up onto a monument of Stonewall Jackson at Manassas National Battlefield Park for a photograph.

Plymouth Township-based author and historian Jack Dempsey has written 10 books, seven of them on the Civil War.

Dempsey said he can trace his interest in the war to when he was 3 years old and was boosted up onto a monument of Stonewall Jackson at Manassas National Battlefield Park for a photograph.

"By the third grade, I was entranced by the history of the Civil War," he said.

That interest only ramped up during the centennial anniversary of the war, which the country celebrated from 1961 to 1965. Kids across the nation celebrated by donning Union and Confederate caps, depending on their allegiance and, of course, geography.

In his undergraduate years at Michigan State University, Dempsey took classes under Professor Frederick D. Williams,

a historian and author of "Michigan Soldiers in the Civil War." While pursuing a law degree at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., Dempsey's interest continued to blossom.

"Because of the location, I was able to travel to nearby Civil War battlefields and parks," he said.

When middle age snuck up on Dempsey, he said he asked himself, "What do I want to do now?" For him, the answer was simple: "Dig into the history of the Civil War."

The author points to the rise of the internet and digitization as a boon to Civil

War research.

"I can sit at my desk and access sources like the New York Public Library, the Library of Congress and Newspapers.com," he said. "In fact, the best part of writing is the research." He laughed about going down "rabbit holes," which are every writer's bane.

He was particularly interested in Michigan's role in the Civil War. About 10 years ago, he visited Elmwood Cemetery in Detroit, where numerous Civil War soldiers are buried.

See Books, Page 16

State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent's Estate, Case No. 25-044-DE, Estate of Leslee Marlene Thompson, Date of Birth: 11/9/1944. Notice to Creditors: The decedent, Leslee Marlene Thompson, died 12/24/2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Michelle R. Thompson or Melissa R. Nichols, personal representatives, or to both the probate court at 313 West Kalamazoo Ave., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, Jan. 15, 2024. Attorney: Daniel E. Nickerson, Jr., P36294, 4116 Harbour Cove, Lansing, MI 48911, 517-927-3173. Rep.: Michelle R. Thompson or Melissa R. Nichols, 4223 Bond Ave., Holt, MI 48843, 517-281-3079.

CP#25-008

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Zephyrs, zephyrs and more zephyrs

LSO serves up a spring picnic, with a cream horn for dessert

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

“How did they do that?” You don’t often get to experience Harry Houdini-level bafflement at a symphony performance, but the world premiere of a cleverly crafted three-part work by Lansing Symphony Orchestra composer-in-residence Jared Miller left many listeners in pleasurable puzzlement at the LSO’s Masterworks concert Friday evening (Jan. 10).

A weird whooshing sound wafted from the stage in the music’s final moments — the most striking in a string of off-kilter (but on-point) effects deployed by Miller to stretch the classical-sized orchestra into fresh and stimulating realms of sound. The wind seemed to come from everywhere, but it was over too fast to scan the stage for the guilty zephyrs, and alas, you can’t freeze a frame or press “reverse” at a live concert.

In three quick movements, “Teaser-Feature-Pleaser” belied its lightweight title and built an absorbing and logical world of sound, starting with a hushed air of tension, adding exquisitely etched, small-scale details and daring to suspend time with quiet, ambient pulsations and precisely timed pauses. Miller reached deep into his bag of tricks to combine conventionally appealing solo and section work with special effects that enhanced the experience but never broke the spell, including uncanny echoes, glassy harmonics and long, lubricious

slides up and down the scale.

In the last part of the piece, the music semi-coalesced into tantalizing chunks, including a snippet from Chopin and a horn melody from Edward Elgar’s “Enigma Variations,” a nice nod to the horn concerto coming up later in the program. Was this Miller’s idea of composer heaven? Those mysterious, whooshing zephyrs at the end whisked away any chance for further speculation.

An exquisite but little-known suite by Ottorino Respighi, “Three Botticelli Pictures,” proved to be the perfect follow-up to Miller’s delicately etched

Review

trilogy. It started off breathlessly, as if the musicians were dying to whisper something soft and sweet in your ear. Yay, more zephyrs! Spring is coming! You could almost smell the violets when the orchestra brought the first of the three paintings, “Spring,” to life with a flurry of feathery fluttering from the strings and glittery, silvery splashes of iridescent color from the winds and harp. The feeling of a forest in the midst of a tender April awakening was a comfort and a half in icy mid-January. All the sections of the orchestra took turns cradling a charming, ancient-sounding dance tune with a rustic, mushroomy scent.

The next part of the suite brought the delicate beauty of a Botticelli nativity scene to life, easing gently into a lovely hymn, familiar to many as the Christmas tune “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” Respighi’s songful treatment gave the wind

players a chance to murmur, whisper and sing their hearts out — one by one and all together — with medieval fervor and maternal warmth.

This was not an orchestral eruption meant to pound you into the ground, as you would get from Beethoven or Tchaikovsky. The hush in the hall was uncanny. No cell phones dared to ring; no throats dared to cough. The earthy tones of principal bassoonist Michael Kroth curled through the tender scene like a tree root.

With so much beauty everywhere, it was only fitting that the third picture of the suite, “The Birth of Venus,” completely surrendered to rapture. The string players seemed to float 20 feet in the air as they unfurled an aurora borealis of sound, undulating curtains of light that slipped away quietly, leaving you rapt with ecstasy and wanting more — just what you’d expect from Venus.

Friday’s concert had the intimate feeling of a chamber performance, complete with convivial conversation and happy faces at intermission, but the superlative Miller and Respighi performances were a tough act to follow. Usually, when maestro Timothy Muffitt and the orchestra delve into the delicate delights of the classical era, they pack muscle and sinew under the velvet. Friday’s oddly flaccid reading of Joseph Haydn’s Symphony No. 43, “Mercury,” was all velvet and no sinew. Haydn’s ritual gestures didn’t seem to interest the musicians as much



Photo by Olivia Beebe/courtesy Lansing Symphony

At the Lansing Symphony Orchestra’s Friday evening (Jan. 10) Masterworks concert, principal horn player Corbin Wagner (left) made performing Richard Strauss’ Horn Concerto No. 2 look easy.

as the new and unfamiliar music they played in the first half.

But any lingering somnolence was dissipated by the clarion call of the LSO’s principal horn player, Corbin Wagner, as he leaped without ceremony into the opening fanfare of the night’s closer, Richard Strauss’ Horn Concerto No. 2. Assuming a workmanlike, almost insouciant stance, Wagner made it look easy, but if you closed your eyes, you could better appreciate the mercurial swiftness and spot-on tonality of his golden sound.

At the end of the concerto, the two horn players in the back row stood up and blew as if bugling for their wayward fellow elk at the front of the stage to rejoin the herd, bringing the night to a stupendous, stampeding conclusion.

Books

from page 15

“The gravesites provide a three-dimensional reality for me and are very moving,” he said.

While at the cemetery, he discovered the grave of William Dollarson and recognized the name from a letter he had previously come across. It was written by “Michigan’s premier figure in the antebellum era,” Alpheus Williams, who was a brigadier general in the Union Army during the war.

Dempsey was curious about Dollarson’s role in the war, and that curiosity continued for years.

When the Michigan Civil War Association began publishing books based on often-obscure sources like letters, journals, diaries and ephemera, Dempsey

decided to integrate Dollarson’s story into the third book in the series, called “Warriors for Liberty.”

“The hardest thing about writing the book was finding source material,” Dempsey said. “And I hope that this is not the final word on him.”

Williams had called on Dollarson to join his staff as a chef, one of the many skills Dollarson had learned after escaping slavery in Louisiana. Dempsey learned another of the skills was shepherding escaped slaves as part of Detroit’s robust Underground Railroad network.

“One of the things that attracted me to Dollarson’s war service was his courage,” Dempsey said.

Here was a former slave returning to service in the Deep South, which would put him in a precarious position.

“Even his fellow soldiers encouraged

him to return to Detroit, for they feared he could be captured and returned to slavery,” Dempsey said.

One story Dempsey retells in the book is Dollarson’s refusal to whip another slave, a woman, for his master and how that led to his escape.

Dempsey also relates the feelings he had when standing at the graves of William, who is not designated as a Civil War veteran, and his wife, Maria: “The observer cannot help, standing graveside, possessing the knowledge about the role of the liberator played by William and supported by his wife, to be drawn to a knee, or both knees if physically able, in awe and appreciation for the courage, sacrifice and love represented in those names.”

Dempsey said stories of individuals like Dollarson “help to draw us together as a society” across political divides.



Courtesy photo

Dempsey has written 10 books, seven of them on the Civil War. His most recent is “Warriors for Liberty,” which tells the story of African Americans from Michigan who played critical roles in the war, like William Dollarson, who escaped slavery to become an Underground Railroad conductor and staff member for Union Gen. Alpheus Williams.

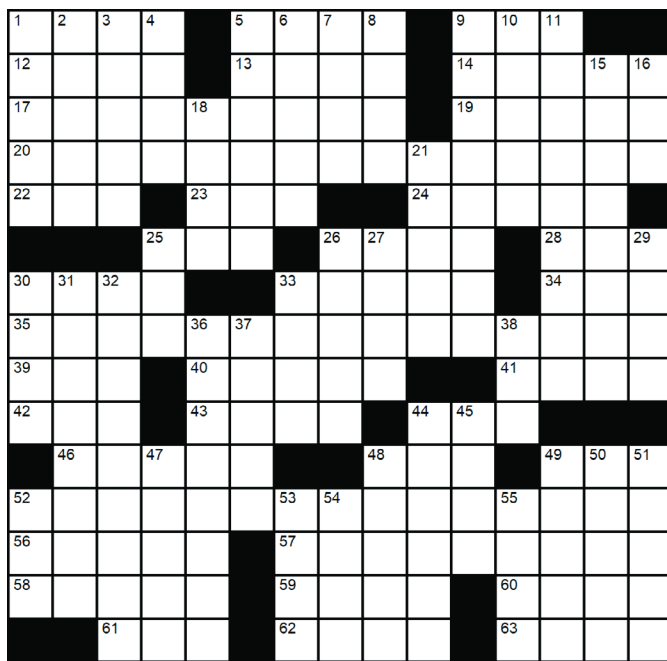
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“Welcome to 2025” -- it's 3x15, squared. by Matt Jones © 2025 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- Short but not sweet
- Heavenly ring
- Nice name?
- Miami University location
- Dry as a bone
- Totally mad
- Country that's officially the “Most Serene Republic”
- Former small iPods
- MM
- Stadium cheer
- The whole thing
- “No Hard Feelings” band The Brothers
- Initials for home projects
- Band known for elaborate videos
- Thurston Howell ___ of “Gilligan’s Island”
- Segment between “Eat” and “Love”
- Bird warble
- Voice actor Blanc
- XX
- ___ carte
- “The Jungle” novelist Sinclair
- “American Fiction” actress Rae
- 35mm camera initials
- “Luck ___ my side”
- Animation collectible
- Arizona State University locale
- Title bestowed on Stephen Fry in 2025



- On vacation
- V
- No longer minor
- 2013 disaster film portmanteau
- “The Color Purple” protagonist
- “Dallas Buyers Club” Oscar winner Jared
- Of majestic proportions
- Road repair stuff
- Wilson of “Cars”
- “Peter Pan” pixie nickname
- World” singer
- Suffix for Earth or finger
- Air freshener target
- Battery for smoke detectors
- Deliver a lecture
- Not just once
- Places for big-name players
- Point opposite WNW
- Smoothie superfruit
- Bird on a quarter
- Color-changing substance
- “Citizen Kane” director Welles
- Potter’s furnace
- “Casablanca” character
- ’90s handhelds
- University of Alabama cheer
- Subsequently
- Member of the Jackson 5
- One with a way with words
- Peeved
- “Don’t Stop ___ You Get Enough”
- Fruit resembling a lemon
- “CHiPs” costar Estrada
- Presidential daughter of the 2010s
- Play in the NHL
- Giraffe’s stripey relative
- Supplied, as computer data
- Monk’s outfit
- Car wash appliance, for short
- Main port of Norway
- Masticate
- Tech news site once owned by CBS

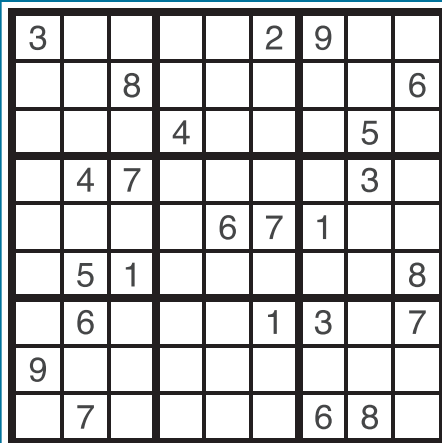
DOWN

- Cocktail with cranberry juice, informally
- Moving van rental company
- Hair care product
- “Children of Blood and Bone” author Adeyemi
- “Not even!”
- “Part of Your

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Answers on page 21

SUDOKU



Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

Jan. 15-21, 2025

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Abdulrazak Gurnah is a Tanzanian-born writer who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 2021. He has also been shortlisted for four other prestigious awards. I find it odd that his acclaimed novels have received mediocre scores on the prominent book-rating website Goodreads, which has 150 million members. Why is there such a marked difference between expert critics and average readers? I speculate that those in the latter category are less likely to appreciate bold, innovative work. They don't have the breadth and depth to properly evaluate genius. All this is my way of encouraging you to be extra discerning about whose opinions you listen to in the coming weeks, Aries — especially in regard to your true value. Trust intelligent people who specialize in thoughtful integrity. You are in a phase when your ripening uniqueness needs to be nurtured and protected.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): “Every joke is a tiny revolution,” said author George Orwell. I agree, which is why I hope you will unleash an unruly abundance of humor and playfulness in the coming days. I hope you will also engage in benevolent mischief that jostles the status quo and gently shakes people out of their trances. Why? Because your world and everyone in it need a sweet, raucous revolution. The best way to accomplish that with minimum chaos and maximum healing is to: 1. do so with kindness and compassion; 2. be amusing and joyful and full of joie de vivre.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Research suggests that if you're typical, you would have to howl with maximum fury for a month straight just to produce enough energy to toast a piece of bread. But you are not at all typical right now. Your wrath is high quality. It's more likely than usual to generate constructive changes. And it's more prone to energize you rather than deplete you. But don't get overconfident in your ability to harness your rage for good causes. Be respectful of its holy potency, and don't squander it on trivial matters. Use it only for crucial prods that would significantly change things for the better.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I invite you to write a message to the person you will be in one year. Inform this future you that you are taking a vow to achieve three specific goals by Jan. 15, 2026. Name these goals. Say why they are so important to you. Describe what actions you will take to fulfill them. Compose collages or draw pictures that convey your excitement about them. When you've done all that, write the words, “I pledge to devote all my powers to accomplish these wonderful feats.” Sign your name. Place your document in an envelope, write “MY VOWS” on the front, and tape the envelope in a prominent place in your home or workplace.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Congratulations on all the subtle and private work you've been doing to make yourself a better candidate for optimal togetherness. Admitting to your need for improvement was brave! Learning more about unselfish cooperation was hard work, and so was boosting your listening skills. (I speak from personal experience, having labored diligently to enhance my own relationship skills!) Very soon now, I expect that you will begin harvesting the results of your artful efforts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Construction on the Great Wall of China began in the 7th century B.C. and lasted until 1878. Let's make this monumental accomplishment your symbol of power for the next 10 months, Virgo! May it inspire you to work tirelessly to forge your own monumental accomplishment. Take pride in the gradual progress you're making. Be ingeniously persistent in engaging the support of those who share your grand vision. Your steady determination, skill at collaborating, and ability to plan will be your superpowers as you create a labor of love that will have enduring power.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): We are all accustomed to

dealing with complications and complexities — so much so that we may be tempted to imagine there's never a simple solution to any dilemma. Copious nuances and mystifying paradoxes surround us on all sides, tempting us to think that every important decision must inevitably be taxing and time-consuming. As someone who specializes in trying to see all sides to every story, I am especially susceptible to these perspectives. (I have three planets in Libra.) But here's the unexpected news: In the coming weeks, you will enjoy the luxury of quickly settling on definitive, straightforward solutions. You will get a sweet respite from relentless fuzziness and ambiguity.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): When my daughter Zoe was 11 years old, she published her first collection of poems. The chapbook's title was “Secret Freedom.” That's a good theme for you to meditate on in the coming weeks. You are currently communing with a fertile mystery that could ultimately liberate you from some of your suffering and limitations. However, it's important to be private and covert about your playful work with this fertile mystery — at least for now. Eventually, when it ripens, there will come a time to fully unleash your beautiful thing and reveal it to the world. But until then, safeguard it with silence and discretion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): From a distance, Brazil's Rio Negro looks black. The water of Rio Solimões, also in Brazil, is yellowish brown. Near the city of Manaus, these two rivers converge, flowing eastward. But they don't blend at first. For a few miles, they move side by side, as if still autonomous. Eventually, they fuse into a single flow and become the mighty Amazon River. I suspect the behavior of Rio Negro and Rio Solimões could serve as a useful metaphor for you in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. Consider the possibility of allowing, even encouraging, two separate streams to merge. Or would you prefer them to remain discrete for a while longer? Make a conscious decision about this matter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): During the next three weeks, doing the same old things and thinking the same old thoughts are strongly discouraged. For the sake of your spiritual and physical health, please do not automatically rely on methods and actions that have worked before. I beg you not to imitate your past self or indulge in worn-out traditions. Sorry to be so extreme, but I really must insist that being bored or boring will be forbidden. Stated more poetically: Shed all weak-heart conceptions and weak-soul intentions. Be of strong heart and robust soul.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Wilderness campers have developed humorous terms to gently mock their fears and anxieties. The theory is that this alleviates some of the stress. So, a “bear burrito” refers to a hammock. It addresses the worry that one might get an unwanted visit from a bear while sleeping. A “bear fortune cookie” is another name for a tent. “Danger noodle” is an apparent stick that turns out to be a snake. “Mountain money” is also known as toilet paper. I approve of this joking approach to dealing with agitation and unease. (And scientific research confirms it's effective.) Now is an excellent time to be creative in finding ways to diminish your mostly needless angst.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you were producing the movie of your life, which actor or actress would you want to portray you? Who would play your friends and loved ones? Who would you choose to perform the role of the supreme being? These will be fun meditations for you in the coming weeks. Why? Because it's an excellent time to think big about your life story — to visualize the vast, sweeping panorama of your beautiful destiny. I would also love it if during your exploration of your history, you would arrive at interesting new interpretations of the meanings of your epic themes.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. 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, Jan. 15

"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.

Al-Anon Meeting - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. cmialanon.org.

Atomic Annie Duo at Dublin Square - 9 p.m. 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2222. [facebook.com/@dublinsquare](https://facebook.com/dublinsquare).

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.

Capital Area Modelers Society Build Night - Work on your latest project, share tips and get to know fellow modelers. 6:30 p.m. Lansing Makers Network, 2730 Alpha Access St., Lansing. capitalareamodelerssociety.org.

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.

Emergency Services - 6 p.m. LSW Emergency Services, 7425 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall food court through April. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

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.

Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle, hosted by Starlight Entertainment - 7:30-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

Kindergarten Craft Club - Kindergarteners can create a paper-plate snow globe! Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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.

Michigan History in Shipwrecks - Join historian Andrew Kercher to examine the past of our Great Lakes State! Shipwrecks tell of the changing nature of shipping on the Great Lakes and the evolution of Michigan from territory to modern times. Ages 12+. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.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. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamcsangha.wordpress.com.

MSU Men's Basketball vs. Penn State University - 7:30 p.m. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

Pop-Up Dinner at Red Haven - Escape the midwinter slump with everyone's favorite Red Haven dinner experience, Dinner in the Dark. Join us for a night of comfort food served by candlelight. Doors 6 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m. 4480 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. eatredhaven.com.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers - Six-week workshop for caregivers. Learn how to reduce stress, communicate effectively, set goals, problem-solve and more! 6 p.m. Virtual — to register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Richard Sherman, flute, with Juan Riveros, harp - Featuring works by Persichetti, Farr, Damase and Alwyn that showcase the expressive interplay between flute and harp. 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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 with Ease - Free exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health. 11:15 a.m. Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Weaving the Web: Grimoire - 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, Jan. 16

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 - 6:45 p.m. Mason Sparrow Urgent Care, 800 E. Columbia St., Mason. cmialanon.org.

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


Arts Council Grant Chat - Discuss your creative ideas with membership and program manager Taylor Haslett! She can provide information on local grant opportunities and assist you in planning applications. 10 a.m.-noon. Hooked, 3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/ArtsCouncilGL.

Charlotte Community Library Board Meeting - The board meets the third Thursday of every month in the library's Spartan Room. 7 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Chipmunk Story Time - Story time comes alive as children interact with puppets Chicory Chipmunk and his animal friends. Stories followed by nature activities and a guided walk. 10 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

Crafty Vibes - Bring your knitting, crochet or any other portable craft project and immerse yourself

Larry & Joe
7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18
The Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington Ave.,
Lansing



Larry & Joe, a Venezuelan-Appalachian folk-fusion duo comprising harpist and asylum-seeking migrant Larry Bellorin and Grammy-nominated bluegrass artist Joe Troop, will head to Lansing for the first time to perform at the Robin Theatre in REO Town 7:30 p.m. Saturday (Jan. 18), presented by the Ten Pound Fiddle.

Troop is a musician, songwriter, political activist and one of the first openly queer voices in bluegrass. His Argentina-based band, Che Apalache, which was nominated for a Grammy in 2020 for best folk album, disbanded the day before the COVID shutdowns took effect. Before meeting Troop, Bellorin was also taking a break from music, working in construction to support his family after migrating to the United States from Venezuela. The pair have been performing together for three years, fusing their respective Venezuelan and Appalachian folk traditions to create their own brand of bilingual folk fusion, played on harp, banjo, cuatro, fiddle, upright electric bass, guitar and maracas. Their live shows also include plenty of storytelling, humor, singalongs and dancing.

"Their virtuosity is jaw-dropping live; they were easily the best music I saw at the Folk Alliance International conference earlier this year," Devon Léger of Folk Alley wrote in 2023. "But more than that, they both take great, transcendent joy in making this music together, and that kind of joy is contagious."

Tickets for Saturday's show are \$25 for the public, \$20 for Fiddle members and \$5 for students. They can be purchased at tenpoundfiddle.org or at the box office beginning at 6:30 p.m. the day of the show. For more information on Larry & Joe, visit larryandjoe.com.

in an evening of creativity, conversation and community. 5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

Darin Larner Jr. at Dublin Square - 9 p.m. 327 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2222. [facebook.com/@dublinsquare](https://facebook.com/dublinsquare).

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

Grand Ledge Community Read - Join community members in reading and discussing "Firekeeper's Daughter," by Angeline Boulley. 7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.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.

Luke Winslow-King at the Robin - Originally from Cadillac, Winslow-King is a career rock 'n' roll guitarist, singer, producer and songwriter. Now living in Spain, he continues to pursue his global quest: delivering powerful, authentic roots music. Doors 7 p.m., show 7:30 p.m. 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

"Lustful Youth" - 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Matter of Balance - Eight-session workshop designed to improve balance, flexibility and strength, helping seniors reduce fall risks and become more active. 9:30 a.m. Delta Enrichment Center, 4538

Elizabeth Road, Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Muslim Journeys: "The Awakening of Malcolm X" - In anticipation of author, activist and daughter of Malcolm X Ilyasah Shabazz's visit to campus, join us at the East Lansing Public Library for a discussion of her book, "The Awakening of Malcolm X." 7 p.m. 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. elpl.org.

Open Jam! | Third Thursday of Every Month - Whether you play guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, dobro, bass or another instrument, you're invited to join in — even if you know only a few songs or chords. 5:30-7 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com.

Pop-Up Dinner at Red Haven - Escape the midwinter slump with everyone's favorite Red Haven dinner experience, Dinner in the Dark. Join us for a night of comfort food served by candlelight. Doors 6 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m. 4480 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. eatredhaven.com.

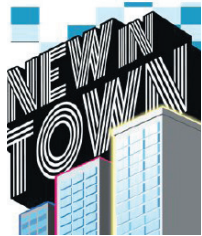
Ruhala Broadway Ensemble for All Ages - 15-week class, meets biweekly. 5:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Spirit of Michigan Chorus Rehearsal - We're an inclusive community of women who sing a cappella in the barbershop style. We welcome all levels of musical experience. 6:45 p.m. Church of the Nazarene, 4851 Holt Road, Holt. spiritofmichiganchorus.com.

New East Lansing eatery brings cheesy creations to late-night diners

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

Faced with an increased workload during and immediately following the pandemic, UM Health-Sparrow nurse Paul Hamby regularly heard the Michigan State University student nurses he worked alongside complain about



I Heart Mac & Cheese

4790 S. Hagadorn Road, Suite 158, East Lansing
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday
11 a.m.-1 a.m. Thursday-Saturday
(517) 721-1017
iheartmacandcheese.com

the lack of quality late-night food available after their shifts.

Many of those students lived just east of campus, near Hagadorn Road, he said. He and his wife, Mindy,

also a nurse, began to consider opening a restaurant in that area.

Their vision started to take shape af-

ter they visited an I Heart Mac & Cheese franchise in Las Vegas. The chain was founded in Boca Raton, Florida, in 2016 and has since expanded into Arkansas, California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Hamby said they liked the concept and wanted to establish their own location in Greater Lansing.

After two years of preparation, the couple opened their franchise in East Lansing's Hannah Plaza earlier this month, celebrating their grand opening on Tuesday (Jan. 13). Their store joins other Michigan locations in Escanaba and Saginaw, while a fourth in Novi is listed as "coming soon" on I Heart Mac & Cheese's website.

"During COVID, when a lot of things shut down, people were trying to find some comfort food with all that chaos going on. This was when I started looking into franchises. With me being a veteran, this particular franchise was a little bit

more affordable," Hamby, a U.S. Navy veteran, said.

The new 1,700-square-foot space seats around 30, though Hamby said the concept is especially geared toward late-night takeout and delivery orders.

The most popular menu items are the mac and cheese bowls. Guests can order from chef-developed signature options, like buffalo and blue cheese, lobster and white truffle, chicken parmesan and short rib Philly, or select their own toppings. The franchise also offers an array of grilled cheese sandwiches and sides like mac and cheese bites, cheesy broccoli, tater tots and tomato soup.

"The food is baked right in front of you. By design, it's something that you can just pick up and go," Hamby said. "In that way, I kind of picked this place with our MSU student nurses in mind."

Hamby and his wife have 18 employees, but they're looking to hire more help. Overall, the pair is just appreciative that their dream has come to fruition.



Tyler Schneider/City Pulse

Mindy (left) and Paul Hamby opened the third Michigan I Heart Mac & Cheese franchise this month in East Lansing's Hannah Plaza. The couple works as nurses by day but had long awaited an opportunity to venture into the restaurant business.

"It feels like taking a big breath. We've spent the past year getting everything in progress, getting everything ordered. And now it's like that light at the end of the tunnel is finally flickering at us," Hamby said. "It's so exciting that it's finally here."

Events

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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.

"Work It Out Wombats": Create, Test, Improve - Join us for some problem-solving fun with the Work It Out Wombats. Over the three-week program, we'll do hands-on activities, watch "Wombats" videos and listen to stories to learn computational thinking skills. Ages 4-6. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Friday, Jan. 17

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

First Fridays: Game On - Do you enjoy playing arcade games? Video games? Board games? Join the MSU Museum for a night full of games and free refreshments. Tickets are free but limited, so reserve your spot now! 7-9 p.m. 311 Abbot Road, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall food court through April. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

"From Vienna with Love" - Clarinetist Guy Yehuda, cellist Suren Bagratuni and pianist Ralph Votapek explore the romantic sonorities of trio repertoire, with Vienna as the meeting point among the featured composers. 8 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

Lansing Parks and Recreation Travelogue: Croatia - lan

Broughton and his family explored Croatia and Turkey this summer, with quick stops in Slovenia and Greece. He'll share his journey in a fast-paced presentation that covers it all! 7 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. lansingmi.gov/985/Travelogue.

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

Open Irish Jam! | Third Friday of Every Month - Open jam focusing on Irish traditional music. All skill levels welcome. Bring your instruments and we'll share some tunes. 5:30-7 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com.

Parkour for Littles at ALIVE - You and your little one will learn to safely maneuver obstacles using the whole body. Build strength, balance, focus and problem-solving skills after listening to related stories. Ages 3-6. 10 a.m. 800 W. Lawrence Ave., Charlotte. myalive.com.

Pop-Up Dinner at Red Haven - Set sail for a taste of the New England seas. Indulge in a seafood experience featuring coastal flavors that will comfort and delight! Doors 6:30 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. 4480 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. eatredhaven.com.

TGI Friday Dance Party - Doors open at 7 p.m., line dance lesson at 7:15 p.m., dance 8 p.m.-midnight. Dinner buffet provided, free refills on soft drinks, cash/credit bar. Eagle Eye Golf & Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath. tgifdance.com.

UrbanBeat Presents: Generator - Dynamic seven-piece band delivering a unique mix of blues, funk, rock and soul. 7 p.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Saturday, Jan. 18

Anita Skeen and Laura DeLind Visit and Book Signing - Poet Anita Skeen and printmaker Laura B. DeLind discuss their recently published book, "Even the Least of These." Books will be available for sale and signing. 2:30-4 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. elpl.org.

Big L and Code Blu - Michigan R&B, funk and soul band BIG L & Code Blu brings its high-energy show to UrbanBeat. Get ready to dance the night away! Doors 5 p.m., show 7 p.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Brass Metropolis - If you wish you could have seen Chicago in the 1970s, you need to see Brass Metropolis, an eight-piece band that has all the excitement, artistry and virtuosity of the early Chicago Transit Authority. 7 p.m. Charlotte Performing Arts Center, 378 State St., Charlotte. charlotteperformingartscenter.com.

Club 750 Music: Gabriel Kahane - Kahane is a musician and storyteller whose work has been called a "one-man cultural Cuisinart" by The New York Times. He's also been hailed as "one of the finest songwriters of the day" by The New Yorker. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Comedy at "The Creek" 17 - We'll have a brand-new batch of 10 hilarious stand-up comedians to dish out the laughs. Ages 18+. Doors 6 p.m., show 8 p.m. Country Creek Reception Hall, 5859 N. Michigan Road, Dimondale. countrycreekreceptionhall.com.

Comedy Through the Looking Glass - Host Brady Keene, headliner Pat Sievert. Ages 21+. 8 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co., 115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. lookingglassbrewingcompany.com.

Creative Welding and Metalwork Class - Offered through the Adult Enrichment Program, this eight-week class provides a space for those with and without welding or metalwork experience to learn from LCC welding technology faculty. 1-4 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. Register at lcc.edu/keeplearning.

Family Board Game Day - Drop in with friends, family or by yourself and choose from a variety of board and card games to play. Revisit an old favorite or try out a new game. Noon-2 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - What do you know about the food you eat? This exhibition is centered around questions of food knowledge, production, scarcity and consumption. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Game Night - Bring your favorite game to share, whether it's a tabletop RPG, a card game, a board game or something else. You're also welcome to bring food and beverages. 5-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. 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.

Larry & Joe - What happens when a Venezuelan harpist starts playing with an award-winning bluegrass artist? Absolute magic! Come hear one of the hottest new acts on the folk music circuit. 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

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

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-712-2395. meridian.mi.us/FarmersMarket.

MSU Men's Ice Hockey vs. University of Michigan - 7:30 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-ice-hockey.

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

Time Travel Half-Marathon/10K/5K - Saddle up and join us for a time-warpin' adventure like no other at our time-travel-themed 5K, 10K, and half marathon! 9 a.m. Burchard Park, 220 E. Maple St., Lansing. runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/TimeTravel-HalfMarathonAndKKLansing.

Trivia Night at Acapulco Mexican Grill - Enjoy food and drinks while showing off your trivia knowledge. Call 517-543-8859 or stop by Charlotte Community Library (226 South Bostwick St., Charlotte) to register your team! 6 p.m. 112 S. Cochran Road, Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Sunday, Jan. 19

Bottle and Can Collection for Eastern Ingham Farmers Market - We collect your Michigan-returnable bottles and cans from your trunk while you stay warm in your vehicle. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. McCormick Park, 123 High St., Williamston. easterninghamfarmersmarket.org.

See Events, Page 20

Events

from page 19

Cat Yoga - Relax, stretch and find your inner peace while surrounded by adorable feline friends! 4 p.m. 621 S. Grand Ave., Fowlerville. eventbrite.com/cat-yoga-tickets-1121890587949.

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

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - What do you know about the food you eat? This exhibition is centered around questions of food knowledge, production, scarcity and consumption. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Free Bridal Show for Brides on a Budget - Enjoy giveaways, free trips and more than 40 budget-friendly wedding vendors. 1-4 p.m. Royal Scot Golf & Bowl, 4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. budgetbridalexpo.com.

Green Man Work Day - Help take care of projects that need doing, either at the church building or on our property. Bring food for yourself and some to share if you like; we'll finish the day with a shared feast and relaxation time. Noon-5 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.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/macsbarmus.

Ingham Festival Choral Rehearsal - The chorale invites you to sing. Membership fee is \$60 and includes all music. No audition necessary. 2-3:30 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/inghamfestivalchorale.



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"Jazz: Spirituals, Prayer and Protest" Concert - Celebrating the birth of Martin Luther King Jr., this annual concert features MSU jazz orchestras and other special guests. 3 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

MSU Men's Basketball vs. University of Illinois - Noon. Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-basketball.

MSU Wrestling vs. University at Buffalo - 3 p.m. Jenison Field House, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/wrestling.

Native Wildflower Winter Sowing Workshop - Learn an easy way to grow native plants for your home garden. Participants will create and take home their own gallon jug of winter-sown native wildflower seeds. 11:30 a.m. Haslett Community Church, 1427 Haslett Road, Haslett. wildoneslansing.weebly.com.

Red Cedar Quaker Friends Worship - Rich communal silence that invites thinking deeply, developing spiritually, loving fully, speaking our truths. 10:30 a.m. 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org.

Riverbend Voices New Singer Placements - Riverbend Voices has openings in all sections. If you're interested in joining, come sing for us on Jan. 19 (or schedule another time). 5-7 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing, 5509 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/Capital-CityMusicCollective.

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

Unity's Monthly Euchre and Games - Self-serve event. Bring your own board games and organize euchre tables. Potluck snacks. Noon. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

Unity's Third Principle, "Thoughts are Creative," with Donnette Pinkerton - Delve into Unity's five basic principles, one week at a time. On Jan. 19, Donnette will discuss the third principle, Thoughts are Creative. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

Monday, Jan. 20

Al-Anon Meeting - 8 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing. cmialanon.org.

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.

Carillon Recital: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Celebrate freedom and justice with melodies honoring King's legacy. Noon. Beaumont Tower, 375 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Fiber Circle - Knitters, crocheters and stitchers of all ages and skill levels welcome. Although formal instruction isn't provided, attendees assist each other with techniques and skills. 6 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall food court through April. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

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.

MLK Day of Celebration - The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Mid-Michigan is proud to present its 40th annual Day of Celebration, the nation's largest MLK Day luncheon. 11 a.m. Lansing Center,

Veg Books & Vegan Vittles
3-8 p.m. Saturday,
Jan. 18
A Novel Concept
222 S. Washington
Square, Lansing
Veg Head
208 S. Washington
Square, Lansing

Downtown Lansing businesses A Novel Concept and Veg Head have teamed up to host a vegan-focused literary event 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday (Jan. 18), featuring Grand Rapids-based philosophy Professor and author of "Hungry Beautiful Animals: The Joyful Case for Going Vegan," Matthew C. Halteman.

From 3 to 5:30 p.m., attendees can browse a specially curated selection of vegan books at A Novel Concept. At 6 p.m., the group will head to Veg Head for a plant-based dinner. Halteman will be present at both businesses for meet-and-greets and to sign copies of his book. Those who show a copy of the flyer on the Facebook event page (facebook.com/events/1131065355337755) will receive 10% off their copy of "Hungry Beautiful Animals" and 10% off their check at Veg Head.

333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. mlkmidmichigan.com.

The Poetry Room Presents Ephraim Nehemiah - Enjoy an unforgettable night of poetry featuring your new favorite poet. Local openers: Masaki Takahashi, Lisa Sarno, Claire Donohoe, Korey Deans, Maddy Smith, Suban Nur Cooley. Doors 7 p.m., show 7:30 p.m. (SCENE) Metrospace, 110 Charles St., East Lansing. facebook.com/The517PoetryRoom.

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.

Sparkly Winter Art - Create a sparkly piece of art with paint, glue and Epsom salts. Learn about the science that happens when you combine paint and salt. Ages 4+. 4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

"The Untethered Soul" Book Study, with Kathi Fredrick - "The Untethered Soul" embraces non-judgment, allowing ourselves and others to be as we are without imposing expectations or labels. 1:30 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

Tuesday, Jan. 21

"A Course in Miracles" Discussion Group, with Lisa Schmidt - 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 - 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.

"All excellent and esteemed" - The wind players of Piffaro, the world-renowned "pied pipers of early music," look at one of the most potent examples of musical migration in 16th-century Europe: the Bassano family. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Authors on Exile - An evening of readings on the theme of exile. Featuring Shastri Akella, Samiya Bashir and Aisha Sabatini Sloan. Doors 6:30 p.m., show 7 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

Beginning West Coast Swing Group Dance Class - Eight-week class. 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. uofmhealthsparrow.org/our-hospital-services/michigan-athletic-club.

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.

"Shucked" - Witness the Tony-winning musical comedy The Wall Street Journal calls "flat-out hilarious." This corn-fed, corn-bred show is sure to satisfy your appetite for great musical theater. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

YA 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 8-12. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Zine-Making Workshop for Mutual Aid - Learn the basics of making zines, collaborate with other zinesters, and help spread info about resources in our community. 7-10 p.m. The Avenue, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/groups/1084356436760812.

Wednesday, Jan. 22

"A Course of Love" Zoom Discussion Group, with Lucile 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.

Al-Anon Meeting - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. cmialanon.org.

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Events

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

CharLit Adult Book Club - For the month of January, we'll read "Unshrinking: How to Face Fatphobia," by Kate Manne. 6 p.m. at Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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.

Covert Ensemble - The Covert Ensemble, featuring guest saxophonists Dave Camwell and Kateřina Pavlíková and pianist Tingting Yao, perform three specially commissioned works and Pavlíková's own arrangement of "Dance of the Comedians," by Bedřich Smetana. 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Diabetes PATH - Six-week workshop designed to help individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes improve their health and feel better. 1 p.m. Delta Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

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

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - What do you know about the food you eat? This exhibition is centered around questions of food knowledge, production, scarcity and consumption. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Financial Literacy Workshop: Build & Protect Your Credit - This workshop will address credit myths, explain the importance of credit reports, demystify credit scores and provide strategies to build and protect your credit. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at the Meridian Mall food court through April. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

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.

Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle, hosted by Starlight Entertainment - 7:30-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.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.

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. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamcsangha.wordpress.com.

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

Pop-Up Dinner at Red Haven - Take a culinary journey through Spain with a four-course dinner celebrating the country's rich flavors and traditions. Doors 6 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m. 4480 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. eatredhaven.com.

"Shucked" - Witness the Tony-winning musical comedy The Wall Street Journal calls "flat-out hilarious." This corn-fed, corn-bred show is sure to satisfy your appetite for great musical theater. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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 with Ease - Free exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health. 11:15 a.m. Lansing Mall, 5330 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Weaving the Web: Myth - 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, Jan. 23

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 - 6:45 p.m. Mason Sparrow Urgent Care, 800 E. Columbia St., Mason. cmialanon.org.

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

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



Piffaro: 'All Excellent and Esteemed'

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21

Fairchild Theatre

542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing

As part of the Michigan State University College of Music's Taylor Johnston Early Music Series, which "celebrates the richness of early music and its impact on culture, history and innovation," Philadelphia-based wind ensemble Piffaro, which performs music exclusively from the late medieval through early baroque periods, will take the stage 7:30 p.m. Tuesday (Jan. 21) at the Fairchild Theatre.

The program, titled "All Excellent and Esteemed," will showcase the music of the Bassanos, a 16th-century Italian-Jewish family of wind players and instrument makers who moved from Italy to England during Henry VIII's reign. Their compositions "pushed the boundaries of instrumental performance and repertoire, leaving an indelible mark on the English musical landscape" and "reshaping the trajectory of instrumental music," according to the College of Music.

Piffaro, known for its artistry and dedication to historically informed performances, promises to bring the rich sounds of the Renaissance to life with its ever-expanding collection of period instruments, including shawms, dulcians, sackbuts, recorders, krumphorns, bagpipes, lutes, guitars and a wide array of percussion.

Tickets for Tuesday's show are \$17 for adults, \$15 for seniors ages 60 and older and \$7 for students and children under 18. They can be purchased online at music.msu.edu, by calling (517) 353-5340 or at the door. For more information on Piffaro, visit piffaro.org.

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

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - What do you know about the food you eat? This exhibition is centered around questions of food knowledge, production, scarcity and consumption. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Grand Ledge Community Read - Join community members in reading and discussing "Fire-keeper's Daughter," by Angeline Boulley. 7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Jane Bunnell, mezzo-soprano, and Marc Embree, bass-baritone - Join us for Liederabend, an "evening of song" showcasing a variety of quintessential German art songs. 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

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. ladiesilverblades.org.

LSO at The Robin Theatre - Join LSO musicians for a unique, intimate concert of contemporary chamber music. 7:30 p.m. 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. lansingsymphony.org.

Pop-Up Dinner at Red Haven - Take a culinary

journey through Spain with a four-course dinner celebrating the country's rich flavors and traditions. Doors 6 p.m., dinner 6:30 p.m. 4480 Hagadorn Road, Okemos. eatredhaven.com.

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.

"Shucked" - Witness the Tony-winning musical comedy The Wall Street Journal calls "flat-out hilarious." This corn-fed, corn-bred show is sure to satisfy your appetite for great musical theater. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Spirit of Michigan Chorus Rehearsal - We're an inclusive community of women who sing a cappella in the barbershop style. We welcome all levels of musical experience. 6:45 p.m. Church of the Nazarene, 4851 Holt Road, Holt. spiritofmichiganchorus.com.

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.

"Work It Out Wombats": Create, Test, Improve - Join us for some problem-solving fun with the Work It Out Wombats. Over the three-week program, we'll do hands-on activities, watch "Wombats" videos and listen to stories to learn computational thinking skills. Ages 4-6. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 17

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From Pg. 17

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



Lawrence

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

It's infrequent but not unheard of that Mr. She Ate and I disagree on our feelings about a restaurant. Generally, if we go somewhere and have a bad experience, I know that the moment we get into the car, he's going to vocalize my exact frustrations. ("They charged \$4.99 for club

soda" and "Why do they even ask how you want the burger cooked if they're going to turn it into a hockey puck?" being two of the most frequent.)

Likewise, when we have an experience that's memorable in a good way, we've been married for long enough at this point to be able to identify the high points without saying them.

This month's eatery, however, has thrown us for a loop. I'll cut to the chase — he likes the food at SaltRock Brewing Co., while I feel no pressure to ever eat there again. I'll concede that the food is fine. It isn't offensive. It's just not anything that's going to get me to leave the confines of my house — or the immediate downtown vicinity when I'm at my office and can much more easily trot over to the New Daily Bagel and get a turkey Rueben and chocolate chip bundt cake. (If you know, you know.)

Despite that, we did leave our respective downtown offices for a recent weekday lunch together, and we started with the Brussels sprouts (\$12). Admittedly, I'm a salt fiend, but I think they completely forgot to season this entire dish. Mr. She Ate argued that the bacon added enough saltiness to the sprouts, but I completely disagreed and scooped my portion onto a separate plate so I could season them properly. They weren't crispy and didn't do much for me.

We decided to split the Salt Rock burger (\$18) and the fried chicken sandwich (\$17), each of which came with a choice of side. With the burger, I asked for fries with beer cheese for dipping, and with the chicken sandwich, I requested the seasonal vegetable after learning that it was a mix of sauteed summer squash and zucchini. (Seasonal? Which season are we actually in?) The vegetable side turned out to be a hilariously small portion. I could literally eat five times that amount of zucchini. I don't expect 40 slices of zucchini as a side, but I just want to put everyone on notice that I can absolutely throw down when it comes to vegetable-related volume eating.

The burger was the shining star of this meal. It was topped with bacon jam, smoked gouda, lettuce, tomato and aioli on a pretzel bun, and the flavors of the bacon jam and the cheese came through clear as a bell. I haven't had an actually memorable burger in a long time, and this one is on the shortlist. The fries were crispy and well seasoned, and the breading on the fried chicken was cornmeal, which made for a much lighter and tastier piece of chicken.

A note on service: It was quick and attentive. For a weekday lunch, we were seated, fed and out the door in well under an hour, even though we spent the first 15 minutes on a Zoom call with our architect, who's going to help us pull our house out of the 1990s discount bin at Big Lots. Lots of cheap shelving and DIY gone wrong.

SaltRock Brewing Co. surprises with chophouse-esque menu

mainstays like the state government and the insurance industry continue to find their way back after the pandemic, the need for more places to dine and gather grows.

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

Downtown Lansing is a proving ground for many businesses and restaurants, and as several organizational



Beverly

SHE ATE
HE ATE

SaltRock Brewing Co.

519 W. Ionia St., Lansing
4-9 p.m. Monday-Tuesday
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday
10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday
(517) 580-3836
saltrockbrewingco.com



Courtesy photo

The She Ate/He Ate reviewers lauded SaltRock Brewing Co.'s beef — both its steaks and burgers — as being perfectly cooked and deliciously memorable.

Through the fall, foot traffic around Washington Square seemed to be increasing by the week, and the Michigan Avenue corridor reinvents itself nearly every quarter with new ventures that put a fresh spin on old spaces. The areas adjacent to Jackson Field, home of the Lugnuts, have become a jewel in the community with their modern housing options and dining and drinking venues. One could argue that the big comeback folks have been awaiting for generations has begun in earnest.

What's less obvious to an untrained eye — but equally as exciting — are the smaller developments on streets just off the beaten path. The Allen Neighborhood Center, with its farmers market and incubator kitchen, is one shining example of the impact that investments in spatial rehabilitation can have on a localized community. Such is the hope for the new businesses on West Ionia Street that occupy the historic Bailey Buildings. Hair United, an inclusive salon, occupies one of the buildings, and this month's focus, SaltRock Brewing Co., inhabits the other.

SaltRock opened in July and was immediately welcomed as a change of pace, with a menu that's more reminiscent of a chophouse than a brewpub. A short walk from the Capitol, it offers a vibe similar to the eateries of Tribeca in New York City, Hyde Park in Chicago or Wallingford in Seattle — industrial-chic décor, flavors that push the envelope and a beer, wine and spirits selection worthy of brunch or happy hour for statesmen and stateswomen. It also has one of the happiest staffs I've seen of late. Competent and attentive, they seemed to enjoy the company of one another and that of their guests. So, what about the food?

What's rocky

Lobster mac and cheese (\$10) appears on many steakhouse menus, and SaltRock has followed suit. The mac was creamy on the bottom and crispy on top, and black pepper dominated the flavor profile. By itself, it wasn't so bad, but the previously frozen lobster meat was more reminiscent of hours-old bubble gum in texture and not far off in flavor. I'd order the cheaper, plainer version next time.

Also lacking in flavor and visually displeasing enough that I was surprised it made it to my table was the beer cheese that accompanied the loaded fries (\$7). This sauce had been simmering beyond recognition, and any semblance of taste had long since disappeared.

What's really good

The smoked deviled eggs (\$11) were much closer to my expectations for the ambitious menu. The filling was creamy with a hint of tartness, and the bacon and green onion offered textural contrast. Each egg was dusted with a barbecue dry rub that offered a perfect amount of smokiness. Diners will find it tough to share the plate of five.

The cherry and blue cheese salad (\$20 with salmon addition) was also very good. The complementary flavors of tart dried cherries and creamy blue cheese worked even better with the refreshing raspberry vinaigrette. The salmon was

She Ate

from page 22

After a deep dive into SaltRock's Facebook page, I uncovered evidence of a Sunday brunch. The menu, strangely, isn't on its website, and I only found it when looking through old photos. Undaunted, we placed an order for takeout because the return to school after winter break absolutely destroyed our children, and there was no way we could trot them out to a restaurant.

We asked for an order of pancakes (\$8.50), an omelet (\$16) and a scram-

ble (\$15), and that's exactly what we got. The brunch entrees didn't come with sides — no toast, no potatoes. While I'm sure stranger things have happened, I can't remember the last time I ordered an egg dish and wasn't given some kind of carb with it.

The pancakes were griddled in butter, which gave them deliciously crisp edges — the only way I'll eat a pancake. The kids woke up from their melatonin-assisted naps and demanded that I slather the pancakes in mini holiday M&M's and Nutella (for him) and a disgusting amount of maple syrup (for her), and since I'm a pushover, I agreed. I ate half of my omelet and wondered what was in it because the description was completely void of information, then pulled out a loaf of sourdough so I could make my own darn toast.

He Ate

from page 22

cooked quite nicely and was seasoned well, but it didn't overpower the rest of the salad.

The kaffir lime crème brûlée (\$9) was delectable and sweet without blowing out my tastebuds with sugar — just rich enough to reappear in my daydream over my morning coffee.

Best bite

This category was a true toss-up this month. On my first visit, the 8-ounce USDA choice filet (\$47) was divine. Perfectly medium rare, with a crust that would make any summer grill master jealous, the steak was clearly well rested before it was served because not a drop of red appeared on the wood plating board when I cut into it. Tender and flavorful with minimal fat to carve away, it was obvious SaltRock does steak right.

I was sure the steak was going to be the runaway favorite this month until I ordered the walleye sandwich (\$18). Battered with a cornmeal crust, the large slab of fish poked out from every side of the brioche bun. Topped with house tartar sauce and crunchy house slaw, this handheld should be a shining star in the Lansing food scene for years to come.

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