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March 5-11, 2025

CityPULSE

FREE

A newspaper for the rest of us

Locally owned

Jeff Sipe

and local all-stars
drum up flood
relief at Mort's

See Page 11



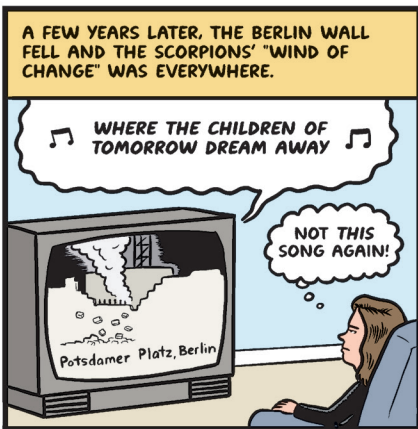
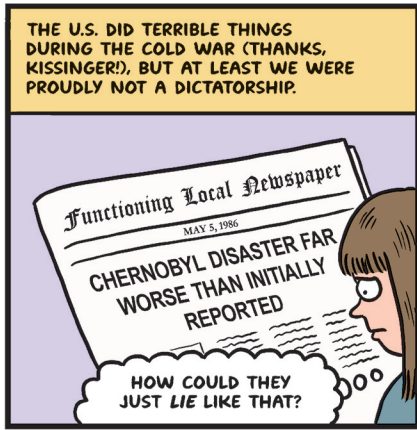
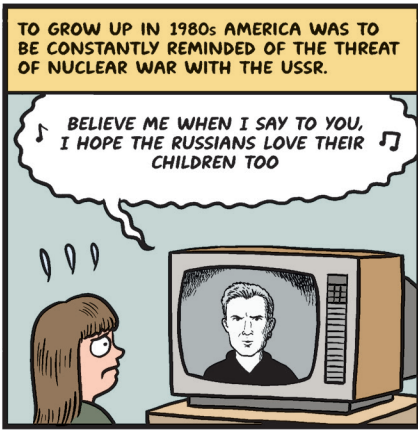
Job and Internship Fair

2 - 5 p.m. · March 19 · Downtown Campus · Register at lcc.edu/jobfair

CityPULSE

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Jean Lee seeks to help solve "shortage of string teachers"



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Schuler Books has high hopes for new Okemos location



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At Dunk'd, happiness is a warm cookie

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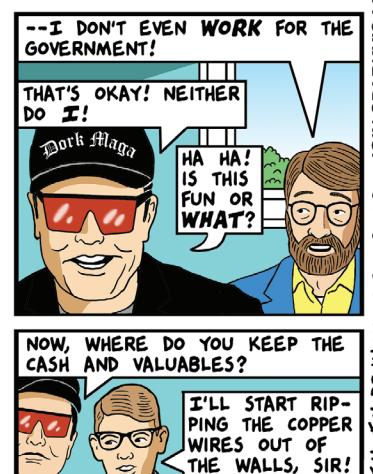
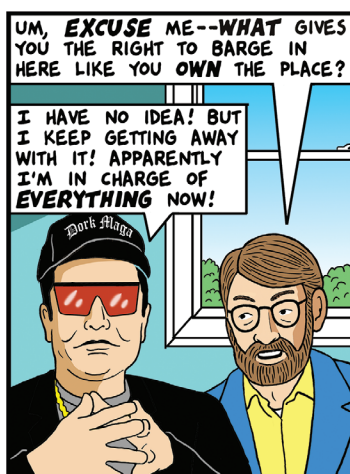
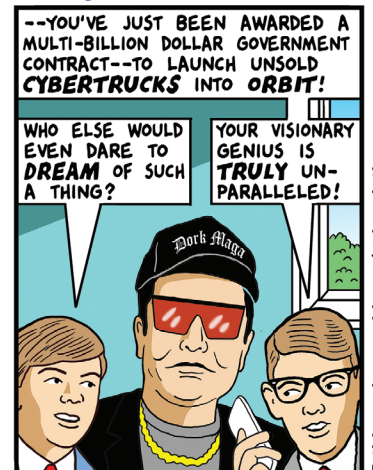
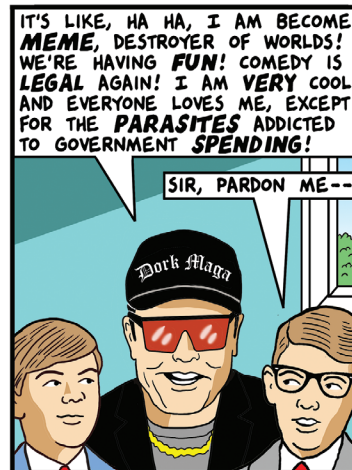
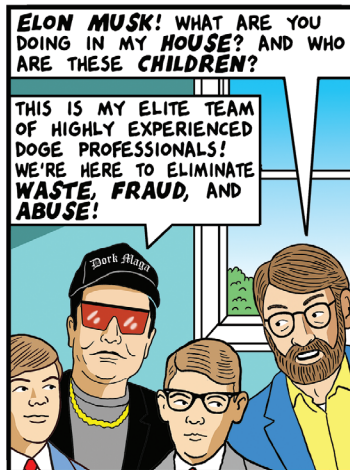
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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CityPULSE



Trump's anti-trans orders hit home



Now more than ever

City Pulse has been a vocal advocate for LGBTQ+ rights since its inception in 2001. Nearly 25 years later, and in the face of destructive executive orders from a new administration, there is still much work to be done.

We need your support to continue to tell these stories. Your donations will enable us to stay on the front lines to report on these issues.

Please donate using the QR code, by visiting [lansingcitypulse.com/donate](https://www.lansingcitypulse.com/donate), mailing your check to 1905 E. Michigan, Lansing, MI 48912 or calling 517-999-6704. Thank you!



PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Age and the housing crisis: Options for Lansing are available

By JOAN NELSON

As I was easing into retirement from the Allen Neighborhood Center in late 2022, two housing-related issues had my full attention.

One was my longstanding plan to carve out a couple of suites in my big, funky, 107-year-old home to operate a rooming house. In the way of millions of 19th and early-20-century women of a certain age who supported themselves in this way, I decided to create Rosamond Place — the name of my little enterprise. I opened following a few months of painting, restoring wood, replacing carpet, and finally packing up and storing in the basement all of my son's belongings that did not make the trip to New York with him 10 years ago.

As for the administrative nuts and bolts of operating a rooming house, I was guided by a little manual created in 2010 by ANC to assist older adults in determining whether they (and their houses) were a good fit for taking in renters. It included a self-assessment (e.g., "How do you feel about people using your kitchen?") and an assessment of one's home ("Where will boarders park? What areas of the home might be used for common space?"). The manual also offered tips on where and how to safely advertise, questions to ask prospective boarders, sample leases and more. (Call Aurora at the Allen Neighborhood Center at (517) 999-3917 for a free copy of the manual.) Two years later, I can tell you that this has been a largely positive adventure. Rosamond Place has provided hard-to-come-by lodging for several young people and a revenue stream and good company for me!

The second housing issue requiring my attention was finding a facility for an older family member whose complex medical diagnosis required round-the-clock skilled nursing care. Finding space in a reputable nursing home was hard enough, but figuring out how to pay the \$6,000-\$13,000 monthly cost of a room was truly daunting. Like many elders of modest means, he looked to



Photo by David Muxley

Cottage Lane, a collection of new and restored senior rental residences with shared grounds on Lansing's east side, is an example of what the community needs more of. (From left): Terry Jenkins, a visitor from Lansing; Joan Holley, a resident; Olga Delgado, a neighbor; Lisa Saltman, a social worker who organizes weekly gatherings; Barbara Kulpa, another resident.

Medicaid and began an arduous spend-down process in order to qualify for coverage. (Medicaid coverage is contingent upon having no more than \$9,000 in savings/investments to one's name.)

Given the mind-boggling cost of nursing homes, I was not surprised to learn that Medicaid covers nursing home bills for well over 60% of people who reside in them. It's notable that over 60% are privately owned, another 25% are run

by nonprofits and the rest are run by government agencies. The demand for nursing home care is unlikely to come down anytime soon, given that the number of 65-year-olds is still increasing every year (the boomer population bulge), as are life expectancies. In terms of sheer numbers, demand may ease a bit by 2030 when all baby boomers will be age 65 and over and the growth in the older population will start

slowing.

My preoccupation with my own and my family member's housing issues led me to a deeper exploration of the housing crisis and ultimately to joining with about 40 other Lansing residents to create the Shared Use Housing Advocacy Network.

Regular readers may be familiar with my articles about this group's support of zoning changes that will reduce barriers for creating more diverse housing options such as rooming and boarding houses, co-ops, cottage developments and accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, aka granny flats. We are hoping that Lansing follows the example of 22 Michigan cities and scores more around the country that have established

more inclusive zoning (as opposed to exclusive single-family zoning). Zoning changes elsewhere have resulted in creating more diverse, affordable and appropriate housing for the two-thirds of households that are not single-family households, that is, a parent or parents

with children under 18 years.

Though millennials and families of all sorts are grappling with the critical issue of housing availability and affordability, seniors are particularly hard-pressed, given their additional needs for housing to accommodate mobility challenges and to also provide relatively easy access to health, transportation and other age-related services. Overwhelmingly, older adults continue to express a desire to age-in-place, either in their own homes or within the neighborhood or community in which they have lived their lives and have established networks of support. And adults aging in place are doing so at a more advanced age. A recent study published by the Joint Center for Housing Services at Harvard University suggests that households headed by seniors aged 80 and older will more than double by 2040.

This may not set well with some people who blame low housing inventory and elevated prices on boomers clinging to our mortgage-free homes. There are far more significant factors responsible for our critical housing shortage, including decades of insufficient production of new homes. Further, it's not as if holding on to one's home, even with a paid-off mortgage, is without its financial challenges. Studies suggest that seniors are carrying more debt these days, fixed retirement income is failing to keep up with inflation and housing cost burdens are making it tough to afford rising costs of food and medicine. A recent Bloomberg report noted that one of the reasons that elders are hanging onto their homes despite these challenges is that in the single-family-home-dominated communities where older adults tend to live, there aren't enough alternatives for downsizing.

So how do we provide the housing alternatives that would enable elders to remain in communities, live in appropriate, affordable and age-friendly housing and have reasonably easy access to aging-related services? One option spreading across the U.S. is house sharing, whereby a senior shares his or her home with a couple of other seniors and perhaps with a caregiver who can assist all of them.

Multigenerational housing is also on



Opinion

Call or email your councilmember at City.council@lansingmi.gov to encourage them to support the proposed zoning changes to allow for more shared-use housing.

See Nelson, Page 5

UM-Sparrow begins demolishing old Eastern High School

Corky and Maryann Juarez met at Eastern High School in the 1970s.

Tuesday, the married couple, both 1975 graduates, watched as its demolition began.

“I never thought I’d see it torn down,” Corky said.

The move comes a week after University of Michigan Health-Sparrow asked the city of Lansing for permission to demolish the building for “future expansion” and a few days after the city’s planning and development director approved it.

UM-Sparrow said last year it wants to build a \$97 million psychiatric facility on the property and has said the landmark school could not be adapted to that use.

E.T. MacKenzie Co. of Grand Ledge began demolition on the building’s northeast end, which housed the band room, among other facilities. The project end date is May 31, according to UM-Sparrow’s demolition application. The permit is good until Aug. 26. UM-Sparrow estimated demolition at \$2.1 million.

UM-Sparrow spokesperson Corey Alexander said Tuesday he has nothing to add to its statement a week ago that the building was “beyond repair.”

“Given these challenges, the building is being thoughtfully removed to make way for a modern facility designed specifically to meet the community’s behavioral health needs,” the statement said.

“To honor the history and legacy of Eastern High School, we are working with alumni to preserve meaningful artifacts and establish a memorial garden on the site.”

However, Jim Lynch, president of Eastern’s alumni association, said Tuesday UM-Sparrow executives haven’t talked to the alumni association for several months. “Total silence,” Lynch said.

The demolition comes a week after UM-Sparrow submitted a request to demolish the high school Feb. 25. Its application says nothing about building a psy-



Photo by Raymond Holt

1975 Eastern High School alumni Corky and Maryann Juarez watch as UM-Sparrow begins demolishing landmark old Eastern High School Tuesday.

chiatric facility — just that UM wanted to demolish old Eastern for the hospital’s “future expansion.” The U of M Board of Regents has yet to consider the psychiatric facility proposal.

Rawley Van Fossen, chief of Lansing’s Economic Development and Planning Department, approved the application. Efforts to reach Van Fossen for comment today were unsuccessful.

Scott Bean, Mayor Andy Schor’s spokesperson, said last week the administration had no choice. The process limits the city to reviewing only technical issues, such as the demolition company’s license. There were no grounds for the administration or the City Council to intervene, he said.

The plan to demolish Eastern has long been controversial, with preservationists arguing the high school is one of the few remaining historical structures in Lansing. The building was designed by Irving and Allen Pond, who also designed Michigan State University and University of

Michigan student unions.

The 97-year-old school opened in 1928 and closed in 2019, four years after the Lansing School Board sold it to Sparrow Health System. U of M Health acquired Sparrow two years ago.

A community group called the Coalition to Preserve Eastern High School and Promote Mental Health has advocated for preserving the structure’s west wing and auditorium. It has argued that they could be restored and repurposed. Its efforts to negotiate with UM-Sparrow have been unsuccessful. Moreover, acting under pressure from trade unions, the Council turned down a request to study whether old Eastern could be declared a historic district, which might have saved it.

An online petition from the coalition to save the high school has garnered over 800 signatures, and the group has created a website rebutting claims from UM-Sparrow that the building is in unsalvageable disrepair.

In a Feb. 27 update, Margaret Dimond, U-M Health Regional Network president, said the auditorium and west wing were “not salvageable” because of water damage. She said it would cost “hundreds of millions of dollars to bring it back to where it was even in the nineties.”

“It’s really not a place that humans should even walk through,” Dimond said.

Andrew Muylle of the Coalition to Preserve Eastern High School questioned the source of Dimond’s claims.

“We know for a fact that the entire rehab of Walter French school, which was in far worse condition than Eastern, cost around \$39 million,” Muylle said. “Our question is where does that figure for water damage come from?”

Dimond said that UM-Sparrow has worked with preservation groups, but did not name any. Muylle said the coalition is unaware of any such interactions, but UM-Sparrow ceased communications with the group “months ago.”

Mayor Andy Schor issued a statement Tuesday that he loved the building and had “hoped it could be repurposed for new use.” Schor said he has shared this hope with UM-Sparrow but had been told that “rehabilitating the building would cost many millions of dollars that will instead be used for needed health care.”

“While it is tough to lose a great old building, I look forward to greater access for our residents to the behavioral health care that is needed,” he said.

Nancy Mahlow, president of the Eastside Neighborhood Organization, said UM-Sparrow called her about the demolition this morning. Mahlow mentioned that the demolition has begun on the building’s east wings, making preservation of the west wing and auditorium still possible.

“It’s not done until that wrecking ball hits the main building, so we’re going to forge on,” Mahlow said.

LEO V. KAPLAN

Nelson

from page 4

the rise. In 2021, nearly 11 million older adults lived with at least one adult relative, up more than 80% since 2006.

And in some communities, seniors are creating duplexes from their single-family homes to downsize their personal living space while creating a rental option for another person and additional income for themselves. At some point, the other unit can be rented to a caregiver.

If Lansing approves the zoning

changes that are in the last stages of what has been an 18-month-long approvals process, the following might become additional (more clearly defined) alternatives:

- Opening a rooming house and providing desperately needed housing to a student, your newly divorced friend, a traveling nurse or a relative.

- Creating boomer co-ops, where seniors with a more communal orientation appreciate having private space as well as access to shared common spaces (kitchen, dining room) and a support system. Ann Arbor has two of these

while Frankfort, Michigan’s senior co-ops dates from the 1990s.

- Creating additional multigenerational co-ops, such as Rivendell here in Lansing, where millennials and elders share space, household tasks, and skills;

- Developing more cottage communities such as Dave Muylle’s Cottage Lane on Lansing’s east side, where elders rent a cottage and connect with neighbors in the shared courtyard;

- Building a backyard granny flat and renting it to a family member or perhaps eventually to a caregiver.

What is shared by most of these op-

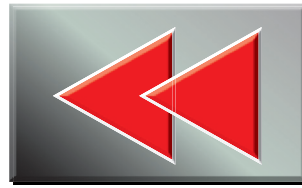
tions is that they are usually community-initiated and incremental. Respectful of the physical and social characteristics of a neighborhood, these efforts are not jarring but rather gradually thicken or gently densify urban communities in pretty painless ways. While the availability of these alternatives will increase housing options for people of all ages, they will most certainly help keep elders in a community for as long as possible.

(Joan Nelson is the retired, founding executive director of the Allen Neighborhood Center. She writes this column monthly.)

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

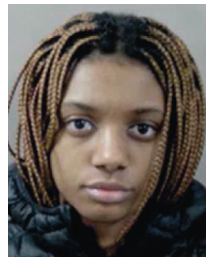
COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Charlotte announced a one-hour telephone town hall at 7:10 p.m. Monday (March 10). His office said the number will be available soon via social media. The announcement follows protests accusing Barrett of hiding from constituents. A spokesperson said the town hall was in the works before the protests, however. Constituents will enter a queue to ask their questions,

which Barrett's D.C. office said will not be screened. A livestream will be available, but attendees can only ask questions over the phone. Activist groups were unsatisfied with the announcement, insisting that the meeting would be less personal and that Barrett's responsibility to constituents involved in-person meetings.

The Ingham County Prosecutor's Office has charged MSU student Hope Duncan, 18, of Eastpointe, with false reports or threats of terrorism and using a computer to commit a crime. A screenshot of the anonymous post from the MSU Class of '28 Snapchat account read, "There's going to be another shooting at Michigan State. I'm so glad, this school definitely deserves it and everybody here should die." MSU Police arrested Duncan on the 800 block of Chestnut Road in East Lansing and transported her to the Ingham County Jail. A judge set her bond at \$20,000 in 54B District Court and scheduled her next court date for March 20. MSU also kicked Duncan out of school. Her attorney, Mike Nichols, said the post was not illegal and that a judge should dismiss the charges.



MSU Police arrested Duncan on the 800 block of Chestnut Road in East Lansing and transported her to the Ingham County Jail. A judge set her bond at \$20,000 in 54B District Court and scheduled her next court date for March 20. MSU also kicked Duncan out of school. Her attorney, Mike Nichols, said the post was not illegal and that a judge should dismiss the charges.



WLNS-TV News anchor Sheri Jones has announced her retirement after 35 years at the station. She said her last day will be May 9. "On camera, what you see is what you get: someone who is caring, warm, and most of all — genuine," said WLNS news director Jam Sardar. "Behind the camera, she treats everyone from the governor to the custodian with interest, respect and grace."

Jones has been inducted into the Michigan Broadcasting Hall of Fame and the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame and won awards from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters and The Associated Press Managing Editors. She was also the scriptwriter and narrator for an Emmy-winning documentary, "We Can Do It! A Celebration of Michigan Women." Jones said she plans to write, travel, spend more time with her father and family and continue to be involved in the community.

The MSU Feb. 13 Permanent Memorial Committee has narrowed down plans for the memorial to three artist-submitted designs and two campus locations:



Sleepy Hollow between Beaumont Tower and the Music Practice Building, and the Old Horticulture Garden near the Student Services Building. The proposals, by artists from New York and

Los Angeles, include a round, reflective pond; a trio of "Circles of Reflection" of different sizes and purposes; and a memorial comprising "Camp Circle" and "Memory Windows." After a survey available until March 31 closes (spartanstogether.msu.edu/memorial), the memorial committee and the Public Art on Campus Committee will suggest a final design. Officials expect construction to begin this spring or summer.



Lansing School District Superintendent Ben Shuldiner is one of three finalists for Clark County School District superintendent in Las Vegas, WLNS-TV reported.

After a first round of interviews, the district's trustees voted for Shuldiner and two others with Clark County schools experience. He said he will be in Las Vegas for a March 10 public forum, three days before the board plans to choose.

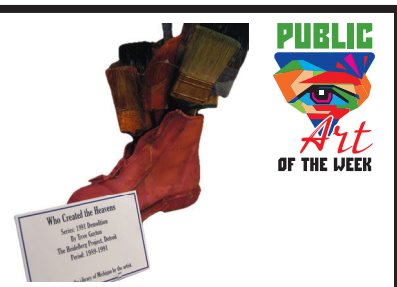


MSU's Health Sciences Council, acting under President Kevin Guskiewicz's One Team, One Health initiative, has issued a 61-page report examining proposals to merge its College of Human Medicine and College of Osteopathic Medicine. Guskiewicz said one approach is to create a united College of Medicine, making MSU the only U.S. university to do so. He said another would be creating a College of Health Professions. He added that if changes are approved, they would be two to three years away and wouldn't impact current students. The two schools graduate about 500 physicians a year.



Michigan State Police have arrested Zachary James Whaley of Lansing, 34, and charged him with four felonies for sending sexually explicit text messages to a girl in North Carolina: child sexually abusive activity, accosting a child for immoral purposes and two counts of using a computer to commit a crime. A North Carolina sheriff's office detective contacted MSP

about the case after a parent reported their child's internet activity to authorities. Safe & Just Michigan, an advocacy organization that works on adult criminal justice issues, fired Whaley from his job as a communications specialist. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.



Magic trash

Children's author J.H. Shapiro died recently, but her work will live on, especially "Magic Trash: A Story of Tyree Guyton and His Work."

Shapiro was exposed to Guyton's work — most notably his Detroit public art installation called the Heidelberg Project — when she was a docent at the MSU Museum.

In the 1980s, Guyton thought and worked big. He created works of art out of abandoned houses on Detroit's east side using recycled trash he discovered on city streets.

Guyton's work was a lightning rod. You either loved it, hated it or were confused by it. The mayor at the time, Coleman Young, had some of it bulldozed.

Shapiro wrote about the urban environmental artist and his passion that began in his childhood neighborhood, which was virtually abandoned to poverty and crime. Guyton's "found objects" include houses left to fall into disrepair. In her book, Shapiro shows how Guyton turned those houses and the surrounding environment, including trees and sidewalks, into bright works of art.

Elected officials may not have appreciated his work, but the community did, especially with his goal of bringing art to children. Tourist buses began making stops so visitors could see his handiwork with found art, paint and brushes.

Shapiro's children's book helped raise awareness of his work, contributing to his being named Michigan Artist of the Year. Shapiro's book was selected as a Michigan Notable Book of the Year in 2012.

At an award celebration for the Notable Books, Guyton and his spouse, Jenenne Whitfield, were honored alongside Shapiro. Guyton surprised the organizers with a gift in the form of a small work of his art. That gift is now on display in the Library of Michigan's Rare Book Room.

Guyton took a work boot and transformed it into a multi-colored holder for his paint brushes. It represents his use of everyday items to make art and create smiles on faces. The only thing missing is Shapiro's book. It needs to be displayed alongside it.

BILL CASTANIER

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

MSU'S SERLING INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH STUDIES AND MODERN ISRAEL INVITES YOU TO:

Selected segments from: "Pardon my English" and conversation with the artist Yossi Zabari
Thursday, March 20, 10:30 am- 12:00 pm, Club Spartan, 338 Case Hall, 842 Chestnut Rd.

Yossi Zabari is a leading spoken word artist, sharing his experiences as a Yemenite Jew and a queer individual. Through his work, he reclaims concepts like gay, black, and feminine to drive social change, promoting equality and human rights.

Aliza Lambert, "Enhancing Religious and Spiritual Inclusion"
Friday, March 21, 12:00-1:30 pm, B342 Wells Hall 619 Red Cedar Rd.

There is a dearth of research surrounding religious minorities regarding religion and spirituality for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, and existing studies often solely explore if youth with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities can be religious and spiritual.

Sherman Garnett, "A Shared and Unshared City: Grade and Miłosz on Vilnius"
Friday, April 11, 12:00-1:30 pm, James Madison College Library, 332 Case Hall, 842 Chestnut Rd.

Chaim Grade's and Czesław Miłosz's shared city—Vilnius (Wilno, Vilna)—became a theme in the works of both writers. Yet in what ways are the writers describing a shared city, and in what ways are they revealing the deep differences between a city named Wilno and the same city named Vilna?

MELA Studio: "Vanitas: Archive of Arrested Decay"

Tuesday, April 22, 6:00 - 7:30 pm, Alan and Rebecca Ross Education Wing, Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at MSU East Lansing
 Carmel Bar and Michal Evytar transform food into a dynamic artistic medium, exploring its potential beyond mere sustenance. Their innovative installations blend movement, design, and sensory experience, revealing food as a complex language of personal and cultural narratives.

Annual Rabin/Brill Lecture: Deciding Who Was Worth Saving: American Universities and the Refugee Scholars of the Nazi Era by Laurel Leff
Thursday, April 24, 5:45-7:15 pm, James Madison College Library, 332 Case Hall, 842 Chestnut Rd. East Lansing

Despite the triumphalist tale that during the Nazi era the United States rescued Europe's intellectual elite, thousands of European scholars sought to immigrate to the United States and couldn't. This lecture will introduce a few of those scholars and describe American universities' process for deciding who was worth saving.



Please visit www.jsp.msu.edu for more information



The Michael and Elaine Serling Institute
 for Jewish Studies and Modern Israel
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

CITY OF GRAND LEDGE BOARD OF REVIEW

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers and property owners of the City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County, Michigan:

The Board of Review will meet at 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, 11 March 2025, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, in organizational session and be presented the 2025 Assessment roll to review. This meeting is not for public protest of property assessments. The Board of Review will meet to review the 2025 Assessment Roll and hear objections on the following dates and times:

Monday, 24 March 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., break from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
 Meeting Room B106, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837
 Tuesday, 25 March 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., break from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 Council Chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837

Appointments must be scheduled by contacting the City Assessor at (517) 622-7932 or assessor@cityofgrandledge.com. Questions pertaining to valuation can also be answered prior to the meeting of the Board of Review by contacting the City Assessor. Mail-in appeals are strongly encouraged and must be RECEIVED by 12:00 p.m. on 25 March 2025.

Real Property	Tentative Assessment Level	Estimated Equalization Multiplier
Commercial	48.52%	1.0305
Industrial	48.99%	1.0206
Residential	46.44%	1.0767
Personal Property	50%	1.0000

Individuals with disabilities or limited English proficiency planning to attend City meetings or hearings should contact the City at (517) 627-2149 or cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com, seven days in advance of the meeting or hearing to request services.

Gregory L. Newman, City Clerk

CP#25-070

H&H Mobil Abandoned Auto Auction
 Viewing 3/20/25 By Appointment
 2818 E. Kalamazoo St.
 Lansing, MI 48912
 Call 517-332-6335
 Bids must be submitted by 8 am 3/24/25
 at 1500 Haslett Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823
 For more info go to www.hhmobil.com

CP#25-069



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: SPECIAL USE PERMIT #25006
(PRECIOUS SPROUTS GROUP CHILD CARE)
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Special Use Permit #25006 (Precious Sprouts Group Child Care)
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517-853-4560) to hear all persons interested in a request from Trusha Nayak to operate a group child care home for up to fourteen children located at 2137 Butternut Drive. The approximate 0.3 acre site is zoned RA (Single-Family Residential).

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Comments may be sent prior to the public hearing by writing to the Planning Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, by phone at phone 517-853-4576, or by email at shorkey@meridian.mi.us. Comments may also be given in person at the public hearing.

Angela Demas
 Township Clerk

CP#25-072



LET'S BOOGIE! **Bob Baldori & David Small**



Johnson redux: Still scary

"In hopes of finding themselves," House Speaker Mike Johnson told reporters, referring to Democrats, "they've latched on to this new, shiny object called the rule of law."

Johnson, a malevolent Christian cherub is a toady extraordinaire. his breathtaking statements like the one above capturing the vapid, robot-like emptiness of his thinking (or lack thereof) better than anything we could say.

Laughable, if only he weren't the third most powerful man in the United States. So ... not funny.

One issue that Johnson's comment raises is that in the wake of the total dismemberment and destruction of the U.S. political system and everything it supposedly stood for, there is nothing but greed, avarice, gluttony and the rest of the deadly sins in its place.

There is a startling dearth of intelligence, principle, honor, vision, scruples or anything close to a constructive alternative governing manifesto evident in ANY of the propaganda from the gang in charge. Their daily output of mind-boggling disinformation — most of it sounding like it originated in a basement in St. Petersburg or Moscow — is obviously only meant to keep the MAGA cult entertained. And loyal. And the rest of the world disoriented. Ultimately, they are operating from Steve Bannon's theory that none of it matters. Because they control the media — in fact almost all of the structural information delivery systems they don't even have to give a nod to good governance or ideas like "democracy" or "that new shiny object called the rule of law."

Johnson is basically scoffing at principle or scruples of any kind.

Chris Hedges, in his many brilliant columns, captures the zeitgeist: "Trump and his coterie of billionaires, generals, half-wits, Christian fascists, criminals, racists, and moral deviants play the role of the Snopes clan in some of William Faulkner's novels.

The Snopeses filled the power vacuum of the decayed South and ruthlessly seized control from the degenerated, former slaveholding aristocratic elites. Flem Snopes and his extended family — which includes a killer, a pedophile, a bigamist, an arsonist, a mentally disabled man who copulates with a cow, and a relative who sells tickets to witness the bestiality — are fictional representations of the scum now elevated to the highest level of the federal government. They embody the moral rot unleashed by unfettered capitalism."

(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.)

Slotkin's visibility makes GOP nervous as Democratic response draws near

Hours before U.S. Sen. Elissa Slotkin planned to deliver the Democratic response to President Donald Trump's first address to Congress in his second term, the White House had something to say about Michigan's new senator.

In a press release, the White House criticized Slotkin for being "opposed to President Trump's agenda to lower costs, bringing back manufacturing, and securing our borders."

She was flagged for voting against overturning President Joe Biden's tailpipe emission rule, which arguably pushes automakers to sell more electric vehicles. They claim these "EV mandates" would cost 200,000 American jobs, with 37,000 coming from Michigan.

The White House moved on to Slotkin's vote against the "Secure the Border Act," the House Republicans' 2023 effort to better monitor who is coming across the Mexican border, among other like-minded initiatives.

As a kicker, they used a Slotkin quote from the campaign in which she said, "I don't believe that anyone really thinks a wall from sea to shining sea is needed to make us safer."

The Trump White House conclusion: "Slotkin is just another out-of-touch politician that wants to hollow out American manufacturing and let criminals flood into our communities."

Ouch. That's a heck of a preempt to a likely Democratic response to a speech.

He wasn't the only one to share thoughts about Michigan's junior senator. The state's new Michigan Republican Party chair, Sen. Jim Runestad, planned to host a watch party of Trump's address. He invited the media to attend.

According to the media advisory, the new chair wanted an opportunity to respond to "Trump's America First Agenda and Senator Slotkin's response."

Slotkin, our former House member from mid-Michigan, is seeing a great deal of attention in her first 90 days in office.

It's as if Republicans are worried about something ... or the Democrats see something ... or both. Remember, Whitmer was "that woman from Michigan" in 2020, and the publicity she received has snowballed ever since.

Slotkin is making a strong impression in Washington. You don't get the House and Senate minority leaders singing your praises, calling you a "rising star" for being a wallflower.

Could Slotkin's trajectory lead her to even bigger and better things? At only age 48, it certainly can't be ruled out.

Here's a quick trivia question for you. What two things do the following people have in common? U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and former Sen. Bob Dole.

Answer: They all ran for president at some point and gave a State of the Union response.

Here are some more: Former Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine, former House Speaker Paul Ryan and Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear.

They were all talked about as at least a potential vice-presidential candidate. Each one also gave a State of the Union response speech.

I've already talked about Whitmer's speech in 2020.

The governor is being talked about as a potential presidential candidate in 2028 after her name was thrown about in 2024, first as a presidential candidate and then as a possible Kamala Harris running mate, until she said no. The Washington Post had her No. 2 behind Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro in an article about the 12 Democrats who "make the most sense" in running for president in 2028.

So, getting back to Slotkin.

She's getting a ton of attention. The BBC, ABC News, CBS News, CNN, Fox News and other national outlets all did the "Who is Elissa Slotkin" story in the run-up to Trump's speech.

Her national security credentials are being amplified after she held positions in the administrations of Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama. Her more centrist positions are out there for all to see.

And there's the fact that she's still an undefeated 4-for-4 in the past four election cycles.

She talks about improving people's lives and lowering the cost of living. She also wants to protect Social Security and Medicaid.

Good or bad, people in D.C. see her potential. Here in Lansing, we can always say we gave her that first win back in 2018.

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



POLITICS

ARTS & CULTURE

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Jean Lee connects kids with joy of making music

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Jean Lee's job requires her to keep her eyes and ears on the present moment, the near future and generations to come.

"There really isn't anything else like it at Michigan State University," Lee said. "It's kind of a two-part job."

As instructor and coordinator of string music education at MSU — a teacher and a teacher of teachers — she believes that the joy of music making should be a part of everyone's life, not just the rich kids.

Her most cherished goal is to bridge the gap between the small coterie of kids whose parents fixed them up with private lessons in toddlerhood and kids like herself who grew up without that advantage, wherever they come from.

"We have a shortage of string teachers in this country," she said. "And here I am trying to rebuild, trying to get those string teachers out into the field, out into Title 1 schools in low-income areas, rural programs, wherever they end up, introducing music education to communities or bringing it back after it's been cut. That's the root of it."

Although Lee is the newest member of MSU's music education faculty, she's already made huge strides toward rebuilding the string music education program, recruiting students from around the state and nearly quadrupling its size.

"When I was hired in January 2023, we only had 11 applications for undergraduate strings, and that includes performance and education," she said. "A year later, it grew to around 30 applications. I just got the numbers for this year, and we're up to 50 undergraduate applications for strings."

Her classroom motto is simple: "Joyful lessons are effective lessons."

"Having lived through my own issues with anxiety and perfectionism and all of that, I think about what I needed when I was a child," she said.

Fear and intimidation have no place in her pedagogical repertoire.

"It's such a personal, artistic craft," she said. "If they don't feel safe, my students aren't going to feel free enough to express themselves musically with me or make music with me."

That simple grounding applies across



Photo by Raymond Holt

As instructor and coordinator of string music education at MSU, Jean Lee's most cherished goal is to bridge the gap between the small coterie of kids whose parents fixed them up with private lessons in toddlerhood and kids like herself who grew up without that advantage.

the range of Lee's students, from 4-year-olds to 40-year-old adult education students.

"A good teacher is good at putting themselves in their students' shoes," she said. "When you're teaching a classroom with 50 10-year-olds, you have to be not only efficient and organized, but you have to provide a place for 50 different personalities."

Lee started playing violin relatively late, around 12 years old. Her parents owned Twichell's Dry Cleaners and Tailors on M.A.C. Avenue in East Lansing.

"My parents were immigrants trying to make ends meet," she said. "My dad was trying to finish his studies at MSU. I didn't start my formal training until much later."

Her parents encouraged her love for music, and they were proud that the Spartan Marching Band had its uniforms cleaned and altered at Twichell's.

Lee's first teaching job after graduating from MSU was leading a music production class at Sexton High School for

about four years.

"We had no equipment," she recalled. "We had PCs and these dinky MIDI keyboards, no preamps or software."

The Sexton job taught her that if the spirit and the will to make music is there — and it almost always is, in human beings of every size — a good teacher can make it work.

"We did whatever the students wanted to do," she said. "They had no formal training, but they had really good ears. We did gospel, we did a lot of things. I had a student who's a pretty well-known composer in LA now who started out by making beats using the keyboard and the little drum sound effects. We just tried to make something out of nothing."

A genuine love for pop music keeps her in touch with the musical lives of her students. In high school, she played in a cover band that specialized in the songs of Stevie Nicks.

"The students, once they get to know me, know I'm all about everything

K-pop," Lee said. Korean pop, a fabulous faraway factory where the most sugary, pink and gummy earworms in the world are extruded, is her unabashed passion. The Bangtan Boys (or BTS) are a big favorite.

"Right now, I can't get 'APT' by Bruno Mars and Rosé out of my mind," she said.

A Bach chaconne is great, but you haven't lived until you've heard Rosé beckon you to her "apateu, apateu, apateu" (Korean for "apartment").

In recent years, Lee is seeing more young people gravitate to string instruments and more people under 35 including classical music in their concert-going life and Spotify playlists.

"Social media plays a huge part in that," she said. "Concert musicians like Ray Chen are so accessible, showing their personalities and making it really funny."

Music schools, camps and other arts groups throughout the Midwest constantly call on Lee's expertise and enthusiasm as a conductor, clinician, Suzuki violin teacher and competition judge. At MSU, Lee is busy weaving a stringy web of community partners.

"We work with incredible people like LaVonté Heard, who's trying to bring high-quality music education back into the formal curriculum in neighborhood Lansing schools," Lee said. Heard is a powerhouse vocalist, a committed teacher, director of the Transcendence Performing Arts Center and artistic director of Lansing's Verna D. Holley Project gospel ensemble.

"That's where my passion for it gets to flex itself a little bit, by hooking up with such incredible visionaries like him," Lee said.

The more effective she is at her job, the more her services are in demand. Still, she manages to recharge, whenever possible, by curling up with her Kindle.

"The first thing I did when I woke up today was download Rebecca Yarros' 'Onyx Storm,'" she said. (It's the latest in a series of best-selling fantasy books that will soon be made into a TV series.) "In weather like this, give me a fuzzy blanket, my Kindle reader and a mug of tea, and I'll be very happy."

Wharton Center eases on down the road to its 2025-'26 Broadway series

By COURTNEY BOWERMAN

Fire up your DeLoreans, dust off your old Clue notepads and brush up on the lyrics of your favorite Neil Diamond tunes. In the Wharton Center's 2025-'26 Broadway series, nostalgia reigns supreme.

Tickets for Wharton Center subscribers are on sale now. The series package, which includes tickets to six out of the eight shows, not only offers the best prices of the year but allows members to lock in their seats for the whole season, as well as the ability to exchange seats for another performance if necessary. For more information, visit whartonseason.com.

Executive director Eric Olmscheid said that even though Wharton is a smaller market for big Broadway shows, the team is proud of the fact that it can host these productions every year. For this season, the team wanted to select plenty of new shows based on touring availability and popularity.

"It's part of my job as the primary curator of the season to see the work when it first opens on Broadway so we can assess it with real experience and information about what makes sense for our community," Olmscheid explained. "It's typically how we prefer to operate. We've seen all the shows, previewed them, and we've thought through if it will be a good fit for our market or not."

The season will begin and end with jukebox musicals: "A Beautiful Noise," running Sept. 16 through 21, and "& Juliet," running June 23 through 28. The former is about the life of singer-songwriter Neil Diamond, while the latter is an alternate version of "Romeo and Juliet" where Shakespeare's heroine forgoes tragedy for a new beginning.

Since there's a wide variety of other jukebox musicals touring the country, Olmscheid didn't want to select too many. Nevertheless, he's excited about the ones he chose for Wharton.

"& Juliet' is filled with so much great pop music," Olmscheid said. "It's a beautiful story about empowerment and not letting someone else write your own story."

As for "A Beautiful Noise," he's confident that even those who aren't fans of Diamond will know the music. "But we don't encourage singing along during



Photo by Daniel Boud

The show Wharton Center executive director Eric Olmscheid knew he had to lock down for the 2025-'26 Broadway season was the 30th anniversary tour of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," running at Wharton Oct. 14 through 19. "It's such a beautiful family show, and this new production is going to be lavish," he said.

the show," he joked.

The season also features three Tony Award winners for best musical: "The Wiz" (Dec. 9 through 14), "Hadestown" (Jan. 30 through Feb. 1) and "Kimberly Akimbo" (March 10 through 15). "The Wiz," fresh off its 2024 Broadway revival, is one of the shows Olmscheid is most looking forward to.

"It took 49 years for it to come back to Broadway," he said. "They did a beautiful job updating it for today's stage."

"Hadestown" was the first musical production Wharton hosted after its pandemic hiatus. Knowing many weren't ready to return to the theater in 2021, local audiences will have another chance to catch the train to the underworld.

Those who look back fondly on the '80s will get a double dose of nostalgia with "Back to the Future: The Musical" (Jan. 13 through 18) and "Clue" (April 7 through 12), both making their Wharton debuts. "Back to the Future" is a big-budget spectacle complete with a working DeLorean on stage, while "Clue" is an 80-minute comedy that incorporates elements from both the 1985 movie and the Hasbro game.

The show Olmscheid knew he had to lock down was the 30th-anniversary tour of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast"

(Oct. 14 through 19).

"It was something we were focused on confirming as soon as we knew that tour was coming out," he said. "It's such a beautiful family show, and this new production is going to be lavish."

"Beauty and the Beast" and "Hadestown" are special events and can be added on to the six-show package.

Olmscheid is proud of the season Wharton put together and hopes that more people will subscribe to the Broadway series, especially in this time of political division and anxiety.

"I think one of the most powerful things in the world we live in is having positive shared experiences," he said. "And I think coming to a performance is such an important piece of what we can do together as a community. It doesn't matter our interests, beliefs or values. I believe the value of the arts for our community is to gather us, to make us heal and think together. Now more than ever, I think the arts are important."

March and early April theater productions:

"A Case for the Existence of God"

Through March 16
2 p.m. Thursday, Saturday-Sunday
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
williamstontheatre.org

Wharton Center Pasant Theatre
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com

"Dentro (Inside): A True Story, If You Think So"

7:30 p.m. March 20
Wharton Center Pasant Theatre
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com

"Broke-ology"

Ixion Ensemble Theatre
March 21-23 and 28-30
7 p.m. Friday-Saturday
3 p.m. Sunday
Stage One at Sycamore Creek Eastwood
2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
our.show/broke-ology

"Two Trains Running"

7:30 p.m. March 22
Wharton Center Pasant Theatre
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com

"Menopause the Musical 2"

3 p.m. March 30
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com

"Decision Height"

MSU Department of Theatre
April 1-5
7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Studio 60 Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu

"Into the Woods"

March 7-9
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Lebowski Center for Performing Arts
122 E. Main St., Owosso
lebowskycenter.com

"Life of Pi"

March 11-16
7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
1:30 p.m. Thursday
2 p.m. Saturday
1 p.m. Sunday
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com

"The Importance of Being Earnest"

March 13-16 and 20-23
7 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
riverwalktheatre.com

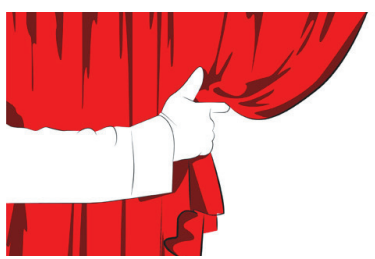
"Late Night Catechism"

7 p.m. March 15
Wharton Center Pasant Theatre
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com

"Girls Night: The Musical"

3 p.m. March 16

BEHIND THE CURTAIN





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Courtesy Jeff Sipe

Drummer Jeff Sipe has worked with a variety of musical greats, from bluegrass and folk titans like Bill Monroe and Earl Scruggs to jazz-fusion guitarist John McLaughlin, members of jam bands like Phish and Widespread Panic and Indian musicians like Debashish Bhattacharya.

Jamming with two Jeffs

Drum legend Jeff Sipe joins top local jazz and folk musicians at Mort's Fest

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

When galaxies collide, time tilts in all directions, past, present and future. Sound crumples into surprising forms and strange new frequencies.

No, not in outer space, silly. Everybody knows there's no sound in space.

That's exactly what to expect, however, at Sunday's (March 9) all-day Mort's Fest music festival at Moriarty's Pub in downtown Lansing. Joining forces to aid struggling communities in Asheville, North Carolina, that were devastated by floods last fall, the cream of local musicians from two galaxies will converge for a celebration of music's healing power.

The galaxy of jazz, funk and blues, represented by greats like organist Jim Alfredson, vocalist Freddie Cunningham and many more, will share the stage with folk, Americana and bluegrass

stars like singer-songwriter Jen Sygit, Steppin' In It stalwart Andy Wilson, steel guitar maestro Drew Howard and other local favorites.

It's a lot to take in, but at its heart, this year's Mort's Fest is a tale of two Jeffs: special guest Jeff and local Jeff.

Special guest Jeff is Jeff Sipe, a drummer from the Asheville area with a storied career that straddles numerous musical galaxies.

Fusing a free, experimental spirit with relentless polyrhythmic mastery, Sipe has played with everyone from bluegrass legends Earl Scruggs and Bill Monroe to jazz-fusion pioneer John McLaughlin, the Allman Brothers Band, south Indian raga masters and members of every '90s jam band

you can name, from Phish to Widespread Panic.

Sipe was also a mainstay of one of the most influential semi-underground bands in history, Col. Bruce

Hampton and the Aquarium Rescue Unit — not exactly a household name but a musical and cultural singularity, a whispered-about legend among top musicians from many galaxies.

The local Jeff is Jeff Shoup, Mort's Fest organizer, seasoned drummer and impresario of Jazz Tuesdays at Moriarty's, now in its 11th straight year as a top destination for musicians from across the country. Shoup's supergroup, The Polaroids, is also on Sunday's slate.

Bringing Sipe to Lansing will not only stir the rich cocktail of local talent for a worthy cause but also bring Shoup's musical life full circle. Hearing the Aquarium Rescue Unit on MSU student radio and later meeting Sipe at early gigs in Ann Arbor shaped (some might say "warped") Shoup's musical consciousness for good.

"It's not an exaggeration to say that meeting Jeff was a life-changing experience," Shoup declared.

Geysers and grooves

We take up the tale of two Jeffs in the mid-1990s. Long before Shoup became a Lansing jazz stalwart, impresario and educator, he was a fan of

Soundgarden, Jane's Addiction and the usual grunge bands. But his brain was a sponge, ready for fine imported vinegar.

One morning, while driving his dad's Chevrolet Suburban to a 7 a.m. rehearsal at St. Johns High School, he first heard Col. Bruce Hampton and the Aquarium Rescue Unit on MSU student radio.

Hampton played a "chazoid," a hybrid guitar and mandolin that sounded like the two instruments were strangled together by a witch doctor.

"I was like, 'Holy shit, what is this?'" Shoup recalled.

Not a trained musician, Hampton sauntered and staggered through semi-cryptic songs like "Basically Frightened," a tune that could've been written yesterday.

"History is gone," he sang. "History wasn't much anyway."

The words lazily rose from his mouth like the bubbles in a Yellowstone mud pot, punctuated by frantic geysers and gutbucket grooves from the band.

Thunderstruck, Shoup wrote the name of the band down as best he could while bouncing through a

See Two Jeffs, Page 12

Mort's Fest

Benefit for Asheville flood relief
2-10 p.m. Sunday, March 9
Moriarty's Pub
802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
facebook.com/moriartyspub

Schedule:

- 3 p.m. Jen Sygit
- 4 p.m. The Further Adventures of FatBoy & JiveTurkey
- 5 p.m. The Polaroids
- 6 p.m. Supergroup 1: Jeff Sipe w/ Andy Wilson, Drew Howard, Freddie Cunningham, Keith Minaya, Mike Smalley
- 7 p.m. Supergroup 2: Jeff Sipe w/ Jim Alfredson, Chris Minami and special guests TBA
- 8 p.m. Jam session

Two Jeffs

from page 11

snowstorm on a Michigan road. It came out something like “General Lewis and the Rescue Squad,” but he found the record anyway, at the long-defunct Michigan WhereHouse Records.

Listening at home, Shoup was scalded up to his scalp by the band’s sinewy grooves, whipsaw twists and free-spirit vibe — a Southern-fried variant of Frank Zappa’s circus of sound, or the jazz excursions of that self-styled visitor from outer space, Sun Ra.

He listened to the superhuman ride cymbal work on a track called “Davy Crockett” and wondered if a drum machine was in the mix.

“I couldn’t even approach what was going on there,” Shoup said. “I was flabbergasted.”

He searched the liner notes in vain for the usual credit line, “So and so, drums.” Instead, it read, “Apt. Q258, hydrophase-enhanced collision devices and floating ceramic surfaces.”

On Oct. 8, 1993, Shoup climbed into a friend’s pickup truck and drove to Ann Arbor to see the Aquarium Rescue Unit at the Blind Pig.

He cherishes that day the same way Buddhists celebrate the day Siddhartha Gautama sat under the Bo tree, achieved enlightenment and became the Buddha.

“I was only 19. I couldn’t even drink,” he recalled. “But I got right in front of the stage and stayed there for both sets.”

The band was a dead-serious cosmic joke, a mix of performance art and wicked-sharp musicianship.

“I’d never witnessed anything like that at all,” Shoup said. “It made me take this left turn — OK, maybe there is something more than grunge rock out there.”

After the gig, Shoup helped Sipe put away his drum kit and chatted with him. He may or may not have hung with Sipe in the green room.

“That’s what my friends tell me, but I don’t remember that clearly,” Shoup admitted. “Most of the guys I was with were on LSD that night, so I’m not sure I trust their recollections.”

Shoup recalls shaking Hampton’s hand and feeling like he was “shaking the hand of a giant.”

The encounter with young Shoup stuck with Sipe, even in those hazy days. “He had a nice smile,” Sipe recalled.

In July 1994, the Blind Pig asked Shoup’s East Lansing-based hippie-rock bar band, Hepcat (not to be confused with the ska band of the same name), to open for the Aquarium Rescue Unit. Hepcat played the house party circuit, regular gigs at Small Planet and other local venues around mid-Michigan.

“I got to play on Jeff’s drums and got to know him a little bit,” Shoup said. Sipe showed Shoup some drum rudiments that took months for him to master.

“It was a left-turn moment in my life and musicianship that led to what I’m doing today,” Shoup said.



Courtesy Jeff Sipe

The Aquarium Rescue Unit storms suburbia in its 1970s heyday. From left: leader and musical maverick Col. Bruce Hampton, bassist Oteil Burbridge, guitarist Jimmy Herring, an unknown roadie, mandolinist Matt Mundy and drummer Jeff Sipe.

‘Absolute, total freedom’

About 20 years before that night at the Blind Pig, Sipe had his own “left-turn” moment when he was asked to play a wedding in the north Georgia mountains with the great keyboardist Dan Wall.

“I needed the work,” Sipe said.

A stocky trickster who called himself Col. Bruce Hampton was the last to arrive, blood-red mandolin in hand. (He didn’t have the chazoid yet.) When the quartet began playing, Wall signaled to Hampton, with a wink and a nod, to take a solo.

“I thought it was supposed to be real smooth jazz, smooth and silky,” Sipe recalled. “Bruce unleashes holy hell. He turns it all the way up and starts playing random notes, the craziest shit I’ve ever heard anybody have the audacity to play, especially at a wedding.”

Wall tried to adjust by reharmonizing to match what Hampton was playing, laughing all the while.

“Bruce has got his head down, eyes closed, just going for it — whatever that is. I didn’t understand it,” Sipe said. “I didn’t even like it.”

But something compelled Sipe to answer the phone when Hampton called him the day after the wedding gig, inviting him to jam with the band at a venue called the Harvest Moon.

There, Sipe found himself in a 15-piece band with Hampton, members of the Aquarium Rescue Unit, flutist and Centers for Disease Control researcher Joe Zambi, an oboe player from the local symphony and

“guys playing a rake and a bird cage.”

“I didn’t know what I was getting into,” Sipe said. “There were no tunes called. They just started playing, and I jumped in. We improvised the first song and the second song. I was having a blast.”

By the third song, Sipe turned to his left and told Randy Honea, who was playing guitar, “I think I’ve found my calling.”

“I think you have, too,” Honea replied.

Joining Hampton and the Aquarium Rescue Unit was the real beginning of Sipe’s musical adventures.

“The band is almost impossible to describe to someone unfamiliar with their music,” Shoup said. “It’s at the crossroads of rock, jazz, blues, country, funk and performance art. They hit on everything from Howlin’ Wolf to John Coltrane to the Carter Family to Sun Ra.”

Sipe eagerly took the music anywhere Hampton wanted to go.

“It was a real performance-art band, and the money was hardly there at all,” Sipe said. “The only way I could pull it off was almost to take a vow of poverty.” He lived in a leaky garage on \$200 a month.

No matter. Hampton was a magnet for any musician who cherished freedom of expression.

“I’ve never known anybody like Bruce. Not even close,” Sipe said. “He was a clairvoyant, a psychic, an uncle, an older brother who would always be there for me without judgement, always encouragement. Whenever I needed to get to the next level, he would show me myself, and I would see and be clear on what I needed to be.”

If the music settled into a routine, no matter how pretty it sounded, Hampton would simply stop the flow and point to someone in the band as if to demand, “Say something.”

“This was a vehicle that allowed for full expression, and I hadn’t had that before,” Sipe said. “There was always a governor, a place you shouldn’t go. But there was absolute, total freedom in that band.”

Running out of hyphens

It’s impossible to cover all of Sipe’s exploits since the heady days of the Aquarium Rescue Unit.

“I’ve been lucky along the way,” Sipe said. “I’ve met some very original, one-of-a-kind musicians, and the gamut runs really wide.”

After leaving the Aquarium Rescue Unit, Sipe followed his interest in bluegrass, gigging for three years straight with a Colorado country-zydeco-bluegrass-rock band, Leftover Salmon. (Most of Sipe’s bands test the hyphen-bearing capacity of even the most advanced laptop computers.) On “The Nashville Sessions,” Sipe is heard in the company of banjo master Béla Fleck, country legends Waylon Jennings and Lucinda Williams and bluegrass icons Randy and Earl Scruggs.

Shoup saw Leftover Salmon at the Blind Pig in 1994 and found it “magical.”

“They called it ‘polyethnic-Cajun-slamgrass music.’”



Courtesy photo

Mort’s Fest organizer Jeff Shoup experienced Col. Bruce Hampton and the Aquarium Rescue Unit and met Jeff Sipe at Ann Arbor’s Blind Pig in 1993; it changed his life.

Shoup said.

One of Sipe's wildest projects was a big — very big — band called the Zambiland Orchestra, which assembled each December for six years at Atlanta's Variety Playhouse to benefit a local hospice program and food bank.

It was jam-band nirvana. All four members of Phish were in the orchestra at one time or another, along with members of Widespread Panic, the Derek Trucks Band, Fiji Mariners and other bands.

"I invited 20 people, and 40 people showed up," Sipe said. The next year, he invited the first 40 people, and 60 showed up.

"It kept growing through the six years we did it," he said. "At one point, we had 83 people on the stage."

Longtime Atlanta session bassist Ricky Keller conducted with a toilet plunger or a giant tiki spoon. To wrangle the assemblage without rehearsal, Keller and Sipe flashed three sets of poster cards at the musicians: one with key changes, another with names of genres (heavy metal, reggae, bebop, funk, Dixieland) and a third with performance antics like "everybody walk backwards," "shake hands" or "point up."

Hampton, who died in 2017 after collapsing on stage at his own 70th birthday tribute concert, would have enjoyed the loosely harnessed anarchy.

"On the dime, everybody switched to the new key, the new tempo, the new sound," Sipe said. "That was how it worked and didn't work. It was crazy sounding sometimes, like Sun Ra on steroids, but really a lot of fun — for the audience as well."

'These cats are hurting'

Last fall, Shoup found himself in a nostalgic mood and posted a memory on Facebook of his long-ago Blind Pig epiphany with the Aquarium Rescue Unit. To his delight, Sipe responded.

Around the same time, Shoup was planning a revival of Mort's Fest with a partner, Mike Smalley, a journeyman bassist and retired employee of Elderly Instruments. The festival started in 2016 with a 10-hour marathon to raise funds for a sound system at Mort's. (Most of that sound system, including massive JBL speakers and monitors, is still in operation.) "It was fun but kind of self-serving," Shoup said. "We started looking at charities like Homeless Angels and the Capital Area Humane Society." The festival went into hibernation with the 2020 pandemic shut-down.

In fall 2024, the national news was full of images of floods that were devastating Asheville, home to many great musicians, in the wake of Hurricane Helene.

Shoup remembered that Sipe is based in Asheville. "There's a kinship among musicians," Shoup said. "I thought, 'These cats in Asheville are hurting. There aren't many places for them to play. Let's help them out.'"

Shoup contacted a local charity, BeLoved Asheville, and found that the need is still great.

Without regular venues to perform at, Sipe has played dozens of house concerts and other benefits in the Asheville area.

"It's still tough," Sipe said. "Musicians are scrambling. Not all the clubs are back up and running. It's crawling back, but there's tons of cleanup to do. All the low-lying areas are devastated. It'll take thousands of dump trucks and years to get rid of all the debris."

Sipe has a high regard for BeLoved Asheville.



Courtesy photo

As usual, the tranquil dignity of the Aquarium Rescue Unit is shattered by the antics of its anarchic leader, Col. Bruce Hampton (top). From left: mandolinist Matt Mundy, guitarist Jimmy Herring, drummer Jeff Sipe and bassist Oteil Burbridge.

"It's a great organization," Sipe said. "They've been real effective leaders throughout this crisis, taking care of everybody from the homeless to nursing homes, day care centers. They have hundreds of volunteers and were able to get in there well before FEMA or any other people could get here."

Shoup set about lining up sponsors for the event, including Providence Consulting, the Lansing Symphony Orchestra, Sonor Drums/KHS America, Avedis Zildjian Co., Gregg Hill's Cold Plunge Records (a mainstay sponsor of Jazz Tuesdays), Elderly Instruments, Music Manor, Local Roots Cannabis and Josh Hovey's Bell-

wether PR firm.

Sipe will have a busy weekend in Michigan. He'll play Detroit's Cadieux Cafe on Thursday (March 6) and Friday (March 7) with Grateful Dead tribute band Supercrunch and visit Lansing music store Music Instrument Swap on Saturday (March 8) for a drum clinic.

At Mort's Fest, Shoup is throwing Sipe into two separate supergroups. One will feature harmonica monster Andy Wilson of the Springtails and Steppin' In It, steel guitarist Drew Howard, guitarist Keith Minaya, bassist Mike Smalley and a real wild card, former Root Doctor vocalist Freddie Cunningham.

Although Cunningham is a blues and R&B singer without peer, his ability to pivot to country tunes earned him the nickname "country Fred" among his Root Doctor bandmates.

Sunday's second Sipe-centric supergroup will have more of a jazz vibe, with organist Jim Alfredson, award-winning guitarist and MSU graduate Chris Minami and others to be named.

"I wanted to put Jeff with the best musicians I could," Shoup said.

Alfredson met and played with Sipe at a jazz camp in Brevard, North Carolina, directed by MSU trombone Professor Michael Dease.

"Jim Alfredson is a great dude," Sipe said. "I'm looking forward to meeting everybody, seeing those jazz heavyweights."

Many of the musicians on Sunday's slate can switch genres or instruments with ease, and that suits Sipe just fine. To him, it's the spirit, not the genre or the instrument, that matters.

"Bruce used to say that a musician can play a song on a push broom," Sipe said. "You hit the floor with a bass tone and get the high end with the push. Already, you've got something great. You don't need an instrument. You can play the most beautiful thing you've ever played on a pizza box."

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Melba Joyce Boyd named Michigan's third poet laureate

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Prolific Detroit poet Melba Joyce Boyd has been selected as the state's third poet laureate by the Library of Michigan.

Boyd has published 13 books in her more than 50-year career. Nine of those are collections of her poetry, including "Death Dance of a Butterfly," which won a Michigan Notable Book award in 2013.

The poet, who wasn't expecting the appointment, said, "When I learned about the selection, it was the best surprise."

When Boyd began writing in the early 1970s, she said there was "literally" no outlet for Black poets to have their work published. However, in 1972, Dudley Randall, founder of the Broadside Press in Detroit, printed one of her early poems.

Boyd would later become a colleague of Randall's and eventually his biographer, publishing "Roses and Revolutions: The Selected Writings of Dudley Randall," which won a Notable Book award in 2010. She also produced a documentary titled, "The Black Unicorn: Dudley Randall and the Broadside Press." At its height, Broadside Press was considered the most prestigious publisher in the country for Black authors and poets. It was also the first press to publish the renowned poet Nikki Giovanni.

In a recent conversation with Boyd, she first talked about another poet rather than her own work. She's updating her book "Discarded Legacy: Politics and Poetics in the Life of Frances E. W. Harper" following the recent discovery of Harper's first book of poetry.

Harper, who was a woman for all seasons, became one of the first published Black women in the country in 1845 for her poetry collection "Forest Leaves." She was only 20 years old. She also became a noted abolitionist, suffragist and temperance supporter.

"I will be integrating her poems in the larger discussion of her work," Boyd said. She is also working on an essay about Harper that will be included in another book on the groundbreaking poet and novelist. Simultaneously, Boyd is writing

a chapter on Black poetry presses in Detroit for a collaborative work on the history of publishing.

"Thank god I'm retired, I'm so busy with projects," she said.

In 1969, following the 1965 assassination of Malcolm X, Boyd contributed a poem to "For Malcolm: Poems on the Life and Death of Malcolm X," a collection of poetry published by Broadside Press in honor of the Black civil rights leader.

Boyd recently retired from her post as a distinguished professor in African American studies at Wayne State University. In her long academic career, she has taught at Ohio State University, the University of Iowa, the University of Michigan-Flint and Wayne County Community College.

State Librarian Randy Riley said that Boyd is "a rare combination of poet, researcher and teacher. Dr. Boyd's poetry goes beyond just creative writing; it wraps you with the experience of Michiganders and often elevates voices of the past through a combination of history and verse."

Michigan's first official poet laureate was Edgar Guest, who was known for writing a poem a day for the Detroit Free Press. His daily verse became so popular that it was syndicated in more than 300 newspapers. He served as the poet laureate from 1952 until his death in 1959. Several collections of his poetry, including "A Heap O' Livin'," which has sold more than 1 million copies, were published between 1916 and 1959.

The position of poet laureate wasn't reinstated until 2023, when Nandi Comer took the reins. Interestingly, poet Will Carleton, known for his emotional poem "Over the Hill to the Poor-House," was informally called Michigan's poet laureate in the early 20th century. Carleton was the publisher of a phenomenally successful literary magazine, aptly titled Will Carleton's Magazine. At one time, a state law named Oct. 21 Will Carleton Day, and teachers were required to teach his poetry in school.



Courtesy Michigan Department of Education

"It was the best surprise," Detroit poet Melba Joyce Boyd said of learning she was selected to be Michigan poet laureate.

Eagle Township, Clinton County Board Meeting Synopsis

February 20, 2025, at 6:00 pm - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee Strahle, Trustee M. Hoppes and 8 citizens.

Board Actions:

- 1) Approved checking with the attorney on fence viewer definition.
- 2) Approved bills for February, 2025.
- 3) Adopted resolution 02-20-2025-01 to Amend Interim Zoning Ordinance for Non-Conforming Lots Boundary Adjustment.
- 4) Accepted the 2024 Annual Report from the Planning Commission.
- 5) Approved reassignments to replace Trustee Strahle on the LGRFA board and ZBA.
- 6) Approved new ex-officio member to the Planning Commission.
- 7) Approved estimate from Pat O'Neill for hall repairs.
- 8) Approved salary resolutions for fiscal year 25-26 to be considered by electors at the annual meeting on March 29.
- 9) Approved budget amendments.
- 10) Approved installation of security cameras at the township hall.
- 11) Adopted resolution 02-20-2025-07 to Adopt Sick Leave Policy.
- 12) Approved updates to Treasurer policies.
- 13) Approved to sell old laser printer.
- 14) Approved 2025 audit engagement letter for Siegfried Crandall.
- 15) Approved Clinton County Road Commission contracts for 2025.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is March 20, 2025, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

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

CP#25-073

B/25/071 BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT SERVICES for the Public Service Department's Wastewater Division per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site (www.Mitn.Info) until 2PM local time in effect on MARCH 18, 2025. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Marilyn Chick at (517) 483-4282, or Marilyn.chick@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.

CP#25-075



Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy


Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy, a Tuition-Free Public-School Academy, announces its Open Enrollment period for the 2025-26 school year for grades K-8. Applications may be picked up at the school, 730 West Maple St. Lansing, MI 48906, (517)485-5379, during the Open Enrollment period March 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025: Mon - Fri from 8:00am - 3:30pm, Monday 3/10/25 8am- 6pm and Saturday 3/8/25 8am-12pm If enrollment applications exceed the number of available spaces, a random selection drawing will be held at Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy on 4/17/25 at 4pm.

CP#25-074

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Michigan's cannabis excise tax: A local-level lifeline under siege

By CHRIS SILVA

Michigan's legal cannabis industry, a relatively recent addition to the state's economic landscape, has become a significant revenue generator. The cornerstone of this revenue stream is the 10% excise tax levied on retail cannabis sales. This tax, paid by consumers at the point of purchase, feeds into the state Marijuana Regulation Fund, managed by the Department of Treasury and the Cannabis Regulatory Agency.

The distribution of this fund is where the real magic happens, especially for places like Lansing and the broader mid-Michigan region. The state's allocation formula is designed to ensure that the benefits of cannabis legalization are felt at the local level.

- **Municipal and county distributions:** 30% of the excise tax revenue is allocated to municipalities and counties where licensed retail stores and microbusinesses operate. This distribution is based on the number of licensed establishments within each jurisdiction. For example, Lansing's substantial \$1.4 million share and Ingham County's \$1.8 million intake reflect their robust cannabis retail presence. This money is used as the local government sees fit.

- **School Aid and Michigan Transportation funds:** The remaining 70% of the excise tax revenue is split evenly between the School Aid Fund and the Michigan Transportation Fund. This ensures that the cannabis industry contributes to critical state-level priorities, namely education and infrastructure.

The disbursement isn't just a number; it's a critical component of local budgets. Imagine a city council meeting: discussions about park maintenance, afterschool programs or even crucial infrastructure repairs. These are the very line items that get a boost from the cannabis tax revenue.

For Lansing, the \$1.4 million is a tangible injection of funds that allows the city to address immediate needs. Perhaps it's used to repair potholes that have plagued residents for years, or to fund a new community center that provides vital services to underserved populations. In smaller towns like Leslie or Webberville, even the \$58,000 received per licensed establishment can make a significant impact. It might mean the difference between keeping a community pool open during the summer or having to shut it down due to budget constraints.

These funds empower local leaders to make decisions that directly benefit their constituents. It's about local control and local impact. The cannabis industry,



Oleksandr/Shutterstock

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's proposed 32% wholesale tax on recreational marijuana threatens to decrease the amount of revenue generated from the 10% excise tax levied on retail cannabis sales, which is a critical component of budgets for municipal and county governments.

through its tax contributions, is essentially becoming a partner in local governance, providing the financial resources needed to address the unique challenges faced by each community. And that's why Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's proposed 32% wholesale tax on recreational marijuana, which would create a significantly higher tax burden for cannabis businesses, is so concerning: It threatens to choke off this vital revenue stream, leaving cities scrambling to fill the gaps.

- **Impact on pricing and consumer behavior:** The wholesale tax would inevitably be passed on to consumers in the form of higher retail prices. This could drive consumers to the black market or to unregulated hemp-derived products, undermining the legal cannabis market and its associated tax revenue.

- **Financial strain on local businesses:** Small- and medium-sized cannabis businesses, which form the backbone of the industry in Mid-Michigan, would be particularly vulnerable to the increased tax burden. Many of these businesses are already operating on thin margins, and the added tax could force them to close their doors.

- **Ripple effects on local economies:** The closure of cannabis businesses would lead to job losses, reduced local tax revenue and a decline in economic activity. This would have a ripple effect throughout the local economy.

- **Equity concerns:** The proposed tax would disproportionately impact social equity licensees, who already face significant challenges in the cannabis industry. This could undermine the state's efforts to create a more equitable and inclusive cannabis market.

The timing of this proposed wholesale tax is also questionable. The market is still maturing, and the current tax structure



is already producing substantial revenue. The sudden change could be devastating.

It's crucial for policymakers to engage in a comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts of the proposed wholesale tax. They must consider the economic realities of the cannabis industry, the needs of local communities and the importance of maintaining a fair and equitable regulatory environment. The future of Michigan's cannabis industry, and its contribution to local economies, depends on it.

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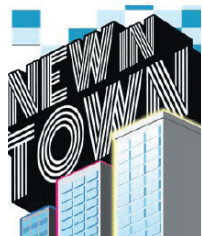
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New Schuler Books location invites customers to ‘hang out for a while’



By LEO V. KAPLAN

Schuler Books

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schulerbooks.com

Even in tumultuous times for the brick-and-mortar bookstore industry, Schuler Books has maintained steady growth.

In Okemos, that growth led the Michigan-based bookstore and cafe chain to move its Meridian Mall location to a larger 30,000-square-foot space across the hall, expanding its

seating and offering a brand-new event studio.

With an additional 6,000 square feet of space, employees and customers say the new location feels more open.

“The bigger space allows for more breathing room than the last one,” employee Boone Murdoch said.

Customer Jacob Rodgers agreed. “It feels less chaotic than when it was across the hall,” he said. “It seems like everything’s a little neater.”

The Meridian Mall proposed the move when Schuler’s old space began “showing its age,” according to Elizabeth Bosscher, the company’s marketing manager. When the former Bed Bath & Beyond closed in 2023, the mall sought



Photo by Raymond Holt

Employee Boone Murdoch mans the front desk at the new Schuler Books location in Okemos.

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Michael Sincic — Williamsburg

Stephanie Gregg — Eaton Rapids

John Gregg — Eaton Rapids

Big Mitten Linocuts — Royal Oak

Jeff Johnson — Jackson

a new use for the space. The move benefited both the mall and Schuler.

“We were really excited about the offer,” Bosscher said. “The tables at our cafe often filled up, so we were excited to offer a few more tables for people to sit and relax at for longer.”

Bosscher said the new location supports Schuler’s goal of being a community space.

“We want to be a place where people feel comfortable and enjoy spending time,” she said. “Maybe they’re meeting someone for a meeting, maybe they’re getting a little work done, maybe they’re just coming in to browse. We hope to be a place where you plan an afternoon to be here and hang out for a while.”

The most visible addition is the event studio, which features a stage and seating space for more than 100 guests. Bosscher said the space is “a great tool” for the bookstore: “We can reach out to publishers and say, ‘We have this beautiful space in Okemos, and we would love to be on your author tour.’”

The Okemos location has already played host to notable guests, such as New York Times best-selling author Angeline Boulley. Bosscher said the new location will allow the bookstore to host even more.

“Customers will be able to see an increase in how many author events we offer here,” Bosscher said, “as well as an increase in the profile level of the authors we bring in.”

The event studio mirrors a similar space in Schuler’s Grand Rapids location, which Bosscher said has been a popular fixture since its introduction.

Chris Faulkner and Rose Moon of DeWitt visit Schuler’s Chapbook Cafe nearly every week and have been loyal customers since before Schuler moved into the Meridian Mall in 2001. They said they like the new location’s open atmosphere and natural lighting; however, even with the extra seating, the cafe is still packed on weekends.

“It sure gets busy,” Moon said. “We were here on a Sunday, and there were no seats.”



Photo by Raymond Holt

The Chapbook Cafe is a popular stop for Schuler patrons. Server Sovereign Schoenherr brings a sandwich to an eagerly waiting photographer.



Photo by Raymond Holt

Chris Faulkner (left) and Rose Moon of DeWitt visit Schuler Books nearly every week.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Gallery Display" -- you'll know it when you see it.
by Matt Jones
© 2025 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Aromatic resin
- 7. Pose the question
- 10. Letters before gees
- 14. "Like sands through the hourglass, so ___ days of our lives ..."
- 15. "Got it!"
- 16. Spread on a BLT
- 17. Remain aboard
- 18. Negative responses
- 19. Almond shade
- 20. Boxer Liston and his new constitution?
- 23. German article
- 24. Looking with no subtlety
- 25. 157.5 deg. from N
- 26. Luau garland
- 27. Take care of
- 30. ___ Rafferty, "Baker Street" singer
- 32. Accept, like a coupon
- 33. Mixed drink with gin, vermouth, cheese, vegetables, and pastry crust?
- 36. Speechify
- 37. Groan-inducing
- 38. Malbec, for one
- 39. "Celebrity Jeopardy!" winner Barinholtz
- 40. Swab the deck
- 43. Hang on the line
- 47. "Brave New World" happiness drug
- 48. Scottish player who's a hit at all festivities?

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14							15				16			
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48	49	50									51			
52							53				54			
55							56				57			
58							59				60			

- 52. Tiger noise, to the under-2 set
 - 53. It may be tapped
 - 54. Palindromic 1976 greatest hits album with the track "Ma-Ma-Ma Belle"
 - 55. Jai ___ (fast game)
 - 56. Noteworthy stretch
 - 57. Having an outer layer, like fruit
 - 58. Tailless domestic cat
 - 59. Shortest Morse code unit
 - 60. Like some beer or bread
- DOWN**
- 1. Low end of the choir
 - 2. Belgian beer Stella
 - 3. Grayson who was the title character in the Apple TV+ thriller "Servant"
 - 4. "Funny Girl" composer Jule
 - 5. Nautical hello
 - 6. Collection of animals
 - 7. Restaurant chain with root beer floats
 - 8. Jolt
 - 9. Healthy cereal brand
 - 10. Reason for a siren
 - 11. Something proven
 - 12. ___ Festival 2 (recently announced sequel to a 2017 disaster)
 - 13. Like some gummy candies
 - 21. Irish actor Kristian of "Our Flag Means Death"
 - 22. "Training Day" director Fuqua
 - 26. Calligraphy introduction?
 - 28. Classic Japanese drama form
 - 29. Beats creator
 - 30. International auto race
 - 31. Puppy sound
 - 32. Peachy keen
 - 33. Trim a lawn
 - 34. Melber of MSNBC
 - 35. 1/20th of a ream
 - 40. Bikes with engines
 - 41. Egg dish (in this economy?)
 - 42. Yankovic genre
 - 44. Annoyed
 - 45. Prefix before dactyl
 - 46. Use a shovel on
 - 47. Cathedral city of Tuscany
 - 48. Airport people mover
 - 49. Hi, in Hidalgo
 - 50. Actor McGregor
 - 51. "Swan Lake" bend

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Answers on page 23

SUDOKU

Advanced

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

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

March 5-11, 2025

ARIES (March 21-April 19): The world's darkest material is Vantablack. This super-black coating absorbs 99.96% of visible light, creating a visual void. It has many practical applications, like improving the operation of telescopes, infrared cameras and solar panels. I propose we make Vantablack your symbol of power in the coming weeks. It will signify that an apparent void or absence in your life might actually be a fertile opportunity. An ostensible emptiness may be full of potential.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Among their many sensational qualities, rivers have the power to create through demolition and revision. Over the centuries, they erode rock and earth, making canyons and valleys. Their slow and steady transformative energy can be an inspiration to you in the coming months, Taurus. You, too, will be able to accomplish wonders through the strength of your relentless persistence — and through your resolute insistence that some old approaches will need to be eliminated to make way for new dispensations.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Centuries before European sailors ventured across the seas, Polynesians were making wide-ranging voyages around the South Pacific. Their navigations didn't use compasses or sextants but relied on analyzing ocean swells, star configurations, cloud formations, bird movements and wind patterns. I bring their genius to your attention, Gemini, because I believe you are gaining access to new ways to read and understand your environment. Subtleties that weren't previously clear to you are becoming so. Your perceptual powers seem to be growing, and so is your sensitivity to clues from below the visible surface of things. Your intuition is synergizing with your logical mind.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The Maeslant Barrier is a gigantic, movable barricade designed to prevent the flooding of the Dutch port of Rotterdam. It's deployed when storms generate surges that need to be repelled. I think we all need metaphorical versions of this protective fortification, with its balance of unstinting vigilance and timely flexibility. Do you have such psychic structures in place, Cancerian? Now would be a good time to ensure that you have them and they're working properly. A key factor, as you mull over the prospect I'm suggesting, is knowing that you don't need to keep all your defenses raised to the max at all times. Rather, you need to sense when it's crucial to assert limits and boundaries — and when it's safe and right to allow the flow of connection and opportunity.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The authentic alchemists of medieval times were not foolishly hoping to transmute lead and other cheap metals into literal gold. In fact, their goal was to change the wounded, ignorant, unripe qualities of their psyches into beautiful, radiant aspects. The coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to do such magic. Life will provide you with help and inspiration as you try to brighten your shadows. We all need to do this challenging work, Leo! Now is one of your periodic chances to do it really well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Cosmic rhythms are authorizing you to be extra demanding in the coming days — as long as you are not frivolous, rude or unreasonable. You have permission to ask for bigger and better privileges that you have previously felt were beyond your grasp. You should assume you have finally earned rights you had not fully earned before now. My advice is to be discerning about how you wield this extra power. Don't waste it on trivial or petty matters. Use it to generate significant adjustments that will change your life for the better.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): In North America, starlings are an invasive species introduced from Europe in the 19th century. They are problematic, competing with native species for resources. They can damage crops and spread diseases

that affect livestock. Yet starlings also create the breathtakingly beautiful marvel known as a murmuration. They make mesmerizing, ever-shifting patterns in the sky while moving as one cohesive unit. We all have starling-like phenomena in our lives — people, situations and experiences that arouse deeply paradoxical responses that we both enjoy and disapprove of. According to my analysis, the coming weeks will be prime time to transform and evolve your relationships with these things. It's unwise to sustain the status quo. I'm not necessarily advising you to banish them — simply to change your connection.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Buildings and walls in the old Incan city of Machu Picchu feature monumental stone blocks that fit together precisely. You can't slip a piece of paper between them. Most are irregularly shaped and weigh many tons. Whoever constructed these prodigious structures benefited from massive amounts of ingenuity and patience. I invite you to summon some of the same blend of diligence and brilliance as you work on your growing masterpiece in the coming weeks and months. My prediction: What you create in 2025 will last a very long time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Bioluminescence is light emitted from living creatures. They don't reflect the light of the sun or moon but produce it themselves. Fireflies do it, and so do glow worms and certain fungi. If you go to Puerto Rico's Mosquito Bay, you may also spy the glimmer of marine plankton known as dinoflagellates. The best time to see them show what they can do is on a cloudy night during a new moon, when the deep murk reveals their full power. I believe their glory is a good metaphor for you in the coming days. Your beauty will be most visible and your illumination most valuable when the darkness is at a peak.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Capricorn-born Shah Jahan I was the emperor of Hindustan from 1628 to 1658. During his reign, he commissioned the Taj Mahal, a magnificent garden and building complex to honor his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. This spectacular "jewel of Islamic art" is still a major tourist attraction. In the spirit of Shah Jahan's adoration, I invite you to dream and scheme about expressing your devotion to what you love. What stirs your heart and nourishes your soul? Find tangible ways to celebrate and fortify your deepest passions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Over 2,100 years ago, Greek scientists created an analog computer that could track astronomical movements and events decades in advance. Referred to now as the Antikythera mechanism, it was a unique, groundbreaking invention. Similar machines didn't appear again until Europe in the 14th century. If it's OK with you, I will compare you with the Antikythera mechanism. Why? You are often ahead of your time with your innovative approaches. People may regard you as complex, inscrutable or unusual when in fact you are simply alert for and homing in on future developments. These qualities of yours will be especially needed in the coming weeks and months.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): No cars drove through London's streets in 1868. That invention was still years away. But the roads were crammed with pedestrians and horses. To improve safety amid the heavy traffic, a mechanical traffic light was installed — the first in the world. But it had a breakdown a month later, injured a police officer, and was discontinued. Traffic lights didn't become common for 50 years after that. I believe your imminent innovations will have better luck and good timing, Pisces. Unlike the premature traffic signal, your creations and improvements will have the right context to succeed. Don't be shy about pushing your good ideas! They could revamp the daily routine.

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, March 5

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

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

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

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

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

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

Big 10 Collegiate Mental Health Center Conference - Theme is "Multiple Ways of Knowing, Doing and Being in Collegiate Mental Health: A collective call for social justice through integrated, holistic and multicultural responsive care." 7 a.m. Kellogg Hotel, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/michigan-state-university-17719520422.

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. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Euchre Madness - The Allen Farmers Market will offer weekly euchre tournaments in March. There will be a refresher on the rules from 3-4 p.m., after which games will start. Market runs 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.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.

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.

It's Elementary - Learn how to catch a leprechaun using science, then build a leprechaun trap! Grades 3-6. Registration req. 2:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Karaoke at Lansing Shuffle, hosted by Starlight Entertainment - 7-11 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.

Michigan Cottage Food Law - Learn how to prepare and sell foods to the public under Michigan's Cottage Food Law. Topics include preparing, packaging, labeling, storing and transporting cottage foods. 2 p.m. Virtual - register at cann.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.

Weaving the Web: Meditation - 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, March 6

"A Case for the Existence of God" - A sweet, thoughtful story about fatherhood, family and friendship. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.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.

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

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

Beginning East Coast Swing Group Dance Class - 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. uofmhealthsparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

Beginning Hustle Group Dance Class - 8 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. uofmhealthsparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

Business Education Series: Anatomy of a Data Breach - This session will examine recent cases and best practices to protect your company from a breach. 10 a.m. Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Suite 200, Lansing. facebook.com/LansingChamber.

Capital Area Audubon Meeting - Featuring speaker Rachael Pierce of the USFWS Migratory Bird Program, who will present on tagging and tracking the wood thrush. 7 p.m. Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Pkwy., Lansing. capitalareaaudubon.org.

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

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

David Koechner

8 p.m. Friday, March 7
Grewal Hall at 224

224 S. Washington Square, Lansing

Known across the globe for his roles as Todd Packer on "The Office" and Champ Kind in the "Anchorman" movies, actor, writer, producer and comedian David Koechner will be the featured performer at Pure Options' stand-up comedy show 8 p.m. Friday (March 7) at Grewal Hall in downtown Lansing.

Koechner's TV and film career began in 1995 with a one-year stint on "Saturday Night Live." He later appeared as a regular sketch actor on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." After his breakout role in "Anchorman," he appeared in comedic films such as "Talladega Nights," "Thank You for Smoking," "Semi-Pro" and "Extract." His first lead role was as Coach Lambeau Fields in the sports comedy "The Comebacks," followed by co-starring roles in the horror-comedy "Krampus" and the sitcoms "Bless This Mess" and "Superior Donuts." He made regular appearances on the ABC sitcom "The Goldbergs" before it wrapped in 2023 and currently plays a recurring character on the animated comedy "American Dad!"

Lansing comedian Dave Wellfare will open Friday's show. Tickets range from \$27 to \$52 and can be purchased at hall224.com. Tickets for the canceled Aug. 22 and Nov. 16 shows will be honored.



the Lansing Women Artists Collective. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

College Night at Lansing Shuffle - Free shuffleboard with student ID, half off well drinks, \$5 pitchers. 7-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

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.

Dine & Discovery Cooking Workshop - Join chef Eric King of Poppa's Cookbook to learn how to make Irish beef stew! 6 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Domestic Violence Support Group - 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. For questions, call 517-543-0748 or email ccavazos@sireneatonshelter.org.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Houndmouth w/ Bo Staloch - Houndmouth brings a captivating blend of indie rock, Americana and folk, with a touch of bluesy nostalgia. 8 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

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

Bldv., East Lansing. ladiessilverblades.org.

Parkinson's Exercise: Rock-Steady Boxing - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

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

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.

UrbanBeat Celebrates Women's History Month - This special event, featuring entertainment by Just Friends Band, celebrates remarkable women who have made history — past, present and future. 7:30 p.m. 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Friday, March 7

"A Case for the Existence of God" - A sweet, thoughtful story about fatherhood, family and friendship. 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

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Lebowsky Center reaches for the stars with 'Into the Woods'

By MARK GMAZEL

"Into the Woods" has been a staple of the musical theater catalogue since its Broadway debut in 1987, and for very good reason. The characters, based on familiar childhood fairy tales, are bold and recognizable; the situations are adult and modern; and the songs and lyrics demand a great deal of technical proficiency and creative ability from the musicians and singers. Although it's an ensemble piece, each character is a leading figure at some point, making a large, talented, dedicated cast, each with star quality, a prerequisite. When matched with an impressive set, a strong pit orchestra and top-notch support, this play generally pleases and entertains on its surface merits alone, and the Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts' production does it all with style, grace and assurance.

But make no mistake, this work is no frothy piffle. This production explores many serious themes, such as the failure of parental and filial obligation, the breakdown of

individual and group morality, the unforeseen consequences of wish fulfillment and the individual's responsibility to and for their community. The play is seen by many as an allegory about the AIDS crisis. While the show takes many dark turns to make its points, it ends with a powerfully positive and uplifting statement in song, "No One Is Alone." Each performer in this production has outstanding moments, and it feels unfair to write about only a few when each actor here is worthy of praise, but space only allows us to mention a few standouts.

It's almost impossible to be a show stealer with a cast as impressive as the one assembled here. But somehow, Bay City Academy high school student Jecara Williams (Little Red Riding Hood) charms and cajoles her way through her scenes with the skill and aplomb of a much older performer. Her voice is clear as a bell, her acting intentions are direct and precise, and she's perfectly suited for her role.

Michigan State University graduate

and Okemos resident Chad DeKatch (the Baker) is among the most centered, assured and skilled musical theater performers I've seen in Michigan. He radiates an easygoing charm that conceals his technical skills, handles the challenges and difficulties of his role effortlessly and enjoys an instant connection with the audience. His grounded and precise work here is among the best musical theater performances I've seen.

You'll see many other Lansing-area favorites in this production, including Amanda DeKatch as the threatening Witch, the hilarious Jake Przybyla as Cinderella's Prince, James Curtis as the Wolf, MSU graduates Kira Elena Billard as Cinderella and David Anderson as Rapunzel's Prince, and Anderson's spouse, MSU graduate student Anna Anderson, as Lucinda. And get ready to love another performance by Doak Bloss, who plays the Mysterious Man.

Some might think that Owosso is too far of a drive from Lansing to warrant visiting Lebowsky to see a play. Some may believe that a place as small as Owosso couldn't have the talent and support required to mount difficult, serious productions. Others may be concerned there isn't enough to do in town



Photo by The Mattesons Photography

Jecara Williams (left) as Little Red Riding Hood and James Curtis as the Wolf in the Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts' production of "Into the Woods."

before and after a show to make an excursion worthwhile. Those people are dead wrong, and if they rule out attending this event based on relative proximity, they will miss out on a professional, very well-produced show that's supported by a knowledgeable and courteous staff and features a truly detailed and gorgeous set, which matches the excellent talent. "Into the Woods" provides the kind of spectacular entertainment that audiences might expect to drive much farther for and pay much more per ticket to see.



Review

"Into the Woods"

March 7-9
7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts
122 E. Main St., Owosso
(989) 723-4003
lebowskycenter.com

Events

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Anniversary Sale at Habitat ReStore - Join Habitat for Humanity ReStore in celebrating our 25th anniversary with 25% off everything in stores, coupons for 25% off your next visit and \$25 gift certificate drawings. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing, St. Johns and Williamston ReStores. habitatcr.org.

Badass Women Band - This band of powerhouse female artists fuses each member's individual sensibilities for an unforgettable and dynamic collaboration. 7-30 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

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. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Country Night at Lansing Shuffle - Enjoy line dance instruction from 8-9 p.m., followed by modern country music playing until midnight! We'll have drink specials all night. No cover! 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

Craft Club Jr. - Create tissue-paper snails! Grades 1-3. Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

David Koechner at Grewal Hall - Koechner is well known for his roles as Todd Packer on "The Office" and Champ Kind in "Anchorman" and "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues." 8 p.m. 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Euchre with the Kiwanis Club and Unity - Optional potluck at 6:30 p.m., euchre at 7 p.m. Tournament with cash prizes. Unity Spiritual Center,

2395 Washington Road, Lansing. unitylansing.org.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.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.

Friday Fish Fry - Baked/fried fish, baked potato/french fries, two types of coleslaw, mac & cheese, beverages and more. Adults \$16, seniors \$14, children 12 & under \$7. 5-7 p.m. St. Martha Catholic Church, 1100 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. st-martha.org/fishfry.

Lansing Parks and Recreation Travelogue: Egypt - Take a trip through Egyptian history with hostess Kay Meints. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave. Lansing. lansingmi.gov/985/Travelogue.

Michigan Horse Expo and Trade Show - 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. mihorseexpo.com.

Northside Rhythm Kings Live at Moriarty's Pub - 8 p.m. 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-485-5287. moriartyspublansing.com.

Open Old Time Jam! | First Friday of Every Month - Join the legendary Mike Ross for an old-time-centric jam. Open to fiddle, banjo, guitar, mandolin, dulcimer or anything else you can play old-time tunes on. 5-6:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com.

Parkinson's Exercise: Movement with Vitality - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsq.org.

Salute to First Responders - Join us for a special evening honoring those who serve our community. Enjoy live music by Spoonful and special guest Gina Garner. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Ten Pound Fiddle Annual Membership Meeting - Hear reports from board members, have questions answered by board members and get a preview of 2025-'26 concerts. 7 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Tyrant WSG Anvil Crawler, Nulldriver, Finality - An evening of metal music at Mac's Bar. Doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m. 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/macsbarmu.

VITA Mobile Unit at Charlotte Community Library - If you'd like to sign up for a free tax preparation appointment, please visit the library or call us at 517-543-8859. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Saturday, March 8

'90s Cat Trivia - Enjoy four rounds of friendly competition, with kitty cuddles before and after. We also have a coffee bar and treat area! 7 p.m. 621 S. Grand Ave., Fowlerville. eventbrite.com/o/the-cat-connection-65515147103.

"A Case for the Existence of God" - A sweet, thoughtful story about fatherhood, family and friendship. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Anniversary Sale at Habitat ReStore - Join Habitat for Humanity ReStore in celebrating our 25th anniversary with 25% off everything in stores, coupons for 25% off your next visit and \$25 gift certificate drawings. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Lansing, St. Johns and Williamston ReStores. habitatcr.org.

Bowling for Babies - Hannah's House's annual bowl-a-thon for our residents and their coming babies. Registration is \$25 per adult or \$90 for teams of 4-6. 3-6 p.m. Pins & Pints, 2120 E. Saginaw Hwy., East Lansing. To register, visit annahshouselansing.org/bowling-for-babies-2025.

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. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

The Dinner Detective - We offer an amazing murder-mystery experience paired with a fantastic dinner. Anyone in the room can end up being part of the show, including YOU! 6:30 p.m. AC Hotel, 3160 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. thedinnerdetective.com.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

March Madness Psychic Fair - Find the clarity you seek, embrace the transformation you know you need, and connect with your magical and spiritual community! 3-8 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Michigan Horse Expo and Trade Show - 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. mihorseexpo.com.

Parent 2 Parent Sale - Early bird admission at 9 a.m., sale runs 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Joseph E. Drolett Community Center, 7550 W. Willow Hwy., Lansing. deltami.gov/residents/events/mom_2_mom_sale.php.

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Bowling for Babies

3-6 p.m. Saturday, March 8
Pins & Pints

2120 E. Saginaw Hwy., East Lansing

Hannah's House, a local Christian nonprofit that aims to help homeless, pregnant women get back on their feet by providing shelter, food, clothing, and parenting and job skills classes, will host its annual bowl-a-thon fundraiser 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday at Pins & Pints in East Lansing. Participants can enjoy complimentary pizza and soda while they bowl. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$90 for teams of four to six. Children under 5 bowl free but must be registered. Shoes will be provided. For more information or to register, visit hannahshouselansing.org/bowling-for-babies-2025.

Events

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Stephen Wilson Jr. at Grewal Hall - Wilson draws upon indie rock, grunge and country to create a distinct sound influenced by artists as diverse as The National, Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp and Nirvana. 8 p.m. 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Vertical Vixens - Join Vertical Vixens for a titillating game-show-themed pole event. Test your knowledge of the erotic and risqué. Each right answer unlocks another level and performance. Ages 21+. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Sunday, March 9

"A Case for the Existence of God" - A sweet, thoughtful story about fatherhood, family and friendship. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

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. Noon-6 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Family Brunch & Lunch at Lansing Shuffle - Featuring free shuffleboard for kids, video game tournaments, cornhole, giant Jenga and two-for-\$10 mimosas. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

GLAD Drum Circle - Join the Greater Lansing Area Drummers for a fun and energetic afternoon of rhythm and drumming. All ages and experience levels welcome. 2-4 p.m. Bath Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road, Bath. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

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/macsbarmu.

Ingham Festival Chorale 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/inghamfestivalchoralemi.

Jugglers and Would-Be Jugglers - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pump House 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. mikemarhanka@gmail.com.

Lansing Roller Derby Adult Boot Camp - Four-month roller derby training course focused on developing skaters to their full potential, regardless of prior skill or experience. 2-4 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Michigan Horse Expo and Trade Show - 10 a.m.-4 p.m. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. mihorseexpo.com.

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

Organ Recital - Members of the American Guild of Organists' Lansing chapter will give a recital. Donations will benefit our organ scholarship fund. 3 p.m. Our Savior Lutheran Church, 7910 St. Joseph Hwy., Lansing. lansingago.org.

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

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

Time to Paddy - Join us for the annual Time to Paddy 5K, 10K and half marathon! This St. Patrick's Day-themed run is perfect for the whole family. 8 a.m. Burchard Park, 212 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/TimeToPaddy5k10kLucky131Lansing.

Women, Faith & Leadership Conference - You'll

walk away from this conference with a new boldness and a determination to be exactly who God has called you to be! 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Rivers of Life Church, 2495 Cedar St., Holt. riversoflifelansing.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2140030.

Monday, March 10

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.

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. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

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.

Friends of Historic Meridian Culver's Fundraiser - A portion of sales from drive-thru, dine-in, carryout and online orders will go to the Friends of Historic Meridian for programming at the Meridian Historical Village. No flyer or code needed. 5-9 p.m. Culver's, 5140 Times Square Drive, Okemos. meridianhistoricalvillage.org.

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

In Person Pop-up Unemployment Office - Please visit the library or call us at 517-543-8859 to schedule an appointment. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

Lansing's Talent Search - We're hosting auditions for a talent show at the Venue by Eleven 11 Events (5660 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing). All talents welcome, solo or group acts. Participants must be in grades 3-8. Grand prizes include \$100-\$250 and a private party at the Venue! email info@eleven11eventsgroup.com to schedule an audition from March 10-16.

Parkinson's Exercise: Yoga - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lpsg.org.

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

Women's AA Meeting - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. lansingdistrict6.org.

Tuesday, March 11

"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.

Beginning West Coast Swing Group Dance Class - 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. uofmhealthsparrow.org/our-hospitals-services/michigan-athletic-club.

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. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Compulsive Eaters Anonymous-HOW Meeting - Free meeting that offers support, understanding, communication, relief, power and health. Meets in person and virtually. 5:30 p.m. St. Jude Catholic Church, 801 N. Bridge St., DeWitt. For Zoom info, call 989-620-0448 or go to ceahow.org/en/find-a-meeting.

"The Ghosts of Hamlet" - Le Concert de l'Hostel Dieu, known for riveting performances of French baroque music, presents a semi-staged evening of arias based on long-lost scores by George Frideric Handel and his contemporaries. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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.

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.

"Life of Pi" - Based on the novel that became a worldwide phenomenon, "Life of Pi" is an epic story of perseverance and hope that speaks to every generation. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

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

Parkinson's Exercise: Balance, Conditioning and Strength - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lpsg.org.

Parkinson's Support Group: Informal Discussions - Small discussion groups. People with Parkinson's meet in a separate room from caregivers for confidential conversations. 1 p.m. Congregation Shaarey Zedek, 1924 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. lpsg.org.

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

Wednesday, March 12

"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.

See Events, Page 21

Events

from page 20

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

ARTIST TALK: Michaela Nichelle - Join artist Michaela Nichelle for a talk on the transformative power of food and community, as well as how their art, on view in "Farmland," celebrates the Black women in their life. 6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

Beginning Ballet for Adults - 6:45 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.

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. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Euchre Madness - The Allen Farmers Market will offer weekly euchre tournaments in March. There will be a refresher on the rules from 3-4 p.m., after which games will start. Market runs 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.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.

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 - 7-11 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.

"Life of Pi" - Based on the novel that became a worldwide phenomenon, "Life of Pi" is an epic story of perseverance and hope that speaks to every generation. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

SpARTan Career Day - The MSU Department of Art, Art History, and Design joins forces with the Broad for a unique experience designed for high school art students. The day includes a gallery experience; a tour of the Department of Art, Art History, and Design; and more. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.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.

Weaving the Web: Free Will - 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, March 13

"A Case for the Existence of God" - A sweet, thoughtful story about fatherhood, family and friendship. 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.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.

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

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

Charlotte Community Library Birthday Book Club: "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee - 6 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

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. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

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.

College Night at Lansing Shuffle - Free shuffleboard with student ID, half off well drinks, \$5 pitchers. 7-11 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

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.

Dobie Road Healthcare Job Fair - Dobie Road is recruiting licensed nurses and certified nursing assistants for its soon-to-open Dobie Ridge Gold neighborhood. Meet our team, see the community and learn what makes Dobie Road a great place to work! 9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. 3860 Dobie Road, Okemos. dobieroad.org/career.

"Farmland: Food, Justice, and Sovereignty" - 10

a.m.-6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

"The Heart Within" - Celebrate the loveliness (and complexities) of love as the Waverly Middle School Drama Club stages plays, mime scenes and monologues about love and friendship. 7 p.m. Waverly Middle School, 620 Snow Road, Lansing. mljackson@waverlyk12.net.

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.

"Life of Pi" - Based on the novel that became a worldwide phenomenon, "Life of Pi" is an epic story of perseverance and hope that speaks to every generation. 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Parkinson's Exercise: Rock-Steady Boxing - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

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



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FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Cookies so good you'll forget to dunk them

By COURTNEY BOWERMAN

"Peanuts" pup Snoopy once said that happiness is a warm cookie. As a fellow chocolate chip cookie lover, I wholeheartedly agree. And anyone who stops by the cookie-focused bakery Dunk'd will find more happiness than they can handle.

Dunk'd opened in October on the ground level of the University Edge apartment complex in the Red Cedar

Development, across from the Frandor Shopping Center. Like the Crumbl franchise, the menu changes every week. In addition to the always-available chocolate chip, it serves four out of a total of 150 different cookie flavors. As if that isn't enough, there's also a giant cookie known as the Mega Cookie, which also varies from week to week.

But that's not all. If you haven't already guessed by the bakery's name, these cookies are made to be dunked, and not just in milk. Customers can choose from a selection of not only beverages but also five different sauces to enhance their eating experience. They include hot fudge, hot caramel, peanut butter, Nutella and marshmallow.

For those craving something extra, the menu also has specialties like the Cookie Jar, crumbled cookies layered in a



Chocolate chip cookie

\$4

Mega Cookie

\$14

Dunk'd

3214 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing

11:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
Wednesday-Sunday
(517) 798-6282

dunkdcookies.square.site

parfait with vanilla cream and your choice of sauce, or cookie nachos, thin, crispy cookies topped with hot fudge, caramel, brownie pieces and sprinkles.

My family and I stopped by Dunk'd not long after it opened. We already knew we were getting the chocolate chip cookies. What we weren't prepared for was how big the cookies were. Served warm and fresh, as only the very best pastries are, they were

puffy yet crispy, with the chocolate still melting inside. I don't discriminate when it comes to chocolate chip

cookies. They could be warm or cold, big or small, and I'd still love them. That being said, Dunk'd's version definitely makes my top 10 list.

That week, the Mega Cookie on the menu was s'mores, so I obviously had to try that, too. If you think the regular cookies are big enough, the Mega Cookie is huge. I'm not exaggerating: The s'mores cookie weighed nearly a whole pound and was stuffed with graham crackers, chocolate and marshmallow pieces, then drizzled with more chocolate and marshmal-

See Dish, Page 23



DUSTY'S

HOURS

Cellar (Retail & Bakery)

Monday-Saturday 10 am to 8 pm

Sunday: 11 am to 5 pm

Phone: (517) 349-5150

Wine Bar

Open Tuesday - Saturday

for lunch and dinner

Phone: (517) 349-8680

Tap Room

Open Monday - Saturday

for dinner

Tap Room open for lunch on
Tuesday - Saturday



CELLAR & WINE BAR

1839 W Grand River Ave. Okemos, MI 48864

THE TAP ROOM

1857 W Grand River Ave. Okemos, MI 48864

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE READERS

TOP 5 DELIS

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

1. Barnhill's Westside Deli

Relaxed spot serving pan pizzas, sandwiches, breadsticks and wings, plus beer and wine

204 N. Cedar St., Mason

(517) 676-9191

barnhillswestside.com

8 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, Saturday

8 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday

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

2. MEAT on the WEST Side

Butcher shop offering a variety of high-quality meats and cheeses

315 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge

(517) 731-6121

meatonthewestside.com

10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday

3. Sidestreets Deli & Bakery

New York-style deli and bakery with fresh-made bread, bagels, desserts and more

116 S. Cochran Ave., Charlotte

(517) 543-7243

sidestreetsdeli.com

9 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday

4. Stateside Deli

Breakfast and lunch spot specializing in deli classics like corned beef and pastrami sandwiches

3552 Meridian Crossing Drive, Okemos

(517) 853-1100

statesidedeli.com

8 a.m.-4 p.m. daily

5. The Vault Deli

Deli set in an old bank vault serving sandwiches, soups, salads and craft beer

368 S. Jefferson St., Mason

(517) 224-4764

thevaultdeli.com

11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday



325 City Market Dr
Inside Lansing Shuffle
Open Tue-Sun 11-10pm

LANSING'S BEST NEPALESE FOOD!



DUMPLINGS! MOMOS! CURRY!



STUFFED NAANI! BUTTER CHICKEN! CHAT PATI SALAD!



LUNCH, DINNER AND CATERING!



YETIKITCHENLANSING.COM

There's Something Special Brewing In Downtown DeWitt



What's Hoppin' @ LGBC?

Get \$5 Off When You Spend \$25 or Get \$10 Off When You Spend \$50! When You Present This Ad!



Scan The QR Code Below For Menu, Take-Out Orders & Events Calendar

March Events!

- Sunday Pajama Brunch Day 11am-4pm, wear PJ's get 15% off your bill
- Lent Specials (fish & chips, fish tacos, shrimp scampi & specials) on Ash Wednesday & every Friday - 4/18
- Comedy Night on 8th & 29th at 8pm
- St. Paddy's Week 11th-16th, Corned Beef Reuben, Irish Coddle & Penny Whistle Red Ale all week with live Irish Music & Stout on tap 14th-16th
- March Madness Specials 18th - April 5th (mention this & get 15% off your drinks & 1 appetizer during any NCAA game).
- Alien Abduction Day 20th, wear a shirt w/ Aliens get 10% off your bill

Dish

from page 22

low. While that sounds like a lot — and it was — it was every bit as delicious as the chocolate chip cookies.

We were so preoccupied with our cookie selection that we forgot to buy

any dunking sauces. If the cookies are already fantastic enough on their own, dipping them in hot fudge or marshmallow would undoubtedly send me into a massive sugar high. I'll be making another trip to Dunk'd as soon as I can, and I highly recommend everyone else to do the same.



In addition to the always-available chocolate chip, Dunk'd serves four cookies each week from a rotating selection of 150 flavors.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 17

B	A	L	S	A	M	A	S	K	E	F	F	S				
A	R	E	T	H	E	A	H	A	M	A	Y	O				
S	T	A	Y	O	N	N	O	S	E	C	R	U				
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S	S	E		L	E	I		T	E	N	D					
			G	E	R	R	Y	H	O	N	O	R				
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			O	R	A	T	E	P	U	N	N	Y				
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						D	R	I	P	D	R	Y	S	O	M	A
T	H	E	P	A	R	T	I	E	D	P	I	P	E	R		
R	O	W	R		K	E	G		O	L	E	E	L	O		
A	L	A	I		E	R	A		R	I	N	D	E	D		
M	A	N	X		D	O	T		Y	E	A	S	T	Y		

SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 17

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

Did you know?

Advertisements for nonalcoholic beer may never be as prevalent as commercials for its alcoholic counterpart, but the growing visibility of such promotions likely comes as no surprise to industry analysts familiar with the growing popularity of alcohol-free beer. According to the Beer Institute, the market for nonalcoholic beer tripled in size in the half decade preceding 2025. Indeed, an economist at the Beer In-

stitute indicates that nonalcoholic beer is the fastest-growing segment in the beer industry. In addition, a recent report from the Brewers Association indicated a 30% year-over-year increase in nonalcoholic beer sales in 2024, and industry experts estimate the market size for nonalcoholic beer will increase from \$20 billion in 2023 to \$40 billion in 2033.

— METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend Chapter 404 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances to add Section 404.15 to prohibit unregistered vehicles from parking on any public roadway, including but not limited to any alley, street, or highway.

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

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#25-068



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: ZONING AMENDMENT #25002
SEC. 86-755 – SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENTS FOR PARKING SPACE
MONDAY, MARCH 24, 2025

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Zoning Amendment #25002 – Sec. 86-755
Schedule of Requirements for Parking Space
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 to hear all persons interested in a proposed zoning amendment. The Meridian Township Planning Commission has proposed to amend Section #86-755 of the Zoning Ordinance to update the Schedule of Requirements for Parking Space language to reduce impervious surfaces in future developments, modernize the language for land uses, and simplify some of the parking calculations.

A complete copy of the amendment may be viewed at the Community Planning and Development office, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (phone 517-853-4560), between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to shorkey@meridian.mi.us.

Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-071



Sponsored Content

I'm an American. I'm a citizen of this country for no other reason than geography of birth. I'm not beholden to the politics within the borders of this country but to humanity. There are many reasons to be thankful for being born here, and it is for those reasons that I am critical of this country because I expect our leaders to exemplify the best things about our home and not to ignore, or worse, to embody the worst aspects of humanity.

Day by day, it seems to me that those within this new administration have become so drunk on power that they have abandoned any regard for democracy and diplomacy, not to mention laws, courts, and even contractual commitments. The days of intellectual bargaining have been replaced with bush league talent that portrays itself as a powerhouse and by a philosophy that muscle is the only necessity in negotiating, regardless of the desired outcome, because they'll dismiss any sign of losing as weakness and claim victory anyway.

I subscribe to decency and truth. I have watched too many hypocritical figureheads, who initially saw Krasnov as the cheat he is, change their opinions. From Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz to Lindsay Graham or any number of politicians that now kowtow to him out of fear that he'll replace them and likely be retaliated against by the MAGA faithful, who have shown they can be violent and should be feared. These people are not about decency, and they wouldn't know the truth if it hit them in the head.

Certainly, as a human being, I'm prone to lash out, judge, and make mistakes, and I'm trying not to. I am finding it more and more difficult to show grace. Every day, I think it can't get any worse, and every day, I'm proven wrong.

I feel like I need to lower the bar of expectations; that may be the only way not to be disappointed. Last week's debacle had me in a rage, and I still haven't come to terms with it. How anyone can justify that and not see the failure in diplomacy is beyond me. These people are the machinery of capitalism. Peace is not their goal; it's nothing more than a business deal for profit, and Mr. Art of

the Deal couldn't stand that someone wouldn't grovel to him.

The fact that a draft dodger could sit there and lecture Zelenskyy is satirical in real-time. Krasnov is the child who no one ever reprimanded for backtalking. My morbid side wished he'd gotten punched in the mouth.

What I see in the coming days is more of the same. Defending the indefensible. I wonder how long Trump's people are willing to cling to the thought that he's doing it for them. Obviously, the ties to white supremacy don't matter to them. The ties to far-right Nazis aren't a dealbreaker. They're on board with bulldozing the homes of millions of Palestinians. These are all things that rational people should be against, so I won't hold my breath. If the prices of goods don't fall in six months or 12 months, do they give him a year or two years? Do they concede that their hate is worth all the costs and stubbornly drown in it? Are the meme coins, the crypto digital, whatever will keep them pacified while they watch his pockets swell?

Honestly, the uncertainty is the worst part. I'm just hanging onto what I'm lucky enough to have: my family, a wife whom I can come home to and hold, my children whom I can offer support when they need it, and my community of like-minded people who remind me that there is always something worth fighting for. We are stronger together. Thank you all for your support.

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