

CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us
Locally owned



The tale of three city halls

See Page 13



PROGRAM AND CAREER SHOWCASE

4-6:30 p.m. · March 26 · West Campus

lcc.edu/showcase



NO SMALL POTATOES

Michigan ranks 8th in potato production



Michigan farmers plant more than 48,000 acres every year. Potatoes are grown commercially in nearly half of Michigan’s 83 counties, all the way from the Western U.P. to the Indiana and Ohio borders. Thanks to ongoing research and advancing technology, our growers continue to farm sustainably and do more with less. Michigan’s annual potato production is about 1.9 billion pounds!



Michigan farmers grow all sorts of potatoes, including russets, yellows, reds, round whites, and fingerlings. While about 70% of Michigan’s 1.9-billion-pound potato crop goes to the chip industry, 20% goes to the fresh market — that’s approximately 380 million pounds. Potato farmers in our state also supply potatoes that are canned and used in deli-prepared sides, like potato salad.

NUTRIENT-DENSE VEGETABLES: Potatoes are packed with essential vitamins and minerals. Potatoes have significant amounts of vitamin C, potassium, and vitamin B6, and are sources of dietary fiber and plant-based protein.

HEALTH TIP: *If you’re diabetic or prediabetic and worried about carbs, cook potatoes and then allow them to cool. That creates resistant starch, which isn’t digested in the small intestine and, therefore, doesn’t increase glucose the way nonresistant starch does. It’s best to allow potatoes to cool overnight to develop resistant starch. Reheating them is OK.*



**MICHIGAN IS THE
POTATO CHIP
CAPITAL OF
THE U.S.**

**Potato industry
delivers \$2.5 billion
to state’s economy and
supports 21,700 jobs**



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THE 15TH ANNUAL!



CAPITAL CITY

FILM FESTIVAL

11 DAYS OF FILM, MUSIC, POETRY, AND MORE IN LANSING.



OH, DID WE MENTION SOME* OF OUR EVENTS ARE **FREE?**



*** FILMS**

- Tell Them About Us*
- MSU Student Shorts
- 'Exploring Environmental Justice' Shorts
- Family Friendly Shorts

*** MUSIC**

- Growth Vol.3 w/ Jahshua Smith
- 'All Dolled Up' Whorled
- Love Effect w/ DJ Ruckus + Ganja Girl

*** MORE**

- 'New Wave of Entertainment' Panel
- CCFF x Filmetry
- 'Folk Music in Film' Workshop
- Quality Scary w/ Lansing Facts
- 'Symphonic Cinema'
- Distant Planet Project



APRIL 2-12, 2025

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CityPULSE

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ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: (517) 999-5061
or email citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com
CLASSIFIEDS & OBITUARIES: (517) 999-6704

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER • Berl Schwartz
publisher@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5061

GENERAL MANAGER • Steve Underwood
steve@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-6704

ARTS & CULTURE/EVENTS EDITOR • Nicole Noechel
nicole@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5066

SENIOR STAFF WRITER • Lawrence Cosentino
lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5065

REPORTER INTERN • Leo V. Kaplan
leo@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5063

SALES EXECUTIVE • Lee Purdy
lee@lansingcitypulse.com • (517) 999-5064

Contributors: Dedria Humphries Barker, Bryan Beverly, Taylor Blair, Courtney Bowerman, Rob Breznsky, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Dana DeMink, Lizzy Ferguson, Roxanne Frith, AJ Glaub, Mark Gmazel, Raymond Holt, Ari LeVaux, Gabrielle Lawrence, Audrey Matusz, Kyle Melinn, Joan Nelson, Tessa Paneth-Pollak, Tom Perkins, Dennis Preston, Vic Rauch, Chelsea Lake Roberts, Chris Silva, Jen Sorensen, Nevin Speerbrecker, Rich Tupica, David Winkelstern

Delivery drivers: Cindy Heistand, Curt Lauck, Terri Paine, Diane Scofield

ZERO DIMENSIONAL CHESS

SIDLINING OTHER MEMBERS OF THEIR OWN PARTY, DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP PRESENTS A BOLD VISION.

WE SUPPORT ABSOLUTELY NOTHING AND WILL DO NOTHING TO GET IT!

A NONENTITY YOU CAN COUNT ON

I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR CANDIDATES WHO IGNORE ME AND EVERYTHING I BELIEVE IN!

LET'S BE WHOLLY DEFINED BY OPPOSITION PROPAGANDA!

TABULA RASA NOW!

THE PRESS RESPONDS

FINALLY THE DEMS HAVE STOPPED POLARIZING THE NATION!

YES, BUT ARE THEY CAPITULATING QUICKLY ENOUGH?

ALSO, THEY STILL EXIST.

NATTERING NOGGINS

THEY HAVEN'T LITERALLY IMMOLATED THEMSELVES YET, WHICH STRIKES ME AS OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE WORKING CLASS.

WE CAN ONLY HOPE THEY SOON REACH A BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT TO SELF-DEPORT!

SORENSEN

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Music of New Orleans to fill Wharton Center Tuesday evening

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Hey! Captain edibles offer a departure from the gummy glut

PAGE 26

Tickle your foodie fancy at DeWitt's Looking Glass Brewing Co.

Cover collage by Design2Pro

CityPULSE

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

1. STABLE ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP!

I'M IMPOSING TARIFFS AND NOTHING CAN STOP ME!

NO, WAIT, THEY'RE RESCINDED!

OOPS, CHANGED MY MIND, THEY'RE BACK!

NO, WAIT--

MAKING AMERICA GREAT AGAIN*

*TERMS AND CONDITIONS MAY APPLY

2. STREAMLINED CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS!

TELL I.C.E. TO **RENDITION** THAT PALESTINIAN GUY AT COLUMBIA!

THE LEGAL RESIDENT MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN CITIZEN? I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT!

HE IS **GUILTY--** OF SPEECH THAT I DON'T LIKE!

3. EFFICIENCY LIKE NO ONE'S EVER SEEN BEFORE!

COME ON, MUSKETEERS! WE'VE GOT ENTIRE **DEPARTMENTS** TO RECKLESSLY DISMANTLE!

THERE'S BOUND TO BE SOME WASTE AND FRAUD IN THERE **SOMEWHERE!**

DON'T YOU **AGREE,** BIG BALLS?

YOU DA **MAN!**

4. SENSIBLE PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES!

THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST MEASLES ISN'T THE VACCINE WHICH NEARLY ELIMINATED MEASLES!

THE BEST DEFENSE IS EATING HEALTHY FOOD--LIKE THESE DELICIOUS FRENCH FRIES FROM **STEAK 'N SHAKE!**

IF YOU CAN'T FIND ANY ROADKILL, I MEAN.

5. OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL!

COME ON DOWN TO **HONEST DON'S TESLA EMPORIUM--**WHERE THE DEALS ARE **EXPLOSIVE!**

JUST LIKE A **SPACE X ROCKET!**

UH, DONALD-- A **WORD,** PLEASE?

TOM TOMORROW © 2025-03-17 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Downtown debate: Should state employees return to the office?

It would not be a stretch to say state government built Lansing.

Before it was chosen as a compromise location for the state's new capital in 1847, Lansing was "not even a village," according to a pamphlet from the Michigan Legislature. For nearly two centuries, state employees have been at the core of Lansing's economic development.

But when the pandemic struck, those employees went home. Many never came back.

While state employees may appreciate the flexibility, downtown businesses have suffered, according to a letter to the governor by Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce president Tim Daman and Choose Lansing president Julie Pingston.

The Feb. 18 letter urges Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to implement "a unified approach to bringing state employees back to in-person work" to benefit "hundreds of small businesses that rely on a steady customer base."

"The State of Michigan has recently made a significant investment of \$100 million into downtown Lansing," the letter reads. "Now is the time to generate a return on this investment by ensuring that state employees return to in-person work."

Michael Mahdi has run The New Daily Bagel downtown since 1987. He said he supports the proposal.

"I hope it's successful," Mahdi said. "We need them back."

Like many downtown businesses, The New Daily Bagel caters to office workers. The store is open from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., and is closed weekends. Without a reliable stream of customers filling the store at breakfast and lunch, Mahdi said business has suffered.

"Businesses downtown are state employee-oriented," he said. "When we lose that many people who are working here, of course it's going to affect us."

Daman said the proposal is common sense.

"When you have 15,000 to 20,000 people downtown and they are removed from the equation, the econ-

omy is impacted," he said, citing the state as his source for those numbers.

Daman believes that hybrid work "will continue to be prevalent in our economy" but wants to see it applied "across the board."

"We have some state departments that are doing three days in the office, and we have some that are doing zero," he said. "We need a little more consistency."

Pingston did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

While many business owners support workers' returning, others see an opportunity for Lansing to break free of its dependence on them.

Trisha Kosloski, who opened the Hob Nob coffee shop in 2023 in a former Biggby location, said she understood the proposal's reasoning but disagreed that it was the best solution.

"I think bringing them back for another extra day in the office might be a good idea, and it would be a temporary boost to the economy downtown," Kosloski said. "But I don't think it solves the problem — which we had even before COVID — where downtown stops at 5."

The difficulty, she said, is that reducing downtown's dependency on state employees will take time.

"The hard part now is that it's a waiting game," she said. "There are at least talks and plans to turn some of those vacant office buildings into apartments, especially affordable housing, and that would be huge for downtown."

"It would be nice to have more LCC and Cooley students living downtown," she said. "The only way you're going to break out of that 9-to-5, weekday grind is to have residents that live within these blocks."

Scott Bean, Mayor Andy Schor's communications director, echoed Kosloski's hopes and concerns.

"The pandemic showed that we can't rely solely on workers downtown," Bean said, "so we are focusing on adding more housing and amenities to have options for everyone."

Bean said the city was "working with developers on several fronts,"



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Longtime downtown merchant Michael Mahdi of The New Daily Bagel supports requiring state workers to return to offices. Not everyone agrees.

including building 700 new housing units, City Hall's transformation into a hotel and The Ovation music and arts venue, which he expects will bring people downtown on nights and weekends.

While the Mayor's Office "would love to see more employees from many sectors back downtown to cap this all off," it supports less reliance on state government.

No state employees the City Pulse reached out to responded to a request for comment, but some were quick to voice their concerns on Facebook.

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services employee Jenny O'Donnell Chapman said returning employees to the office was "not a one size fits all decision."

"Many workers are more productive working remotely," Chapman said. "If brought back to the office full time, I will not be frequenting businesses during my 30-minute lunch or on my commute back home."

"I'm so sick of the downtown restaurant owners' relying on captive consumers to make their money so that they can only be open for 4-5 hours a day and close on the weekends," Joris Jansen wrote. "Adapt your business model to the changing times or go under."

Environmentalist Heather Douglas said a work-from-home model could have a positive environmental impact, but that there were complicating fac-

tors. For instance, vacant office buildings still need to be kept at the right temperature to prevent damage to their pipes.

"Bringing in more workforce would increase the lighting demand and other electrical usage, but you'd have to heat and cool the buildings either way," said Douglas, president of the Capital Area Friends of the Environment.

Douglas said she would like to see the buildings turned into affordable housing.

The Hob Nob's Kosloski said such an outcome would save taxpayers money.

"If workers' productivity is still doing great and overhead is being saved, then it's saving us tax dollars," she said.

State House Speaker Matt Hall, R-Richland Twp., endorsed Daman and Pingston's proposal.

"All these state office buildings are empty, and I don't know where these workers are, but the Lansing Chamber of Commerce wants to know," he said. "We're going to be looking very carefully at the bureaucracy and the departments, and understanding why it is that these workers are all working from home, and would they better serve the people of Michigan if they were in their offices doing work?"

The legislative branch does not hold the power to return state employees to the office, but Hall's comments echo federal efforts to streamline the federal bureaucracy. No house Democrats have endorsed the proposal.

Daman said he was surprised to see the issue become partisan.

"I'm not sure I see how it becomes partisan politics," he said. "Our intent here would be that this is bipartisan."

Daman also said freeing downtown Lansing from relying on state government was unrealistic.

"People can say you need to focus on anything other than the government, but that's not how it works," he said.

"We are the state capital. This is what defines our region."

— LEO V. KAPLAN

MSU selects 3 design finalists for campus shooting memorial

Approach View
Meditative Circle



HWKN's design features three circles for gathering, socializing and meditation.

James Dinh's design features three radiating stone walls framing a glass window.

Carlos Portillo and Jessica Guinto's design features a black granite reflective pond.

Michigan State University students, faculty, staff and alumni have been asked to help choose a design for a memorial recognizing the death of three students and the serious injury of several others

when on Feb 13, 2023, a gunman entered Berkey Hall and the MSU Union, forever changing how we feel about the safety and serenity of campus.

Since then, Judith Stoddart, MSU vice

provost for university arts and collections, has led a planning process to honor the victims' lives with a campus memorial. She led a team of 10, held listening sessions and conducted surveys about what a

memorial should look like.

A request for proposal was sent out nationwide to architects, sculptors and land-

See Public Art, Page 7

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**, at East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Jim Dershem on behalf of Kappa Kappa Gamma, located at 217 Beech Street. The applicant is requesting replacement of the 7'x16' steel panel garage door with a 7'x12' steel panel garage door and to rebuild the retaining wall using decorative concrete block.
2. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Brett Mahaffey, located at 1116 Michigan Avenue. The applicant is requesting replacement of three divided and single lite wood windows with Renewal by Andersen Acclaim series Fibrex single lite windows and replacement of an entry door.
3. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from the City of East Lansing located at 819 Abbot Road. The applicant is requesting installation of a concrete pad on the rear of the building to accommodate a mechanical unit, open an area of brick on the rear wall for mechanical units, restore the opening and to repaint the structure.

Owners of structures containing more than four (4) dwelling units or other distinct spatial areas owned or leased by different persons are requested to post this notice at the primary entrance to the structure.

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

For more information on the request please contact Alycia Reiten at (517) 319-6941 or areiten@cityofeastlansing.com. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelhdc@cityofeastlansing.com.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the Planning, Building, and Development Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at ldegarmo@cityofeastlansing.com.

Dated: March 13, 2025
East Lansing, MI 48823

Amy Gordon
Interim City Clerk

CP#25-086



WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FY 2025-2026

Regular Board Meetings			Special Meetings		
6:30 PM			6:30 PM		
April	9	2025	April	30	2025
May	14	2025	May		2025
June	11	2025	June		2025
July	9	2025	July	30	2025
August	13	2025	August		2025
September	10	2025	September		2025
October	8	2025	October	29	2025
November	12	2025	November		2025
December	10	2025	December		2025
January	14	2026	January		2026
February	11	2026	February		2026
March	11	2026	March	4 (Budget PH)	2026

NOTE: If additional meetings are needed, they will be posted on the Township website.

Meeting Location: Williamstown Township Hall
4990 Zimmer Road
Williamston, MI 48895
(517) 655-3193
www.williamstownmi.gov

This notice is posted in compliance with Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended, the Open Meetings Act, MCL 41.72a(2)(3)), and the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Williamstown Township Board will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing-impaired and audio recordings of printed materials being considered to individuals with disabilities at the meeting or public hearing upon five days' notice to the Williamstown Township Board by writing, emailing or calling: Robin Cleveland, Township Clerk, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston, MI 48895, clerk@williamstowntownship.com, or (517) 655-3193.

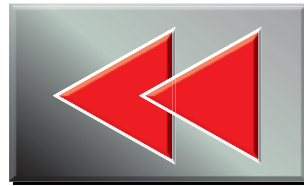
Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC
Clerk, Williamstown Township

CP#25-087

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



Several hundred gathered at the Michigan Capitol Sunday to oppose a resolution from state Rep. Josh Schriver, R-Oxford, urging the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn marriage equality. While the resolution holds no weight, protesters saw it as part of a growing opposition to LGBTQ+ civil rights. The protest followed a slew of executive orders from the Trump administration targeting transgender people, and speakers expressed solidarity with the transgender community. Some also noted that Michigan's state Constitution still bans same-sex marriage, making Schriver's resolution more threatening. The Michigan Coalition for Reproductive Liberation and the Crowded Table Coalition organized the protest.

The City Rescue Mission of Lansing will most likely demolish downtown Lansing's historic Glaister House after hearing from preservationists that there is little left to save.

The 148-year-old property at the Walnut and Kalamazoo street has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 2017. Preservation activist Dale Schrader said it was in restorable condition at that time, but after he and others toured it Friday, he said its decline had put it financially out of reach for saving. Set Seg Insurance Services Agency Inc. bought it in 2018 after longtime owner-occupant Alice Sessions died. Set Seg gave it to the rescue mission in 2023 after it purchased the insurance company's two adjacent office buildings on Kalamazoo to convert into a homeless shelter. A rescue mission spokesperson said it is likely to construct a rain-water detention pond on the land.



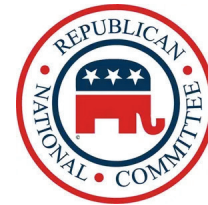
Lansing Police Lt. Ryan Wilcox has pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge of embezzlement by an agent or trustee between \$200 and \$1,000, reported the Lansing State Journal.

He had been previously charged with a felony count of False Pretenses with Intent to Defraud, over \$1,000 but less than \$20,000. An investigator testified that Wilcox spent time mowing lawns for money and working for another company while on the clock for his city job. He also used his city vehicle and fuel charged to the city to make personal trips to Chicago and used law enforcement databases for personal reasons. He now faces probation or a maximum of a year in jail if a judge determines he embezzled more than \$200. The charge also includes a fine of \$2,000 or three times the value, whichever is greater. The city Pension Board will rule on Wilcox's benefits. Sentencing for Wilcox is May 1.



Lansing School District Superintendent Ben Shuldiner told WKAR News he's excited to continue in Lansing after the Las Vegas school district passed him over. Shuldiner was one of three finalists for the position. He said then he had "not actively" looked but the opportunity was "a ring I felt I had to throw my hat into."

The Republican National Committee has filed a lawsuit against the city of Lansing in Ingham County Circuit Court in protest of its \$4,795 charge to obtain surveillance video from its absentee drop boxes after it had made a public records request for it, the Lansing State Journal reported.



The lawsuit said Lansing charged far more than any others it petitioned, including East Lansing, Delta Township, Detroit and other Michigan cities. City spokesperson Scott Bean said the city doesn't comment on active litigation but "is confident of its compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, and an answer to the complaint will be filed soon." Lansing City Council President Ryan Kost had reject an appeal, writing that the fee was appropriate because a city employee would have to watch 240 hours of video to redact any non-public information.

The third day of the Joshua and Rachel Piland trial in Ingham County Circuit Court included testimony from the family's midwife apprentice, Laurie Vance, who said that she had advised the mother to seek immediate medical attention less than 24 hours after her daughter Abigail was born.

The couple, charged with murder and child abuse in Abigail's 2017 death, refused due to religious beliefs. Abigail died within 48 hours, the result of a treatable condition known as hemolytic disease of the newborn.

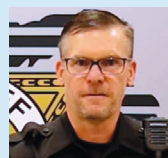
Lansing Mayor Andy Schor is working with MSU to determine if a fraternity held a large party at Hunter Park Saturday night that required extensive cleanup.

"We'll take every legal action we can for littering, for any property destruction, any illegal substances, and things like that," Schor told WILX-TV. The party ended with calls to the police, and the east side park was filled with trash, including broken bottles, liquor, cups, marijuana and more. "It was a more aggressive cleanup than I've ever seen in the morning," said Allen Neighborhood Center volunteer Carrie Holz-ahai. "The city got it cleaned up really quickly."



Correction

Because of an editing error, two people were mis-identified in last week's Rewind. They were Scott Wriggelsworth (left) and Deandre Luckey.



Public Art

from page 6

scape designers. Twenty proposals were submitted. None of the final designs are from Michigan companies or alumni.

A design by global architecture firm HWKN proposes three circular planting areas with trees planted in the center. A second design from Los Angeles architect James Dinh would feature three granite stone pillars with circles cut into the center to represent the lost lives. A third design by Toronto artists Carlos Portillo and Jessica Guinto incorporates the pond behind the Student Services Building. All call for seating areas to encourage meditation and contemplation.

The location of the first two memorials would be in "Sleepy Hollow," just east of the Music Building off West Circle Drive. Sleepy Hollow, within Beal Gardens, is part of the so-called "Sacred Space" and has been excluded from any construction since its design in 1906 by O. C. Simonds, a well-known Prairie School landscape architect.

At the time, Simonds wrote, "I should regard all the ground included in this area marked as a sacred space from which all buildings must be forever excluded."

You can help select a winner from three finalists at www.spartanstogether.msu.edu/memorial.

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.

Abandoned vehicle auction. 3/26/25 9 A.M located at 2347 N. Cedar St., Holt, MI 48842 (Swift Motors). The following vehicle will be auctioned:
1997 Chevrolet Camaro(White)
2G1FP22KXV2154150

CP#25-085

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

**CITY OF GRAND LEDGE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Grand Ledge Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing during a special meeting at 7:00 p.m., on Thursday, 2 April 2, 2025, to consider and receive public input on a request for a variance to permit stacking spaces for a new automatic car wash in the front yard at 715 S. Clinton Street (former Rite Aid Pharmacy). Zoning Ordinance, Section 46-316(a)(3) prohibits stacking spaces in a front yard. All information related to the proposed variance is available for review on the City's website at www.cityofgrandledge.com and at the City Clerk's office, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge, Michigan, between 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, as amended, and will also be livestreamed via Zoom for informational purposes only. The online stream can be accessed at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81468176683>, phone one-tap: +16469313860,,81468176683# US, +13017158592,,81468176683# US (Washington DC) or join via audio at +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 305 224 1968 US, +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 876 9923 US (New York), +1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose), +1 507 473 4847 US, +1 564 217 2000 US, +1 669 444 9171 US, +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose), +1 689 278 1000 US, +1 719 359 4580 US, +1 253 205 0468 US, +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston), +1 360 209 5623 US, +1 386 347 5053 US using Webinar ID: 814 6817 6683. International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcHrRUIX5a>

The Zoning Board of Appeals invites anyone interested to attend in person and offer comments at the public hearing. Written comments can be mailed or delivered to Elected or Appointed Officials at 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge, MI 48837, placed in the drop box in front of City Hall, or emailed to cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com. All written comments will be considered if received by 5:00 p.m. the day of the hearing. Please call (517) 627-2149 or email cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com for further information or to request accommodations for disabilities.

Gregory Newman, City Clerk

CP#25-089

**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

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Gregory L. Newman, City Clerk

CP#25-070

Defeat and sorrow overshadow Sunshine Week in Michigan again

It's Sunshine Week in Michigan. Again.

The same show, different year. Years of optimism that an expanded Freedom of Information Act would clear the Legislature and be signed by the governor have been replaced by cynicism as supporters slowly become resigned to reality.

The Legislature isn't passing a real FOIA reform bill— not this year, not next year, not until a Watergate-like scandal hits and shakes politicians out of stagnation.

Why would they? Why sign a bill into law and live with the results when you can pass the same bill year after year? When you can grab the headlines as a champion for open government year after year?

That's why nobody is celebrating Sunshine Week. Nobody is talking about it. It's because celebrating Sunshine Week has become the birthday you'd just as soon forget.

Instead of gifts, you get nothing but perfunctory platitudes — year after year.

We know the story by now. Since 2016, one legislative chamber has teased us into thinking it will open the Michigan House, Senate and Governor's Office to FOIA.

Instead, reforms pass one chamber only to die in the other.

No year is ever "the year." It's always somebody else's fault.

"It would have happened but for (fill in the blank)."

For all the talk about more transparency in government, the hard truth is that everybody wants to run on transparency, but nobody in government wants to be transparent.

We can start with candidate Gretchen Whitmer, who made expanding FOIA a priority when running for office. However, since her first State of the State in 2019, Whitmer hasn't mentioned it again.

It's not just FOIA expansion, however. The House Democrats are putting their BRITE Act on the table for the second straight year. Bringing Reforms for Integrity, Transparency and Ethics means requiring public officials to disclose their soft money accounts. There are no gifts for staff. There is one leadership PAC for one state legislator as opposed to three or four for the most

aggressive legislators.

The press conference for BRITE Tuesday featured more legislators on the podium than journalists covering it.

Everybody knows the bills have no future. House Speaker Matt Hall came out with his own transparency plan that the House passed: a ban on no-disclosure agreements, a ban on lawmakers becoming lobbyists in other states and an end to the revolving door of legislators becoming lobbyists.

He has his own acronym: HEAT — Hall Ethics, Accountability and Transparency.

The bills are sitting in the Senate and won't move. There's no sign they ever will.

FOIA expansion is sitting in the House and won't move. Hall has said on more than one occasion that the bills are dead.

Hall voted for basically the same thing a couple of terms ago. Now that he's in a position of leadership and would theoretically have to administer an open records law, the speaker wants nothing to do it.

Both chambers have made their political statements. They'll leave the issue alone for two years when everyone has moved on to other topics and bring it back in 2027 as if it's a brand-new idea.

The only way we're going to stop lawmakers from immediately becoming lobbyists after leaving office is through a statewide petition drive, and the only way we're going to get expanded FOIA to apply to lawmakers or the governor is through a statewide petition drive.

We'll only get real reform through a detailed, specific citizen initiative.

Don't let the politicians write the rules like they did with that pitiful financial disclosure law they passed a few years ago. With the help of the secretary of state, lawmakers crafted a mildly functioning, feckless website that tells those who can navigate it next to nothing.

Happy Sunshine Week. Political figures campaigning on initiatives for purely political gain with no hope of real reform. Defeat after defeat has led to nothing but sorrow.

Pardon me if I pass on the champagne.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Sponsored Content

I woke up over the weekend, opened up my social media feed, and saw that someone basically said I was a moron. They insinuated that I couldn't think for myself and that I had the woke mind virus, which limited my ability to see what was really going on.

Now, just for a moment, I considered whether perhaps I was living in a bubble. Could it be possible that I am the one who is indoctrinated? I pondered it and thought about how that might happen and how someone might actually fall into the rabbit hole. And then it dawned on me. I was down the rabbit hole — about 25 years ago.

Look, the left, the right, blue or red, liberal or conservative—everyone is susceptible to believing something untrue. But when I started to listen to people's lived experiences and educated myself by reading about all the history they DIDN'T teach me in grade school, I found that I was living a privileged life.

I didn't have to jump through hoops to get job interviews because my name was Tyrone or Muhamed. Nobody followed me around the convenience stores to ensure I paid for my items. No one has ever asked me to step out of the car during a routine traffic stop. In fact, I have been less than cooperative in instances with police and still been treated, well, not like a criminal. Nobody ever shames me or assaults me because my shirt is too tight or my shorts are too short. I don't have to ask for an escort to walk through a dark parking garage late at night or wait for the next elevator because there is a stranger on this one.

I could go on, but you get the idea. I acknowledge the privilege, but it doesn't mean my life was always easy; it just means I didn't have to consider all of the challenges other people face because of the systemic issues that our country is founded on and has done almost nothing to fix systemically. I am not saying we haven't made progress as a society, but we haven't systemically changed much at all. Some of us have become more aware, and some of us are not so much. I was in my 40s before I realized I was not living in the same reality as everyone else. It was easier before then, I will say that. But I can say that I prefer to acknowledge the truth than to be ignorant.

It took me having children and seeing the way Trayvon Martin was portrayed in the news after a POS vigilante murdered him. He was villainized for absolutely no reason, while people portrayed George Zimmerman as a neighborhood watch hero. It opened my eyes to people's double standards and which lives matter. Had my son been murdered in that way, the media would not have attacked him, and my heart went out to his parents, who should not have had to lose their child if this country had addressed this issue systemically years and years ago; it's long overdue. Even President Obama was attacked by right-wing media for his assessment that it could have been his son, which, considering the history of this country, is not a stretch at all. Somehow, he was the racist for speaking what anyone with a rational mind could easily acknowledge.

Anyway, all of that being said, it was until this moment in time that I was blind to the reality of this country to which I was indoctrinated, so much so that I couldn't conceive how racist so many people are. I blindly listened to opinions that were agreeable to the reality that I was in at the time, based upon what I was taught in my home, school, church, and amongst my family and friends. I was a parrot, echoing how America was great, and I pledged allegiance to it every day. I stood for the National Anthem like a good citizen, singing a song that had a different meaning to others than it had to me then.

I enlisted in the Marines and had illusions in my head that I was some sort of patriot. I imagine that I could easily be a Trumper today if I hadn't had kids. Life certainly would be easier as a Trumper; I could just tell everyone to pull themselves up by their bootstraps and go back to where they came from if you don't like it here. It is definitely not easier to live when you understand and empathize with other people's experiences that are challenged because so-and-so just doesn't care enough to read a book or listen to someone who doesn't look like them.

But it is so much more rewarding to live in reality. It is also a privilege to have real and meaningful relationships with people I may never have gotten to know otherwise. I can still grow, learn from my mistakes, and make meaningful progress in society. But systemically, we have a really long way to go, a really, really long way to go, because too many people cling to their hate, or they are blind to it. It is so familiar within them that it is difficult to escape unless something affects you deeply or personally.

Many of those people are in positions of power, whether a preacher, a judge, a police officer, a banker, or a politician. DEI was one way of making sure that these positions weren't automatically filled with a lesser qualified white person rather than a more qualified Black person. We were in the infancy of that when Trump came calling for his encore. What is deeply disappointing is how many businesses that adopted programs to invest in DEI have so easily switched courses. Even more disappointing is the damage that will be done in schools. Teachers are often the first people children turn to if they don't understand something, feel afraid, or need support. For anyone who thinks that teachers are just there to do a job, just think back to when you were a child; I would bet you had a special relationship with more than one teacher; I know I did. Humans are imperfect; understandably, you can be misled, but we can continue to evolve; in fact, we are supposed to.

At the very least, we should teach schoolchildren history without whitewashing it. Will it be harder to teach? Yeah, it will be heavy and hard to hear, but it will also be impactful, and once you've learned about it, you will absolutely not want to be a part of it. But when you water it down to say explorers, discovery, pioneers, settlers, revolution, independence, freedom, slavery, end slavery, WWI, WWII, America is great, it really only gives you the perspective of the conquerors, and not enough about those they oppressed along the way. Native Americans certainly have more history here than any European, but I think we spent all of three chapters discussing that, with very little to acknowledge the impact on their lives for the next couple hundred years and counting. Enslaved Africans' lives were summed up as more of an unfortunate circumstance rather than the evil it was.

In my high school American History class, I felt worse about Black lives during the Civil Rights era than I did about their lives during slavery because nobody ever told me that enslaved people were brutally tortured, teeth extracted, raped, had their newborn children ripped from their arms, etc. Still, because of photographs, I did find it disturbing to see that throughout the 1900's I could see with my own eyes the pain and suffering in their eyes while they were terrorized in their homes, publicly attacked, unlawfully arrested, murdered by the state, lynched by a mob, bullied or assaulted, chastised, shamed, framed, targeted, etc. The pictures and videos of everything probably impacted me more than the lesson being taught.

America's education system is already in question, and now they are trying to dismantle it. If our children don't get a good, truthful, and impactful education, then I fear what the future holds for the next generation. Quality education assures that young people will be able to think critically based upon valid information, but leaving information out is as damaging or worse than sugarcoating it. This administration is on the pathway of having you believe what they say and not question it. If they have their way, they will pick and choose what they consider acceptable material to teach children, and the results will, without a doubt, hurt their ability to navigate the world. I refuse to allow this to happen without a fight; these children deserve better than that, and I rebuke anyone who thinks otherwise.

I don't know how much damage a democracy can take before it completely collapses. I don't know when we will know for sure that we've turned authoritarian. But I do know that the best way to maintain an authoritarian regime is to limit what people can learn, what people can teach, what people can read, or what people can listen to. The actions this president is taking are not steps to secure democracy; they are steps to secure power. Regarding my sources of information, I prefer people who are genuinely interested in it from an academic standpoint with no particular agenda other than documenting history in real-time.

But I spent years listening to the Rush Limbaughs of the world, and I can say that if you think I am an angry person now, let me tell you how angry I was then. My anger now is with how cruel Trump and his band of robber barons are. Their behavior is not in the interests of the people who voted for him; they literally do not care about anyone but themselves. They will turn themselves into pretzels to make the insanity believable just long enough to fill their coffers. It doesn't matter what he tells his followers; they'll spread it as truth until it becomes the next Trump bible passage.

I remember a time when I'd hear something so crazy that my first thought was it had to be satire, but now even the craziest headline is believable. I have to look it up to make sure it's true, and it is almost always true. Whoever decided to keep track of the lies DJT has told since his first campaign could not have guessed how long the list would be, and what makes it more astounding is that anyone who supports him really couldn't care less.

Look, I know the argument is always that every politician lies, but we are talking about apples and oranges here. I am not exaggerating when I say he lies more than he tells the truth. He is going to destroy anything worth salvaging in this country, and he already has caused irreparable damage among our allies and even our enemies, which will lead to innocent lives lost just so he can pound his chest. This whole scenario in the U.S. doesn't go away without pain for everyone who lives here. How much time do we have before it is too late? I do not know, but I don't think we have time to wait and find out.

The streets are too empty. The longer we, the people, wait, the more we normalize this. The election results were not a landslide. More people voted for someone other than Donald Trump. People are now regretting their vote because of the chaos he is creating. Desperate times call for desperate measures. Every accusation is a confession; every lie is an admission. He has defied a judge's order. What is next?

How it started:

"I never taught my people to trust Americans. I have told them the truth, that the Americans are great liars. I have never dealt with the Americans. Why should I? The land belonged to my people."

— Sitting Bull

How it's going:

Hello, I am the intolerant left. I do not have to take your bigoted bullshit. I want you to have housing, food, education, and healthcare because these are human rights. But that doesn't mean I have to listen to one word out of your useless bigot mouth while I work for the day.

— Unknown

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'New Orleans Songbook' tour brings MSU grad full circle

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

There's more to New Orleans music than Carnival, Mardi Gras and letting the good times roll.

There's gospel, soul and Jelly Roll (Morton, that is). There's dancing in Congo Square, marching bands, second lines, Latin habaneras and flat-out funk.

All of the above ingredients and more have been lovingly spiced and blended for your listening enjoyment by Luther S. Allison, a Grammy-winning pianist, drummer, composer and proud 2019 graduate of Michigan State University jazz studies.

Allison returns to East Lansing on Tuesday (March 25) as the pianist and music director of "New Orleans Songbook," a Jazz at Lincoln Center touring extravaganza packed with some of the nation's top musicians.

Tasked with putting the program together and taking it on tour, Allison resolved to acknowledge "as much of the history of New Orleans music as possible," and that's a tall order.

He jumped at the chance to bring the startling innovations and joyful spirit of jazz pioneers like Louis Armstrong, King Oliver and Buddy Bolden to life in a fresh setting, alongside young musicians and singers.

But he also wanted to conjure the "street beat stuff" of 1960s funk pioneers The Meters, the gospel majesty of Mahalia Jackson and many more great New Orleans musicians, all the way up to Jon Batiste, the multitalented musician and composer who sang the national anthem at the 2025 Super Bowl.

All of that music and more was already in his blood. The "S." in his name stands for Samuel Nelson, a hip uncle who worked at a radio station in Jacksonville, Florida. (The middle initial also helps distinguish Allison from bluesman Luther Allison in Google searches.)

Uncle Sam hung out with Allison and his dad at the radio studio, talking about music. Sometimes, Uncle Sam

came to Charlotte, North Carolina, where Allison grew up, bringing with him an armful of hip-hop, jazz and funk CDs.

The soaring solos and ebullient vocals of Louis Armstrong sucked Allison in before he was 10 years old. He eagerly listened to tales of Armstrong's fabled mentor, bandleader King Oliver, and heard piano rolls by jazz pioneer Jelly Roll Morton.

When he kept "hitting stuff" as a kid, his parents put a drum kit in front of him. From there, he branched into saxophone and piano and sung in the choir in middle school.

Still in his teens, Allison was recruited to play in an ensemble headed by a new Charlotte-based outreach organization, the Jazz Arts Initiative (now JazzArts Charlotte). The organization's community-minded founders, flutist Lonnie Davis and drummer Ocie Davis, took him under their wings.

The ensemble also gave Allison the chance to play with musicians his own age.

"That was the experience that pushed me over, and I just fell in love with it from there," he said.

Soon after that, Allison met MSU trombone Professor Michael Dease at a summer jazz camp in Brevard, North Carolina, where Dease is director.

Dease recruited him to MSU, where Allison got his master's degree and taught as a graduate assistant from 2017 to 2019.

His years at MSU equipped him for just about anything.

"They did an excellent job of creating an environment in the school that really resembles what you're going to experience when you move to a major scene anywhere," he said.

He gave special props to MSU's Jazz Artist in Residence program, in which nationally acclaimed jazz musicians visit for a week to teach, tour and perform with students.

"For me, at 22 or 23 years old, it was amazing to work with a very well-established New York musician and to be



Photo by John Sturino

Luther S. Allison, a Grammy-winning pianist, drummer, composer and 2019 graduate of Michigan State University jazz studies, returns to East Lansing on Tuesday (March 25) as music director of "New Orleans Songbook," a Jazz at Lincoln Center touring extravaganza packed with some of the nation's top musicians.

in a tour bus, experiencing life beyond the music," he said.

Allison recently compared notes with another MSU jazz studies grad who's gone on to great things, his good friend Markus Howell, a saxophonist and composer. Both musicians found prime gigs after graduating from MSU: Howell toured with the Count Basie Orchestra, and Allison toured the world as part of a quintet led by drummer Ulysses Owens Jr.

"We both would talk about how being on the road with these people felt so much like these tours that Rodney Whitaker would have us do with the guest artists," Allison said. (Whitaker is the director of MSU jazz studies.)

"It felt effortless, natural, it didn't feel academic," Allison said. "It set the

tone of people just getting together and playing music. It was a really special time. I loved it."

A recent highlight of Allison's life was playing in five-time Grammy Award-winning jazz vocalist Samara Joy's touring band. In 2024, Joy's single "Tight" earned her and the band, including Allison, a Grammy for best jazz performance.

"Getting to work with her was a beautiful experience," Allison said. "I was the newest person in the band at that time, and having the chance to experience life on the road, on and off the bandstand, was amazing, one of the most important musical lessons of my life."

As a staple in New York City's top venues since 2019, Allison has made a lot of friends and allies in the jazz world. That made it easy for him to put together a stellar group for "New Orleans Songbook" that would not only play brilliantly in many styles but would also meld into a tight unit quickly.

"We're on the road for two and a half months, so I wanted to have people I felt comfortable with," he said.

There are two compelling singers in the mix. Quiana Lynell, winner of the 2017 Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, throws herself into anything New Orleans history can throw at her, from gospel to funk to jazz.

Milton Suggs has a wide range as well, but his vocal skills are secondary to his warm and intelligent presence on stage.

"He's very welcoming, inviting, a beautiful spirit," Allison said.

Followers of erstwhile MSU star jazz students will find delight not only in Allison's piano mastery but also in the return of bassist Liany Mateo, named one of DownBeat magazine's "25 For the Future" in 2024.

"Liany is like a sister to me," Allison said.

To put a cherry on top, the Wharton Center gig is among the final stops on the tour.

"Seven or eight weeks into the tour, we've got it locked in," Allison said. "It's been a wonderful experience."

Jazz at Lincoln Center presents: "New Orleans Songbook"

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 25
Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
(517) 432-2000
whartoncenter.com

Beyond gummies: Hey! Captain redefines cannabis edibles

By CHRIS SILVA

The first bite of a freeze-dried Star Baby is a revelation: an airy crunch that melts on the tongue, releasing a burst of tangy sweetness, followed by a potent wave of relaxation. Forget the chewy monotony of gummies; Hey! Captain edibles are a game changer in cannabis consumption. Hilary Dulany, the savvy force behind Lansing's Aardvark Industries, hasn't just launched another edible brand — she's paying homage to a pioneer and challenging the market's status quo.

Dulany, a Lansing native, is no stranger to the turbulent waters of Michigan's cannabis industry. From the caregiver days to today's regulated market, she's navigated the booms and busts, now a partner and the chief marketing officer at Lansing's Aardvark Industries, the powerhouse grower behind sought-after brands like Willie Nelson's Willie's Reserve. With 11 High Times Cannabis Cup awards to its name, Aardvark's craft grow consistently yields top-tier cultivars like Twizzlers, Don Mega and nostalgic Blue Cookies, a throwback to the



Photos courtesy of Aardvark Industries

Hey! Captain's freeze-dried Skittles- and Starburst-type edibles offer a refreshing departure from the gummy glut.

2010s, when Blueberry Haze reigned supreme. Willie's Reserve also offers meticulously crafted pre-rolls, both infused and un-infused, showcasing a focus on quality that sets the brand apart in the celebrity cannabis space.

Late last year, Aardvark launched the edible line Hey! Captain, a tribute to the legendary caregiver and industry innovator Kirk Reid, also known as "Captain Kirk." Reid, whose own caregiver brand

bore a similar name and theme, is the creative force behind the recipes, acting as a company spokesperson, in-store educator and quality-control guru.

"We wanted to honor Kirk's legacy and bring something truly unique to the market," Dulany said. "When I told people I was starting an edible brand, they immediately asked what flavor of gummies I was going to make. We knew we had to break that mold."

And break it they have. Hey! Captain's tagline, "NO Gummies, NO Brownies, NO Bullshit," is a bold declaration of the brand's commitment to innovation. The freeze-dried Starburst- and Skittles-type candies offer a refreshing departure from the gummy glut. The Star Babies, packing a punch at around 40 milligrams of THC per piece, are well suited for experienced consumers, while the Cosmic Crunchers, at 7 to 8 milligrams per piece, offer a more manageable experience. Be warned: Their irresistible flavor and small size make it easy to overindulge.

"The freeze-drying process intensifies the flavors and creates a unique texture," Dulany explained. "It's a com-



pletely different experience than traditional edibles."

This novel approach is crucial in a rapidly evolving market. With many cannabis experts predicting a significant industry contraction, innovation and quality are paramount.

"We're seeing a shift away from both gummies and combustion," Dulany said. "Consumers are seeking new and exciting ways to experience cannabis."

Hey! Captain edibles are more than just a novelty — they're a reflection of the changing cannabis landscape. As consumers demand more sophisticated and diverse products, companies like Aardvark, with its technical expertise and unique vision, will lead the way.

Experience the freeze-dried revolution for yourself. Find Hey! Captain edibles at Lansing's House of Dank and discover a new dimension of cannabis consumption.

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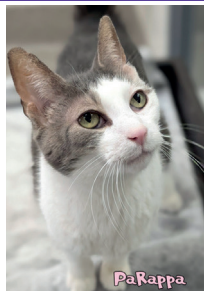
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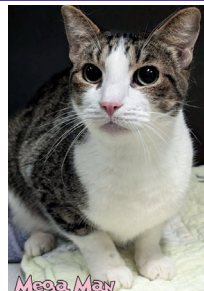
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is a 10-month-old Pitbull mix bursting with love and energy! This sweet, playful girl is always ready for an adventure—whether it's zooming around the yard, going for walks, or soaking up affection. Unfortunately, Sonya had to be brought to the shelter because her owner could no longer care for her due to medical issues. Now, she's looking for a loving home where she can thrive and share her boundless joy.



Sponsored by "The Fonz"
PaRappa

and his friend Morrison are sweet senior cats who came to the shelter when their owner passed away. They are settling in nicely but would much rather be spending their retirement years sleeping in sunny spots and getting ear rubs from their new family members!



In memory of Rodica's Cats
Mega Man

came to the shelter with a large group of his friends who were living in poor conditions. He's a little shy and tends to stay in his box but if you reach in and scratch his ears, he leans in and asks for more. He would do best in a calmer home with a friendly buddy to help him settle in.



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is a small, worried teenager who was found wandering as a stray. She was terrified when she first arrived but is settling in and turning into a goofy wiggly puppy who loves people. She is still easily startled and would probably do best in a calmer home, but I wouldn't be surprised if she turns out to be a hooligan once she settles in! She had a slow start with dogs but has turned into a playful girl who enjoys chase games, and she has the cutest little hop when she gets excited! Don't let her photo fool you. She is under 30 pounds, and we don't think she'll get much bigger. She's the perfect size for someone with a smaller space!

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Lansing's Lori Nelson Spielman hits it big with Netflix adaptation

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Having Netflix base a film on her first novel may not have been on Lansing author Lori Nelson Spielman's life list, but here she is.

The novel, 2013's "The Life List," was a stunning success for the author, who previously worked as a speech therapist, school guidance counselor and teacher in Lansing. It follows a young woman who is directed through her late mother's last will and testament to complete the items on a list of goals she wrote as a child before receiving her inheritance. The idea is for the daughter to learn to seek happiness and success by following her dreams.

Spielman said she based the plotline on her own life list, which she wrote as a teenager and discovered years later. In the book, after completing a life list item, the daughter receives a posthumous letter from her mother to inspire her.

Spielman said the book and movie both have a universal theme of fulfilling your dreams, but she also pointed out

that dreams can change over time.

"My life list didn't include writing a book," she said.

Since "The Life List" was published, Spielman has written additional novels, including "Sweet Forgiveness" and "The Star-Crossed Sisters of Tuscany," and is in the process of writing another.

The Netflix film was shot in Brooklyn, New York, and Spielman was able to visit the set and meet the director, Adam Brooks, and the stars, Sofia Carson and Connie Britton. Carson, who plays the daughter, is not only a successful actress, having starred in numerous movies and television series, but she's also a professional pop singer. Britton, who's also had a successful career, is well known for starring in the television series "Friday Night Lights" and "Nashville."

Brooks is best known for writing and directing the romantic comedy "Definitely, Maybe" and screenwriting for the movies "French Kiss," "Wimbledon" and "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason."

"The Life List" premieres Tuesday (March 25) at the



Courtesy photo

"The Life List" has been translated into 27 languages. A French version has already been published with a promo for the Netflix film on the cover.

Paris Theater in New York City. Spielman will be in the front row.

"I'm thrilled and honored that my story has been adapted to film, and I can't wait to see Adam Brooks' interpretation," Spielman said. "He is incredibly talented and has loads of experience, so I have no doubt the film will be even better than the book."

Locally, Spielman will discuss the book and movie on April 6 at Hooked, a bookstore on East Michigan Avenue in Lansing.

Spielman's books are generally categorized as romance, but she takes a sophisticated approach to the successful genre. "Life List" has easily surpassed a million copies sold and has been translated into 27 languages. Spielman said the book is especially popular in Germany and France, the latter of which has already published a new version of "Life List" with a promo for the Netflix film on the cover.

Spielman said "Life List" was optioned soon after its publication, but it took more than a decade to find a producer and a home.

Spielman points to classes she took at Lansing Community College under



Photo by Bill Spielman

"I'm thrilled and honored that my story has been adapted to film, and I can't wait to see Adam Brooks' interpretation," Lansing author Lori Nelson Spielman said of the Netflix adaptation of her debut novel, "The Life List," which will arrive on the streaming platform March 28.

now-retired English Professor Linda Peckham and poet Dennis Hinrichsen as helping craft her writing.

"Linda's class was pivotal in my writing career, and Dennis' class helped me find my writing voice," she said.

A few years ago, Spielman found herself in the enviable position of being the keynote speaker at the annual A Rally of Writers conference, which will be held this year on April 12 at Lansing Community College's West Campus. This year's keynote speaker is another successful Lansing writer, Erin Bartels, who has authored six novels, three of which won Michigan Notable Book awards. The hands-on writers' conference is typically a sell out, and early registration is required at arallyofwriters.com.

"The Life List" author discussion and book signing

5 p.m. April 6
Hooked
3142 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
hookedlansing.com

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Courtesy City of Lansing

A nighttime rendering of Lansing's new City Hall, on Lenawee Street between Grand Avenue and Cherry Street on downtown's south end.

Form and function in Parking Lot 1

A closer look at Lansing's new City Hall design

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

It took a long time for the city of Lansing to get an obstinate raft of ducks in a row and find a way to move City Hall from its leaky, rusting, mid-20th-century home to a new, smaller, more efficient building a few blocks away.

Now the ducks are lined up and it's happening much faster.

City workers are digitizing thousands of documents and sending them into the cloud, consigning tons of metal file cabinets to the dustbin of history. Cranes will rumble into place next month to begin work on a new, three-story City Hall on City Lot 1 at 425 S. Grand Ave., on the northeast corner of Grand and Lenawee Street. The new City Hall is expected to be finished by mid- to late 2026.

The plastic-covered elevator shaft of a new, \$175 million public safety complex at 2500 S. Washington Ave. that will house police headquarters, 54A District Court and a short-term lockup is already poking into the air.

When those facilities are completed, Chicago developer John Paul Beitler will swoop into the present City Hall and convert it into a glassy, updated, mid-century-modern hotel with a view of the state Capitol. The City Council approved the \$2.78 million sale to Beitler last summer.

Those lined-up ducks are raring to go, and so is Mayor Andy Schor.

But in the push to get the project over the finish line — and to spend a \$40 million appropriation from the state Legislature earmarked for a new City Hall while it's still in the city's pocket — the mayor and his staff dealt with the crucial question of what the building will look like as an internal matter.

Last month, after saying “yes” to the first design presented to the city by a Royal Oak-based architecture firm that will work with developer Boji Group, the city



Bert Schwartz/City Pulse

Andy Schor at the groundbreaking two years ago for The Ovation, a block from the new City Hall site.

released images of the new, three-story, 75,000-square-foot City Hall to the public.

It will be the city's third City Hall since the first one was erected in 1897.

The design is final, subject only to “tweaks,” according to Schor and Deputy Mayor Christopher Mumby.

A major piece of public architecture says a lot about the surrounding community and the times in which it was built. Lansing's 1897 Gilded Age City Hall (on the cover in front of the current City Hall) looked as solid as a castle, with turrets, towers and heavy stone arches. Its successor, built in 1958, went in the opposite direction, with a sleek, modern slab of glass and steel that was at the cutting edge at the time.

The first City Hall rooted a young city in the past, sending a message of solidity, longevity and security. The second one looked to the future. What does the third one say about Michigan's capital city?

MSU design instructor Jessica Flores wonders about that.

The current City Hall is registered in the National Register of Historic Places, and its 1897 predecessor surely would be, if it was still around.

“What we build next — is it going to be worthy of going on the National Register in 50 years?” Flores asked.

What is more, should it be? And how would we know?

The first and second city halls reflected the times in which they were built. The same is true of the current design, albeit in ways that may be invisible to us now.

Bold, brave gestures toward the future, architectural or otherwise, don't seem to be the order of the day.

“Our priorities were functionality and cost, and then to make the nicest looking building within the cost limitations,” Mumby said.

‘Missed opportunity’

When Jessica Flores saw the new City Hall design, she was underwhelmed.

“Mehhh,” she said.

After a pause, she elaborated.

“It leaves a little to be desired,” she said. “Right now, it looks like Anywhere, America.”

See City Hall, Page 14



The new City Hall will be built on the city-owned parking lot that replaced an arts center featuring the old BoarsHead Theatre, which closed in 2009.

City Hall

from page 13

An architectural historian, Flores teaches in the history curriculum in the Interior Design Program in the School of Planning, Design and Construction at MSU. She is also the founder of Preservation Forward and helps a range of public and private clients redevelop historic buildings.

“The built environment is a reflection of the people who live there,” Flores said. “This is the capital city of Michigan. Can we get this right?”

The city halls of America vary wildly in style, material and scale, from stately classical to Queen Anne to Brutalist to Southwest adobe-style, befitting the nation’s sprawling diversity.

In Michigan alone, city halls range from Marquette’s blushing Lake Superior sandstone to Manistee’s Federalist austerity to Bay City’s Richardsonian Romanesque pile, built in 1897, the same year Lansing’s first City Hall was built, topped by a 200-foot-tall bell tower and still in operation.

In the post-modern era, cities are building new halls that reflect their distinctive communities.

The city of Clearwater, Florida, broke ground last November on a 42,000-square-foot, two-story city hall expected to cost \$31.6 million, designed with a swooping, wave-like façade by the award-winning Wannemacher Jensen architectural firm.

A 118,000-square-foot city hall in Austin, Texas, with boldly stacked terraces of concrete, copper, glass and steel and an estimated 100-year service life was completed for \$50 million in 2004.

Flores said she’d like to see more materials and motifs associated specifically with Michigan and Lansing.

She praised MSU’s innovative STEM building, completed in 2021, which has

won design awards for its large-scale use of mass timber, or super-strong processed wood.

“I hope they bring innovation and creativity to this project,” Flores said. “Can we be thoughtful about it? Can we pull from the local group of architects, designers, people who call Lansing their home? Can we solicit input from community about what our new City Hall is going to look like?”

The short answers to her last two questions, according to the mayor, are “no” and “no.”

The City Hall drawings are marked “conceptual,” which means, in Schor’s words, “This is what we plan to build.”

“We did not do a massive public process asking all architects and asking all people what they want to see on the outside,” Schor said. “We did not do that. We gave thoughts to the architect, and when they brought this to us, we said, ‘It’s within budget, looks good, fits the neighborhood, let’s get it done.’”

The design firm responsible for the plans, Royal Oak-based Krieger Klatt, was already working with the Boji Group on the planned conversion of the former Masonic Temple to a new City Hall. When that plan fell through, owing to City Council opposition, Schor opted to build the new facility on city-owned land, eliminating the need to get Council’s purchase approval.

“I wanted to rehab a historic building and keep it,” Schor said. “I didn’t get my way. It happens. Second best: Take an old parking lot and fill it. Urban infill.”

“It’s a parking lot, and that’s a lot better than demolishing a lot of historic buildings to build the new one,” Flores said.

As the city’s chosen developer for the project, Boji retained Krieger Klatt. The two companies had already worked together on the design and construction of a new city hall in Royal Oak.



Once Lansing’s new City Hall is completed next year, Chicago developer J. Paul Beitler will be able to begin his conversion of the current City Hall to a hotel, restaurant and retail center, pictured in this rendering.

“We picked someone to do a new City Hall, and we stuck with who we picked, even though the location changed,” Mumby said.

Schor said the city gave no specific guidelines to the designer, aside from the \$40 million budget and a list of departments and services to include.

“We said, ‘Present us with some ideas,’” Schor said. “There were a few concepts, just discussion. It wasn’t like, ‘Here are six ones and pick out the one you like best.’ This is what they provided us, and we didn’t reject it.”

Like a running back spotting a rare patch of daylight, Schor is eager to push the project to the end zone while he can.

“If we want to get this thing going, we only have a certain amount of time to use the money from the state,” he said. “As we spend money, we draw down off the state grant and reimburse the developer.”

He said the deadline is “two to three years,” but that’s not his only concern.

“We have an agreement, but the Legislature can try and claw it back,” Schor said. “We’d rather spend it before they can say, ‘Oh my God, because of Donald Trump, because of a recession, because of terrorism, whatever it is, we’re going to take it back.’”

He stressed the need to keep the building within budget.

“Would I love for this to be a beautiful, magical-kingdom castle? I would love that,” Schor said. “But the most important part is functionality on the inside.”

“If this is the final design, then it’s a missed opportunity,” Flores said.

‘Good job’

Architect Dan Bollman was kinder than Flores to the new city hall designs, and even found a hint of regional flavor.

Bollman is a principal at east arbor

architecture, an award-winning studio based in East Lansing known for historic and contextually sensitive projects, including the Mason Public Library and Michigan Municipal League Pattern Book Homes.

He compared the solidity and simplicity of the design to that of a “school from the 1950s.”

“It does speak to a certain amount of austerity that is considered appropriate for public buildings,” he said. “We’re not necessarily in an era when we’re going to build a Queen Anne building.”

He credited the designers for resisting the urge to crowd “10 different materials” into the design and sticking with brick, metal panels and cream-colored mortar.

“The formality of the entrance is very obvious, unlike the 1958 building,” Bollman said. “You know right away where the front door is.”

He liked the building’s “massing,” or its arrangement of forms and shapes, and noted that it uses subtle techniques such as varying the brickwork pattern, setting off the entranceway and raising it slightly above the roofline.

“That helps to break up the scale of a very large building,” he said. “It’s not just blocks. Good job.”

He even found evidence of regionalism in the metal awning over the entrance. “It’s a place for you to get out of the Michigan weather,” he said.

Bollman’s colleague at east arbor architecture, Amanda Harrell-Seyburn, sees a hint of collegiate architecture in the new design. Harrell-Seyburn is a specialist in urban design, architecture and historic preservation, an associate at east arbor and a former faculty member at University of Detroit Mercy.

“The community favors a collegiate feeling, red brick with the white layers,” she said. “People really love masonry.”

Mumby said the brick and mortar are there, not just to hold the building up, but to send a message.

“That kind of banding between the floors is fairly common in government buildings,” Mumby said. “We want it to say, ‘This is a government building. This is City Hall.’”

The no-nonsense design didn’t faze Harrell-Seyburn.

“I don’t think it’s surprising, given the climate of today,” she said. “I think people want buildings that convey a sense of competence.”

As an avid student of urban design, Harrell-Seyburn is more enthusiastic



Clearwater, Florida’s new city hall, costing about \$32 million, about \$8 million less than available for Lansing’s new City Hall. At 45,000 square feet, it is 33,000 square feet smaller than Lansing’s new City Hall. However, it is also part of a total \$47 million project in which an adjacent municipal building is being renovated as well.

City Hall

from page 14

in the placement and setting of the new City Hall than the appearance of the building itself.

It's a point Schor likes to stress. He sees City Hall not as a single, standalone project, but as part of a nascent complex of city buildings with the potential to generate energy and traffic that will bring the southern edge of downtown to life.

The new City Hall will go about a block from a planned music and arts venue, The Ovation, set to break ground this spring and scheduled for completion in late 2026.

Schor remarked that The Ovation, with its eye-catching wood and glass design, will satisfy those who are looking for architectural flair.

Next door to the new City Hall, on the 500 block of South Washington, a former Greyhound bus station is slated for redevelopment as offices and other uses by the Capital Area Transportation Authority.

Hundreds of new housing units are planned to be built within a block or two, including a towering residential complex on Grand Avenue.

"A City Hall is always a major part of the urban design of a place," Harrell-Seyburn said. "I'm excited about the connection between City Hall, the intermodal station, the old bus station and Washington Square itself. That end of downtown has struggled along over the years. If we have several civic uses at that end, things will fill in in between. I want people to come down to City Hall, park their cars and then walk around."

'A definite paring down'

This is a tale with three chapters, but the third has yet to be written.

The 1897 City Hall only looked like it would last forever. Instead, it was the one that got away.

"It was a misstep to demo that," Flores said. "Not that I don't enjoy the 1958 Kenneth Black design, but when I think of longevity, I think of our first City Hall."

Longevity was not its destiny. The castle was swept aside, not by natural forces, but by 20th century urban growth and the global winds of the International Style.

"Usually, if communities no longer have their 19th-century city halls, it's because they grew, and Richardsonian Romanesque buildings are difficult to add on to," Harrell-Seyburn said.

Today, the only part left for the public to see is the bell, which now hangs from a windswept dune at the edge of Lake Huron, an outdoor exhibit at the Presque Isle lighthouse. (An attached plaque says it weighs 3,425 pounds, "60% heavier than the Liberty Bell.")

A happier fate awaits the second, present-day City Hall, destined to become a sleek boutique hotel, restaurant and retail complex that leans heavily into the "Mad Men" modernism of Kenneth Black's design.

Susan Bandes, an art historian at MSU and expert on mid-century modern architecture, championed saving the 1958 City Hall in many writings and talks, including an August 2017 City Pulse column.

"Then-Mayor Ralph W. Crego wanted to project an image of the future, of the forward-thinking city government," Bandes wrote.



Courtesy / Krieger Klatt Architects

Not to be: Schor wanted to renovate the old Masonic Temple on Capital Avenue into the next City Hall, but the City Council rejected the plan. The building, pictured in this rendering, would have been too big for just the city's needs, but Schor hoped to attract other tenants.

"It's a great representation of the international style in architecture, and we're fortunate to have that example," Flores said. (She still likes the castle more, though.)

Former Lansing Mayor David Hollister was a big supporter of the plan to sell, even though his name is on the building.

"The value of that building as a high-end, remodeled hotel, convention center, far exceeds what a patched-up City Hall would be," Hollister said in a 2018 interview.

Chicago developer and MSU grad John Paul Beitler is a big fan of the building and plans to make it a "revenue generator" for the local economy.

Bollman is delighted. "Kudos to Mayor Schor for saving a historic landmark," he said.

"I can't take credit for that," Schor said. "It was my predecessor. Virg (Bernero) chose this among three proposals he got at the time, and I agreed 100%. These are the historical pieces of our city, and if we can repurpose them for use, that's what I want to do. If someone is willing to spend the money and take that on, I'm all in."

History is a roll of the dice. The 1897 castle, for all its stone-pile stability, barely made it to the middle of the 20th century, but its glassy successor will survive well into the 21st.

"Each of the first two city halls are both very much of their era," Harrell-Seyburn said.

And the third? Despite all appearances, Lansing's third City Hall, even if the current design is not changed, may speak as clearly of its times as the first two.

"When it comes to anything that is government related, there has been a definite paring down of architecture," Harrell-Seyburn said. "What I've seen in the last 40 years is a movement away from any kind of celebratory architecture toward the most inexpensive possible."

Post offices, once housed in grand marble temples like Lansing's downtown post office, are now shoehorned into strip malls or office complexes. Even the Board of Water & Light's humble pump-houses, scattered in all four corners of town, were built with a design flair unthinkable in public works today.

"It's a very different aesthetic," Harrell-Seyburn said. "There's a fear of spending too much money and the blowback that would come from that."



Royal Oak's City Hall was developed by the Boji Group, which is developing Lansing's City Hall in conjunction with Krieger Klatt Architects of Royal Oak, which designed Royal Oak's City Hall.

"Maybe the opulence of the Richardsonian Romanesque era is gone," Bollman said. "It's not an inappropriate thing to consider — keeping our eye on the ball and making sure we're spending our taxpayer dollars in an appropriate way."

Bollman couldn't say for sure what style the new City Hall design belongs to, but he speculated that the dominance of brick masonry (and the generous awning) nudge it toward a style called "critical regionalism."

Critical regionalism treads the ridge between the faceless, glass-and-steel conformism of the International Style and

the whimsical curlicues of Post-Modernism.

But is it a style that will be recognizable in 50 years, or just a way for architects to avoid angering people and stay relevant in a changing cultural climate?

Those dice haven't been thrown yet.

"Back in 1897, they got a building that was of the era, and the same can be said of the 1958 one," Bollman said. "Maybe someday we'll consider the new building to be of its era. Time will tell. We won't really know whether the building is of its era until we've passed this era."



Another look at Lansing's new City Hall.

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7 Brew brings first drive-thru-only coffee shop to Lansing

By LEO V. KAPLAN

The fastest-growing chain in the country has made its way to Lansing.



7 Brew Coffee

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 5:30 a.m.–10 p.m.
 Sunday–Thursday
 5:30 a.m.–11 p.m. Friday–Saturday
 (479) 358-9274
 7brew.com

The drive-thru coffee chain 7 Brew celebrated the grand opening of its South Cedar Street store, which the company calls a “stand,” on March 5. At the event, Mayor Andy Schor praised 7 Brew’s choice of location.

“We love it when companies come in and see what an opportunity there is in south Lansing,” Schor said.

7 Brew has been growing steadily since opening its first location in 2017, but the Arkansas-based company’s expansion has skyrocketed in recent years. In 2024, it was named the country’s fastest-growing chain by food and beverage market researcher Datassential in its annual top 500 restaurant chains report.

Though drive-thru coffee has been a growing market for years, 7 Brew is unique as a drive-thru-only chain. While cafes like Starbucks have carved out a market as meeting places and



Photo by Raymond Holt

Mayor Andy Schor visits Lansing’s new 7 Brew Coffee location for its grand opening celebration on March 5.

study spaces, 7 Brew is focused on convenience. Each stand has a double-lane drive-thru in lieu of an indoor dining area.

Despite this, personal connection is still important to 7 Brew, according to James Hill, president of the Lansing location. Hill is based in Boston but flew out to celebrate the new location’s open-

ing.

“You’re not going to speak into a speaker box, and we’re not going to shut a door in your face,” Hill said. “We’re going to have that human-to-human connection that I truly believe the world is starving for.”

He said the double-lane drive-thru is conducive to that goal: “It allows us

to come out and spend time with the guests and not inconvenience them whatsoever.”

Unlike traditional drive-thrus, 7 Brew’s employees come out to cars to take orders with an iPad and deliver drinks.

“We spend time getting to know guests on a personal level, letting them know that they’re not a number at a deli counter, that they really matter,” Hill said.

7 Brew’s focus on community led the Lansing location to donate more than 20,000 drinks to nearby businesses before opening, Hill said. This number mirrors the 20,000 unique drink combinations the chain offers.

The chain’s seven original drinks all include coffee, but it also serves matcha, energy drinks, smoothies, teas, lemonades, milkshakes and Italian sodas. Customers may want to pick a drink in advance of their trip — there are quite a few options, and the line moves quickly.

7 Brew’s expansion shows no signs of slowing. The company opened more than 120 stands in 2024, ending the year with more than 300 in total.

At the grand opening, Schor said he was excited for Lansing to be part of that expansion.

“I want you to expand here,” he said. “I want you to operate in north Lansing, East Lansing and west Lansing.”

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THURSDAY

APRIL 3



CityPULSE



Photo by Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Leo V. Kaplan covering an LGBTQ+-rights protest at the Capitol March 16. One of Leo's assignments is to help our readers understand what policy changes in Washington mean to Lansing.

MEET LEO V. KAPLAN

Leo is a 2024 graduate of Kalamazoo College, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree with a double major in computer science and history. Leo was also the editor of the student newspaper. And now, thanks to a generous donation from a City Pulse reader, Leo is the first member of the City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism Internship Program. Please join in supporting Leo and the internship program through a tax-deductible donation to the City Pulse Fund. To learn more, please contact Steve Underwood at (517) 999-6704 and steve@lansingcitypulse.com. Thank you.

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- 2X BAMN. DISTILLATE VAPES
- 3X BAMN. INFUSED PRE-ROLLS
- 2X BAMN. PREPACK EIGHTHS

SWEET 16

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Richard Bennett, M.D.
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Jonesin' Crossword

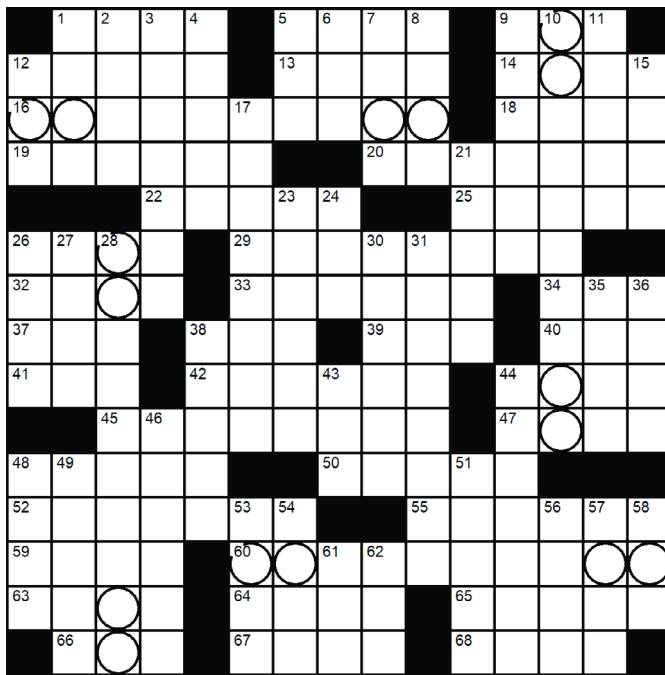
By Matt Jones

“Drinks All Around”—these ones are on me.

by Matt Jones
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ACROSS

- 1. Some are precious
- 5. Org. that puts on the World Cup
- 9. Honorary U.K. title
- 12. “The Fog of War” documentarian
- 13. Magnum ____
- 14. Flex
- 16. Glass set in a wall
- 18. 1952 Olympic city
- 19. “Quit it!”
- 20. Entrees made with skirt steak
- 22. Aspiring attys.’ exams
- 25. “Grumpy Old Men” actor Davis
- 26. Vintner’s valley
- 29. Cut short
- 32. Emanation of a sort
- 33. Apelike
- 34. Record store purchases
- 37. ____ chi
- 38. IRS payment
- 39. “Have I Got News For You” network
- 40. “That meme is funny”
- 41. Bad ____, Germany
- 42. Expressed a view
- 44. “Sisters” actress Ward
- 45. Words associated with Lincoln
- 47. Rowing team
- 48. Sprawling estate
- 50. “Oscar of the Internet” since 1995



- 52. Approve of
 - 55. Like a Dickensian Dodger
 - 59. Word from Watson
 - 60. Wage increase
 - 63. Knit’s reverse
 - 64. Disney film featuring light cycles
 - 65. Formally gave up
 - 66. Office bldg. division
 - 67. Garden pest
 - 68. Those, in Quito
- DOWN**
- 1. Wide smile
 - 2. Cube master
 - 3. Like some furniture
 - 4. Difficult chores
 - 5. Dandy
 - 6. Hoppy brew
 - 7. Answer to the joke “Mr. Freud, what’s between fear and sex?”
 - 8. Not docked
 - 9. Reed player
 - 10. Popular read
 - 11. Former Chinese premier Zhou ____
 - 12. Ram’s mate
 - 15. Prescription info
 - 17. Messaging service with between 2-3 billion unique accounts worldwide
 - 21. Fabric store that’s closing all locations in 2025
 - 23. Drag performer
 - 24. Addition result
 - 26. Sticky ____
 - 27. Essayist Gopnik
 - 28. Blowgun projectile
 - 30. ____ Creed (church recitation)
 - 31. Vending machine option
 - 35. Vault’s need
 - 36. BBQ side
 - 38. “____ is human”
 - 43. 180 degrees from SSE
 - 44. Grim Reaper accessories
 - 46. Soba, e.g.
 - 48. Beaker’s noise
 - 49. Beef cattle breed
 - 51. Utah’s ____ Canyon
 - 53. Fast flyers
 - 54. “Downton Abbey” title
 - 56. Generic dog name
 - 57. Hawaiian strings
 - 58. Was in front
 - 61. Singer Reed
 - 62. “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” director Lee

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Answers on page 27

SUDOKU

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

Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

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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 19-25, 2025

ARIES (March 21–April 19): Cheetahs are the fastest land animals. From standing still, they can be running at 70 miles per hour three seconds later. But they can’t sustain that intensity. After a 20-second burst, they need to relax and recover. This approach serves them well, enabling them to prey on the small creatures they like to eat. I encourage you to be like a metaphorical cheetah in the coming weeks, Aries. Capitalize on the power of focused, energetic spurts. Aim for bursts of dedicated effort, followed by purposeful rest. You don’t need to pursue a relentless pace to succeed. Recognize when it’s right to push hard and when it’s time to recharge.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Inside a kaleidoscope, the colored shards of glass are in an ever-shifting chaotic jumble. But internal mirrors present pleasing symmetrical designs to the person gazing into the kaleidoscope. I see a similar phenomenon going on in your life. Some deep intelligence within you (your higher self?) is creating intriguing patterns out of an apparent mess of fragments. I foresee this continuing for several weeks. So, don’t be quick to jump to conclusions about your complicated life. A hidden order is there, and you can see its beauty if you’re patient and poised.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): Spiders spin their webs with meticulous care, crafting structures that are delicate, strong and useful. Their silk is five times more robust than steel of the same diameter. It’s waterproof, can stretch 140% of its length without splitting and maintains its sturdiness at temperatures as low as negative 40 degrees. With that in mind, Gemini, I bid you to work on fortifying and expanding your own web in the coming weeks — by which I mean your network of connections and support. It’s an excellent time to deepen and refine your relationships with the resources and influences that help hold your world together.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Chichén Itzá was a large pre-Columbian city from around 600 to 1200 A.D. At the city center was a pyramid, the Temple of Kukulcán. During the equinoxes, and only during the equinoxes, sunlight fell on its steps in such a way as to suggest a snake descending the stairs. The mathematical, architectural and astronomical knowledge necessary to create this entertaining illusion was phenomenal. In that spirit, I am pleased to tell you that you are now capable of creating potent effects through careful planning. Your strategic thinking will be enhanced, especially in projects that require long-term vision. The coming weeks will be a favorable time for initiatives that coordinate multiple elements to generate fun and useful outcomes.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): Fireflies produce very efficient light. Nearly all the energy expended in their internal chemical reactions is turned directly into their intense glow. By contrast, light bulbs are highly inefficient. In accordance with astrological omens, Leo, I urge you to be like a firefly in the coming weeks, not a light bulb. You will have dynamic power to convert your inner beauty into outer beauty. Be audacious! Be uninhibited! Shower the world with full doses of your radiant gifts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Brazil nut trees grow in the Amazon — but only if they are in the vicinity of orchid bees, their sole pollinators. And orchid bees thrive in no other place except where there are lots of blooming orchids. So, the Brazil nut tree has very specific requirements for its growth and well-being. You Virgos aren’t quite so picky about the influences that keep you fertile and flourishing — though sometimes I do worry about it. The good news is that in the coming months, you will be casting a wider net in the quest of inspiration and support. I suspect you will gather most, maybe all, of the inspiration and support you need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): In 1858, businessperson James Miller Williams was digging a new water well on his land in Ontario, hoping to compensate for a local drought. He noticed oil was seeping out of the

hole he had scooped. Soon, he became the first person in North America to develop a commercial oil well. I suspect that you, too, may soon stumble upon valuable fuels or resources, Libra — and they may be different from what you imagined you were looking for. Be alert and open-minded to unexpected discoveries.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): I’ve been through the U.S. education system, and I can testify that our textbooks don’t give the French enough of the credit they deserve for helping our fledgling nation gain independence from Great Britain. The 18th-century American Revolution would not have succeeded without extensive aid from France. So, I’m a little late, but I am hereby showering France with praise and gratitude for its intervention. Now, I encourage you, too, to compensate for your past lack of full appreciation for people and influences that have been essential to you becoming yourself. It’s a different kind of atonement: not apologizing for sins but offering symbolic and even literal rewards to underestimated helpers and supporters.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): As I survey the astrological aspects, I am tempted to encourage you to be extra expansive about love. I am curious to see the scintillating intimacy you might cultivate. So, in the hope you’re as intrigued by the experimental possibilities as I am, I invite you to memorize the following words by author Maya Angelou and express them to a person with whom you want to play deeper and wilder: “You are my living poem, my symphony of the untold, my golden horizon stretched beyond what the eye can see. You rise in me like courage, fierce and unyielding, yet soft as a lullaby sung to a weary soul. You are my promise kept, my hope reborn, the infinite melody in the heart of silence. I hold you in the marrow of my joy, where you are home.”

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): Four facts about a mountain goat as it navigates along steep and rocky terrain: 1. It’s strong and vigorous; 2. it’s determined and unflappable; 3. it’s precise and disciplined; 4. it calls on enormous stamina and resilience. According to my astrological analysis, you Capricorns will have maximum access to all these capacities during the coming weeks. You can use them to either ascend to seemingly impossible heights or descend to fantastically interesting depths. Trust in your power to persevere. Love the interesting journey as much as the satisfaction of reaching the goal of the journey.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): The Swiss Army knife is a compact assemblage of tools. These may include a nail file, scissors, magnifying glass, screwdriver, pliers, blade, can opener and many others. Is there a better symbol for adaptability and preparedness? I urge you to make it your metaphorical power object during the coming weeks, Aquarius. Explore new frontiers of flexibility, please. Be ready to shift perspective and approach quickly and smoothly. Be as agile and multifaceted as you dare.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Coast redwoods are the tallest trees on the planet. If, Goddess forbid, lumber harvesters cut down one of these beauties, it could be used to build more than 20 houses. Yet each mature tree begins as a seed the size of a coat button. Its monumental growth is steady and slow, relying on robust roots and a symbiotic relationship with a fungus that enables it to absorb water from fog. I propose we make the redwood your power symbol for now, Pisces. Inspired by its process, I hope you implement the magic of persistent, incremental growth. Treasure the fact that a fertile possibility has the potential, with patience and nurturing, to ripen into a long-term asset. Trust that small efforts, fueled by collaboration, will lead to gratifying achievements.

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.

Irreverence reigns supreme in Riverwalk's 'Importance of Being Earnest'

By **DANA DEMINK**

Valentine's Day 1895, St. James's Theatre in London. The Marquess of Queensberry, a Scottish nobleman, paces outside the theater where Oscar Wilde is debuting his newest play, "The Importance of Being Earnest," waiting for his opportunity to shame the playwright as he takes his final bow. In his arms, a bouquet of rotten vegetables.

For four years, Wilde, a married father of two, has been involved in a tempestuous affair with the Marquess' son, Lord Alfred Douglas, who is 16 years Wilde's junior. When the Marquess leaves an incriminating note for Wilde at a private club Wilde is a member of, the playwright decides to go on the offensive and sue him for libel. The lawsuit backfires, and by May 1895, Wilde is imprisoned for gross indecency and receives two years of hard labor. Sadly, homosexuality was a criminal offense in Britain until the late 1960s.

Fortunately, art doesn't quite imitate life in Wilde's always delightful "Importance of Being Earnest." Says the rakish Algernon Moncrieff to his friend John "Jack" Worthing, "The truth is rarely pure and never simple. Modern life would be very tedious if it were either, and modern literature a complete impossibility!"

While the playwright promotes the cynical message that the monotony of married life is alleviated by being a "Bunburyist" — a person who uses a double life to evade unwanted social obligations and mundane societal conventions — the farcical comedy is what author W.H. Auden called "a pure verbal opera."

Riverwalk Theatre's tidy, well-timed production has the essential elements to conventionally represent this time-honored classic. Talented, comedic cast? Check. Beautiful Victorian costumes? Check. Rotating sets that portray a stylish London flat, the garden of an English manor and the interior of said manor? Check. Comfortable furnishings? Check. Cucumber sandwiches? Check. Indeed, every witty line, comedic double take and lightning-speed roll of the sumptuous set has been carefully



Review

"The Importance of Being Earnest"

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

curated by director Bob Purosky.

In truth, my only criticism of this production involves the cucumber sandwiches. While I have always admired the talent and gloriously fiendish eyebrows of local actor Lewis Elson, whose portrayal of aristocratic dandy Moncrieff is comically pleasure-seeking and irreverent, he was very difficult to hear in the first act. I almost groaned when he began stuffing cucumber sandwiches into his gob because I could barely catch the witticisms. Thankfully, this resolved itself by the

second act.

Kameron Going, as the endearing yet culpable Worthington, uses his natural tenor voice to create a mock seriousness to his role. Gini Larson, as Lady Bracknell, deadpans every hilariously ridiculous social observation with authority, and I very much enjoyed Erin Hoffman's physicality as Miss Prism. Unlike the usual matronly portrayal of this role, Hoffman's Prism is befuddled yet hopeful.

Riverwalk always delivers a quality theater experience, and the exuberant and appealing "Earnest" is no exception.



Photo by Ariniko Artistry

Beck Murphy (back left), Kameron Going (back right), Lewis Elson (front left) and Rachel Daugherty (front right) in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "The Importance of Being Earnest," by Oscar Wilde.



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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 19

“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.

Bookend Gallery Display - Jenn Groenhof exhibits her zentangle art at the Haslett Library's Bookend Gallery through the end of March. Noon-4 p.m. 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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.

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

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.

FHM Volunteer Open House - Learn more about becoming a Meridian Historical Village volunteer, whether for school programs, festivals, events, building maintenance, social media or tours. 5 p.m. Village Chapel, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridianhistoricalvillage.org.

Financial Literacy Workshop: The Informed Rent-er - Learn valuable information about renting, including costs, the application process, and tenant rights and responsibilities. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

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

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

Kindergarten Craft Club - Create a cardboard tambourine! Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Char-

lotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

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

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Member Art Show - Featuring a variety of artwork in an array of media. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Bestsellers Books & Coffee Co., 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. midmichiganartguild.org.

Mindfulness Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamcsang-ha.wordpress.com.

M.L. Liebler & the Magic Poetry Band - Detroit poet M.L. Liebler and his Magic Poetry Band bring their high-energy, eclectic fusion of poetry and music to the Robin Theatre. 7:30 p.m. 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. therobintheatre.com.

MSU Baseball vs. Oakland University - 4 p.m. Jeff Ishbia Field at McLane Stadium, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/baseball.

“Patterns in Nature” - A group exhibition of paintings, photography and other art depicting patterns that are found in nature. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

“Scrapscapes” - Artist Steph Joy Hogan offers mixed-media snapshots of imaginary worlds and the whimsical flora and fauna that inhabit them. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Nelson Gallery, 113 S. Washington Square, Lansing. thenelsongallery.com.

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

Vernal Pools: Understanding, Monitoring & Conserving Them - Learn why vernal pools are an important natural resource and how you can contribute to improved understanding and conservation of these valuable habitats. 7 p.m. Michigan Nature Association, 2310 Science Pkwy., Okemos. wildoneslansing.weebly.com.

Wheel of the Year: Ostara & Balance - 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.

Wine Knot - Love knitting, crocheting, weaving or other forms of fiber art? Love wine? This is the event for you! Connect with others and work on projects while sipping wine! 5-7 p.m. Choice Farm Market, 4212 Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

Thursday, March 20

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

Maple Syrup Festival

11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 22-Sunday, March 23
Fenner Nature Center
2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing

Fenner Nature Center will host its milestone 50th annual Maple Syrup Festival 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday (March 22) and Sunday (March 23). The family-friendly event will offer hands-on demonstrations of the maple syrup creation process, including traditional and modern techniques. Attendees will have the opportunity to watch sap-boiling demonstrations, try their hand at tapping a tree, make their own spiles and test their strength while carrying a yoke lift.

The event will also feature pancakes made by Chris Cakes, a traveling catering company whose custom-made grill has earned it Guinness World Records for the most pancakes made in an hour and the highest pancake tossed and caught. For \$10, attendees can buy a plate of all-you-can-eat pancakes — with maple syrup, of course. Attendees can also buy maple-flavored cotton candy and root beer, maple cream, maple candies and locally made maple syrup.

“The festival is a great way for people to connect the syrup on their table with the trees that provide it,” Fenner events and rental coordinator Rebecca Smith said. “Our mission at Fenner is to create ways for people to connect with the world around them. What better way to immerse yourself in nature than to walk through the process of collecting sap and creating so many wonderfully delicious treats, like syrup, maple cream and maple sugar or candy?”

Admission to the festival is free, with a \$5 suggested donation. All purchases benefit Fenner Conservancy, the nonprofit that operates the nature center.



Photo by Dave Marvin

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.

Bookend Gallery Display - Jenn Groenhof exhibits her zentangle art at the Haslett Library's Bookend Gallery through the end of March. Noon-6 p.m. 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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

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.

Connect with Your Intuition Workshop - An interactive workshop to enhance intuition by learning to trust feelings, sensations, sounds and visuals for deeper insights. 7 p.m. Brooke the Intuitive, 113 W. Main St., Suite 1, DeWitt. brooketheintuitive.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.

“Dentro (Inside). A True Story, If You Think So” - In her U.S. debut, Giuliana Musso, one of Italy's leading theater artists, explores the traumatic effects of silence when abuse occurs at home. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Eli Howell Big Band - Trombonist, composer and educator Eli Howell earned his bachelor's degree from MSU in 2023 and is pursuing his master's. His jazz band features some of Michigan's top young musicians. 6:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

“The Importance of Being Earnest” - 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

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

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.

Lansing Economic Club - Join us in commemorating Women's History Month as we highlight the contributions of four distinguished women leaders from Greater Lansing! 11:30 a.m. Kellogg Hotel, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/LansingChamber.

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Events

from page 22

Live Performance: Stacy “Hotwaxx” Hale - Experience the renowned DJ Hotwaxx live as she spins an electrifying set, celebrating the sounds of Detroit and the trailblazing women who shaped electronic music. 8 p.m. 311 Abbot Road, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Member Art Show - Featuring a variety of artwork in an array of media. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Bestsellers Books & Coffee Co., 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. midmichiganartguild.org.

MSU Wind Symphony - Program features David Biedenbender’s “Enigma” and “River of Time” and Ben Horne’s “Three Gospel Settings.” Guest soloist Justin Emerich, trumpet. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Nation Outside Chapter Meeting - Nation Outside is a statewide grassroots and advocacy organization aiming to drive policy that builds systems of support for justice impacted families and communities. 5 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. trishaw@nationoutside.org.

Open Jam! | Third Thursday of Every Month - Whether you play guitar, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, dobro, bass or another instrument, you’re invited to join in — even if you know only a few songs or chords. 5-6:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.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.

“Patterns in Nature” - A group exhibition of paintings, photography and other art depicting patterns that are found in nature. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

“Putin’s Veiled Threats of Nuclear Weapons Use,” Presentation by Peter Clement - 6 p.m. Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, 640 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. frib.msu.edu/public/policy-lecture/talk-clement.

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.

“Scrapsapes” - Artist Steph Joy Hogan offers mixed-media snapshots of imaginary worlds and the whimsical flora and fauna that inhabit them. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Nelson Gallery, 113 S. Washington Square, Lansing. thenelsongallery.com.

Songs and Stories of Ireland, with Enda Reilly - Let the wonderful songs of Ireland take you across the Atlantic, through the voice of Irish singer-songwriter Enda Reilly. Registration req. 7 p.m. DeWitt City Hall, 414 E. Main St., DeWitt. dewittlibrary.org.

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

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

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

Wreath Making and Wine - Join us at our new tasting room adjacent to Choice Farm Market for spring wreath making and wine! 6 p.m. 4212 Holt Road, Webberville. choicefarmmarket.com.

Zoso: The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience - Relive the magic of Zeppelin. Opener Eddie Kross. Doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Friday, March 21

Attila - Metalcore villains Attila hit Grewal Hall with support from Butcher Babies, Ded, Dealer and Nathan James. Doors 5:30 p.m., show 6 p.m. 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Bookend Gallery Display - Jenn Groenhof exhibits her zentangle art at the Haslett Library’s Bookend Gallery through the end of March. Noon-4 p.m. 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

The Coffeehouse at All Saints - Monthly showcase of Michigan-based musical and spoken-word talent. Bring your own snacks/drinks. Free. 7:30 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/TheCoffeehouseAtAllSaints.

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.

DeWitt VFW Fish Fry - Every Friday during Lent. Takeout available. Adults \$15, kids’ baskets \$5, children 5 and under eat free. 4-7 p.m. VFW Post 671, 12250 Old U.S. 27, DeWitt. 517-669-9251. vfw671.org.

Fish Fry Fridays - Menu includes baked or fried fish, baked potato or fries, coleslaw, mac and cheese, and a dinner roll. Adults \$15, children 6-12 \$8, children 5 and under eat free. To-go orders available. 4:30-7:30 p.m. VFW Post 701, 123 N. Rosemary St., Lansing. 517-485-1656.

“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 - Takeout available. Adults \$16, seniors \$14, children 6-12 \$7, children 5 and under eat free. 5-7 p.m. St. Martha Catholic Church, 1100 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. st-martha.org/fishfry.

From Ireland, JigJam - When virtuoso Irish playing jumps the pond, running naked through the wide-open fields of bluegrass/Americana, JigJam is born. 7:30 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Geech at Mash Bar - 9 p.m. 212 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-858-2100. mashbar.net.

“The Importance of Being Earnest” - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

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

Lansing Parks and Recreation Travelogue - Dorothy Hughes Engelman’s journey started in 1966 with Dutch exchange student Annie, leading to a 58-year sistership. In April, Dorothy visited the Netherlands to see Annie’s home, then traveled to Italy and various locations in Ireland. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. lansingmi.gov/985/Travelogue.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Member Art Show - Featuring a variety of artwork in an array of media. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Bestsellers Books & Coffee Co., 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. midmichiganartguild.org.

MSU Symphony Orchestra: “Pines of Rome” and Honors Concert - The Symphony Orchestra performs “Pines of Rome,” one of Respighi’s most celebrated works. Concert also highlights the winners of the annual Honors Concert Competition. 8 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Open Irish Jam! | Third Friday of Every Month - Open jam focusing on Irish traditional music. All skill levels welcome. Bring your instruments and we’ll share some tunes. 5-6:30 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. lapsg.org.

“Patterns in Nature” - A group exhibition of paintings, photography and other art depicting patterns that are found in nature. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

The Pickle Mafia - This dynamic trio from New York has garnered nationwide attention through its groundbreaking, unique brand of arena jazz fusion. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

“Scrapsapes” - Artist Steph Joy Hogan offers mixed-media snapshots of imaginary worlds and the whimsical flora and fauna that inhabit them. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Nelson Gallery, 113 S. Washington Square, Lansing. thenelsongallery.com.

Strategic Planning Session at Charlotte Community Library - You’re invited to help us plan the future of the Charlotte Community Library. A Zoom link will be available for those who can’t attend in person. 1 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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 22

2025 Ostara Ritual - Join us in person or on Google Meets as we welcome spring with our Ostara ritual. Doors open at 4 p.m., ritual begins at 5 p.m., shared meal and raffle to follow. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St., Lansing. weaversoftheweb.org.

78 RPM Record Listening Session, with Rollie Tussing - You won’t want to miss Rollie’s presentation of unique recordings from the previous century! 6:30 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com.

See Events, Page 24

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Events

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The Acting Company: August Wilson's "Two Trains Running" - "Two Trains Running" paints an unforgettable portrait of ordinary people in the midst of transformation, exploring Black identity in the 1960s with passion and humor. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

The Art of Bottleneck Guitar, with Rollie Tussing - Award-winning slide guitarist Rollie Tussing shares a series of fundamental techniques and "dirty tricks" that will demystify the world of bottleneck guitar. 4 p.m. Elderly Instruments, 1100 N. Washington Ave., Lansing. elderly.com.

Bookend Gallery Display - Jenn Groenhof exhibits her zentangle art at the Haslett Library's Bookend Gallery through the end of March. Noon-2 p.m. 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Bug Day - Open-house-style event featuring a variety of interactive activities exploring the science of arthropods, including a chance to visit with insects from the MSU Bug House. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. elpl.org.

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

Driving HERstory - We're on a mission to collect oral histories from women who've worked in the automotive industry. Come celebrate the contributions of women HERstory makers and record your personal experiences on film. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. Register at driving-herstory.eventbrite.com.

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

FHM Volunteer Open House - Learn more about becoming a Meridian Historical Village volunteer, whether for school programs, festivals, events, building maintenance, social media or tours. 10 a.m. Village Chapel, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridianhistoricalvillage.org.

"The Importance of Being Earnest" - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

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

The Jeff Haas Quintet - This quintet blends jazz, funk, Judaic and classical influences into a rich,

genre-defying sound. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

Lansing Juneteenth Jazz Brunch Fundraiser - Join us for food and fun with featured artist Deblon Jackson and DJ E. Swift. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Gregory's Soul Food, 2510 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. Register at bpt.me/6558665.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Member Art Show - Featuring a variety of artwork in an array of media. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Bestsellers Books & Coffee Co., 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. midmichiganartguild.org.

"Nashville Roots: Sounds of Americana" - Singers on the Grand performs songs by Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Gordon Lightfoot, Tina Turner, Jon Bon Jovi, Travis Tritt, John Denver and many more. 7 p.m. St. Johns Middle School, 900 W. Townsend Road, St. Johns. sotg.bpt.me.

"Patterns in Nature" - A group exhibition of paintings, photography and other art depicting patterns that are found in nature. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

"Scrapsapes" - Artist Steph Joy Hogan offers mixed-media snapshots of imaginary worlds and the whimsical flora and fauna that inhabit them. Noon-5 p.m. Nelson Gallery, 113 S. Washington Square, Lansing. thenelsongallery.com.

Stanislav Khristenko, Piano - Khristenko, newly appointed associate professor of piano, presents an evening of preludes from a variety of composers, including Bach, Chopin, Debussy and many more. 7:30 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Sunday, March 23

Cat Yoga - Join us for a purrfectly relaxing session of cat yoga, where you can stretch and unwind, surrounded by our awesome rescue cats! 4 p.m. 621 S. Grand Ave., Fowlerville. eventbrite.com/o/the-cat-connection-65515147103.

Dogs and Coffee - Enjoy a guided walk in the woods with your two best friends, dogs and coffee! Dogs must be on a 6-foot, non-retractable leash. Bring a mug, and we'll provide the coffee! 9 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

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

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



Shoufu-Con

Noon-10 p.m. Friday, March 21
9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, March 22
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, March 23
Okemos Event Center
2187 University Park Drive, Okemos

Mid-Michigan anime and pop-culture convention Shoufu-Con returns for its sophomore event noon to 10 p.m. Friday (March 21), 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday (March 22) and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday (March 23) at the Okemos Event Center.

A vendor hall will be open each day. There will also be a maid cafe, a tabletop gaming area and a series of panels tackling a range of topics, from cosplaying tips to child labor law violations in anime. Special guests include Emi Lo, the voice of Lucy in the English dub of "Cyberpunk: Edgerunners"; John Swasey, the voice of Van Hohenheim in the English dub of "Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood"; and cosplayers Pink Opal Cosplay, Pink Petal Cosplay and Shockolate Energy.

A video game arcade will have consoles ranging from the Atari 2600 to the Xbox 360 and even a few claw machines. Saturday will offer a cosplay contest, with cash prizes and other awards for the winners.

A three-day pass costs \$35, with single-day passes varying from \$19 to \$30. Children ages 8 to 12 can get a three-day pass for \$10, while children under 7 can attend for free. To view a full schedule of events and purchase tickets, visit shoufu-con.com.

Community Center, 5959 Park Lake Road, Bath. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

riverwalktheatre.com.

"How Hyperbolic Organization Facilitates Learning in Biology," Zoom Presentation by Tatyana Sharpee - 1 p.m. Virtual — to register, visit frib.msu.edu/gateway.

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.

"The Importance of Being Earnest" - 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing.

See Events, Page 25

NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF AVAILABILITY CITY OF LANSING ANNUAL ACTION PLAN, FY 2025

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing proposes to present notice of availability on the City of Lansing's Annual Action Plan for FY 2025 (7/1/25-6/30/2026). A draft of the document will be available for public review and comments during the 30-day comment period from March 20, 2025 – April 21, 2025.

Copies of the document and the proposed use of Community Development funds are available for review on the City of Lansing's website at: www.lansingmi.gov/development

All written comments submitted by citizens of Lansing will be considered and reviewed for possible inclusion in the final Annual Action Plan for FY 2025 to be submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) no later than May 14, 2025. A summary of all comments received will be attached to the final document.

For information regarding the City of Lansing's Annual Action Plan Action Plan please contact:

Doris Witherspoon, Senior Planner
City of Lansing, Michigan
Department of Economic Development and Planning
316 North Capitol, Suite D-2
Lansing Michigan 48933-1236
Telephone (517) 483-4063
doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP Board Meeting March 12, 2025 Synopsis

The Williamstown Township Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 with Supervisor Poth, Clerk Cleveland, Treasurer VanErp, Trustee Brinker, Trustee Creagh, and Trustee Duffy present. The Board approved the following:

- Consent Agenda
- Budget Amendments
- Budget for FY 25-26
- Meeting dates and times for FY 25-26
- Fireworks display permit for 5565 Zimmer Rd. on March 29, 2025
- Contract with WOW! for Internet services at the Township Hall

The next regular Board meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 in the Community Room of the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston. Visit williamstownmi.gov for the latest agenda, documents, and updates. Phone (517) 655-3193.

Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC
Township Clerk

CP#25-088

CP#25-083

Events

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

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Member Art Show - Featuring a variety of artwork in an array of media. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Bestsellers Books & Coffee Co., 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. midmichiganartguild.org.

MSU Jazz Orchestras - The dynamic multi-instrumental MSU jazz orchestras take the stage at the Wharton Center's Pasant Theatre to perform a variety of standards. 3 p.m. 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

"Patterns in Nature" - A group exhibition of paintings, photography and other art depicting patterns that are found in nature. Noon-6 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

Pet Portrait Pillow Make-and-Take Workshop - Send us a picture of your fur baby and come turn it into a memorable piece for your home! 9 a.m. ALT Printing Co., 109 E. South St., Lansing. altprintingco.com.

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.

TEDxMSU 11th Annual Conference: Inversion - We'll host 10 speakers from diverse disciplines who will share their visions through TED-like talks. 1 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Wilder Dreams Collective: The Wisdom of the I Ching - Join Wilder Dreams Collective for an immersive 90-minute workshop on the I Ching, one of the oldest and most profound divination systems in the world. 3 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Monday, March 24

Adult Paint: Spring Scene - Paint a beautiful spring scene using acrylic paint on canvas. All materials provided, available while supplies last. 6:30 p.m. South Lansing Library, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. cadl.org/about/our-locations/south-lansing.

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

Aquarium in a Jar - Patrons of all ages are invited to design a miniature aquarium in a jar using an assortment of colorful pebbles and aquatic-themed decorations. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Aux Petit Soins Grand Reopening - Gaëlle Cassin-Ross has moved her French language immersion program into an expanded facility. Attendees can look forward to a ribbon-cutting ceremony, followed by a tour. 3 p.m. 2824 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. apsfrenchclass.com.

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/summer-

landsbrewing.

Bookend Gallery Display - Jenn Groenhof exhibits her zentangle art at the Haslett Library's Bookend Gallery through the end of March. Noon-4 p.m. 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Broad Underground: Gardening, with Jodie Mack - Join us for a film screening and conversation with experimental filmmaker and animator Jodie Mack focused on flowers, waste and yard work. 7 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 7 p.m. City Hall, 259 Kent St., Portland. 517-647-5027. portland-michigan.org.

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

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

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

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

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Member Art Show - Featuring a variety of artwork in an array of media. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Bestsellers Books & Coffee Co., 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. midmichiganartguild.org.

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. lapsg.org.

"Patterns in Nature" - A group exhibition of paintings, photography and other art depicting patterns that are found in nature. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

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.

"Scrapscapes" - Artist Steph Joy Hogan offers mixed-media snapshots of imaginary worlds and the whimsical flora and fauna that inhabit them. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Nelson Gallery, 113 S. Washington Square, Lansing. thenelsongallery.com.

Stirred, Not Shaken - This hands-on class will teach you everything you need to know to perfect two timeless cocktails: the old fashioned and the Manhattan. 6 p.m. Zynda's, 150 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston. eventbrite.com/o/zynda-food-drink-106792423511.

Women's AA Meeting - 6 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. lansing-district6.org.

Tuesday, March 25

"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

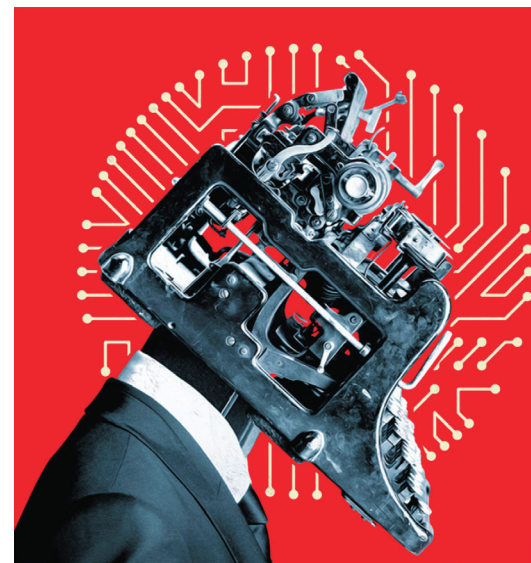
'Shift Lock: A Metaphor for Changing Perspectives'

5-9 p.m. March 27
Struk Studio
2916 Turner St., Lansing

What would happen if 25 people sat down at once to type out their random thoughts, surrounded by art and fueled by Cravings Gourmet Popcorn? Find out on March 27 as north Lansing's Struk Studio hosts "Shift Lock: A Metaphor for Changing Perspectives."

The unique event is the brainchild of Jeffrey Gaff, a Lansing author, artist, collector of vintage typewriters and ramp supervisor at Capital Region International Airport who goes by the pen name Séafra Duffy. Gaff is a pugnacious, punk-rock defender of all things tangible and analog. His website, typewriterfox.com, features a jet-black Smith Corona model that's scrawled with the motto, "This machine kills memes."

In September, while Gaff's gonzo collage art was enjoying a minute of fame at Struk Studio, he and studio owner David Such dreamed of hosting a "type-in," with any and all community members invited to join the battle against digital dystopia. There will be 25 typing stations, custom stationery designed by local artists and a screening of an award-winning documentary about diehard typewriter warriors, "California Typewriter," with popcorn provided. For more information about the free event, visit typewriterfox.com/type-in-event.



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.

Bookend Gallery Display - Jenn Groenhof exhibits her zentangle art at the Haslett Library's Bookend Gallery through the end of March. Noon-4 p.m. 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

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.

Compulsive Eaters Anonymous-HOW Meeting - 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.

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.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Member Art Show - Featuring a variety of artwork in an array of media. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Bestsellers Books & Coffee Co., 360 S. Jefferson St., Mason. midmichiganartguild.org.

One More Chapter 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 2-4. 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. lapsg.org.

"Patterns in Nature" - A group exhibition of paintings, photography and other art depicting patterns that are found in nature. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

The Poetry Room Open Mic Presents: Bad Blood - Share your words and thoughts with a supportive audience. Optional theme: Let's bash on things we don't like. 7-9 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Square, Lansing. facebook.com/The-517PoetryRoom.

"Scrapscapes" - Artist Steph Joy Hogan offers mixed-media snapshots of imaginary worlds and the whimsical flora and fauna that inhabit them. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Nelson Gallery, 113 S. Washington Square, Lansing. thenelsongallery.com.

Spring Break Scavenger Hunt at R.E. Olds Transportation Museum - Pick up a scavenger hunt card and head out onto the museum floor to explore. We'll have an easy version and a version for hardcore hunters! Once complete, hand in the card for a treat. Regular admission prices apply. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

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

Wednesday, March 26

"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

Absolute Music Chamber Series: "Go for Baroque" - This series blends music with community by adapting the traditional European soirée format to a modern setting. 7:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

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.

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



Lawrence

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

I won't bury the lede: The food at DeWitt's Looking Glass Brewing Co. is exceptional. Let's get into it.

My family tried to get a table for a Friday night dinner recently. It was one of the first evenings that was warm enough to sit outside, and the Looking Glass patio was packed. We went inside to inquire about wait times, but after 10 minutes, a host hadn't materialized, so in the interest of not further angering my hangry children, we grabbed Little Caesars and Pita Way on our way out of DeWitt.

The next day, we had much better luck for lunch. We settled in, and I ordered a blackberry sangria mocktail (\$6), while Mr. She Ate had a beer. The mocktail was overwhelmingly sweet, so I asked for some hop water to cut it. I've long loved club soda, and there are likely few people who are more pleased about the emergence of about 843 different flavors of carbonated water. Hop water is a recent and personal favorite addition to this list. It's nonalcoholic sparkling water flavored with hops, so the taste is more earthy and not fruity. While I couldn't cut the sweetness of the mocktail enough to drink it myself, my daughter enjoyed it, and I was charmed by the inclusion of handcrafted nonalcoholic drinks on the menu.

We started with a Bavarian pretzel (\$13) since the kiddos have both recently realized they love soft pretzels. When asked what she liked best about New York City in December, Jane, who is 5 years old, first reminisces about the pretzel cart before thinking about the Rockettes. Good to know where her priorities lie. Eddie liked it, too, and it was easy for him to eat without either of his front teeth.

For lunch, the kids moved on to a cheese pizza (\$6), chicken fingers (\$7) and fries from the kids' menu, while I chose the romaine crunch salad (\$12), and Mr. She Ate ordered the Shredder sandwich (\$15). His sandwich was heavy with pork and brisket, which were lacquered with beer cheese and roasted garlic aioli. We're both partial to pickles on a sandwich, so he happily dug in while Eddie snuck into the side of tots. The tots were pleasantly seasoned and crispy, decidedly kid friendly. Our sweet daughter has never met a french fry she wouldn't decimate, and her basket of shoestring fries was empty before her older, pickier brother finished one chicken finger.

I love hearty salads, and I was torn between the chef salad (\$14), which includes kielbasa, and the romaine crunch. I eventually chose the latter, a decision that was based solely upon the dressing it came with. How do you resist smoked onion ranch? This salad was presented in a way I've never seen before, with long heads of romaine halved lengthwise to make boats, which were then topped with halved cherry tomatoes, corn, diced hard-boiled egg, sunflower seeds, scallions, chopped bacon and crumbled gorgonzola. The flavors were exquisite, the vibes immaculate. The dressing was packed with smoky flavor, and I'm ready to go buy

Worshipping at the altar of Looking Glass Brewing Co.

snow, and the doldrums of winter continue to punish spirits and motivation. Other years, the break in the wintry weather is merely just clouds and cold, damp conditions that also aren't

great for inspiring impulsive decisions or exploration. This year, with its warmer temps and sunny days, has prompted many around mid-Michigan to shake off the winter gloom and step outside.

This month's review took me to a prime community destination for warmer-weather dining. Since its opening in 2018, Looking Glass Brewing Co. has been a vibrant element of DeWitt's culinary scene, offering high-level gastropub fare, hyperlocally brewed beer and intriguing monthly specials. (This month's are designed for St. Patrick's Day, March Madness and Lent). The 73-degree weather on Friday (March 14) brought lots of patrons out to the patio, each soaking up rays of sunshine as they imbibed draft ales and pilsners or house-made mocktails.

The light is nearly equally present inside since Looking Glass is a renovated church with breathtakingly beautiful stained-glass windows that illuminate the wide-open dining and bar areas. The altar-situated kitchen pumps out sandwiches, flatbreads, burgers, pasta and smoked meats. The bar has become a beer connoisseur's dream, with both a red ale and an Irish stout serving as the monthly special. The staff is knowledgeable and highly professional, delivering food and beverages with an affable flourish. This is a great place to catch a game or tickle your foodie fancy.

What's bright

I had some windows of time within a very busy week to stop into Looking Glass and taste some of its local brews. I was mightily impressed, but even more so by the caliber of conversations about beers with guests who clearly know about it more than I do. There was considerable giddiness about the Penny Whistle Irish red ale (\$5). It was mildly sweet for an ale and had enough depth for me without being overpowering.

I also tasted the blue raspberry and ginger-peach ciders (\$6.25 each). Both were quite good, and while the blue raspberry is a fan favorite, the ginger-peach was superior in taste, depth and punch.

What's vibrant

I had to pause my personal belief that combining imitation crab meat and real lobster meat is sacrilegious when tasting the crab and lobster BLT (\$16). That said, once I bit into the sandwich, I enjoyed the crunch of the lettuce, the savory smokiness of the bacon and the creamy, sweet notes from the seafood salad. The lobster claw chucks were plump, and the brioche bun was a nice vehicle. I loved the side of house-made truffle fries (\$8), which were thin cut and dusted with a truffle seasoning that elevated the fries rather than dominating them.

The veggie pasta (\$16) was also a hit. Cavatappi was joined by roasted Brussels sprouts, portobello mushrooms, caramelized onions and sun-dried tomatoes. Yet it was the combination of the roasted garlic sauce and fresh basil that made this dish dance. The portion size was large, and my much better



Beverly

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

Early March is an unpredictable time in Michigan. Some years, the ground is still blanketed by

Looking Glass Brewing Co.
115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt
Noon-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Saturday
Noon-10 p.m. Friday
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday
(517) 668-6004
lookingglassbrewingcompany.com



Photo by Bryan Beverly

With a lengthy menu ranging from sandwiches like a crab and lobster BLT (pictured) to pasta dishes, salads, burgers, flatbread pizzas and barbecue meats, DeWitt's Looking Glass Brewing Co. excels at every dish it serves.

She Ate

from page 26

a Costco-sized bag of sunflower seeds because your girl is inspired.

I gladly returned for a lunch meeting and had the smoked turkey club sandwich (\$16), an order I'd planned during my first visit. This sandwich was one of the best I've ever had. This wasn't deli turkey — it was sliced turkey breast snatched off the Thanksgiving table. The bacon-habanero jam was just a bit sweet but packed heat, too, and at the exact right level. The bread, sourced from Freshies Bakery down the street, was perfectly toasted and held up to the weight of the ingredients. I ate the entire order of truffle fries and saved half of the sandwich to take home. Once home, I ate a bite of the sandwich every time I walked into the kitchen, and the leftovers didn't make it through the afternoon. If you're a club sandwich fan, or a human being who likes food, try this sandwich.

The menu is packed with other items I want to try, from the mushroom fries to the big chicken sandwich to the peanut butter and jelly tots and pancakes on the brunch menu. On Fridays during Lent, there's a fish and chips special, and the website advertises fun things like a discount on your bill if you wear pajamas to brunch or a shirt with an alien on it on "Alien Abduction Day." For a restaurant located in a former church, it's good to know that the only thing taken seriously is the food.

Rep. Tom Barrett (R) Postcard Blitz.

Send to 1232 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. March 17-Medicare/Medicaid, March 24-Social Security, March 31-Education & NOAA, April 7-FAA, April 14-FEMA, April 21-Keep Town Halls open, April 28-Economy/Housing + Groceries, May 5-Veteran's Affairs, May 12-From Constituents of MI 7th District.

He Ate

from page 26

half easily had enough for lunch the next day.

The Korean hot chicken sandwich (\$15) was flavorful and large, but a few too many components made it a challenge to eat. Pickle-brined chicken breast was coated in a spicy Korean barbecue sauce and then topped with pickles, pepper jack cheese and a traditional coleslaw. I'd suggest the kitchen swap out the creamy slaw for a kimchi-based slaw that's more on theme

but still brings the crunch diners enjoy.

Best bite

I'm a sucker for a po'boy, the French baguette sandwich popularized in low-country cooking. I'm heading to New Orleans at the end of the month and can't wait to dig into some authentic shrimp or red snapper po'boys. To get my taste buds warmed up, Looking Glass offered a fried grouper po'boy (\$16) that hit several spots: cornmeal-crusted fish, fried just hard enough, with pickles, coleslaw that didn't soak the baguette and a slight kick from the remoulade. I relished every bite like the patio patrons worshipped the early spring sun.

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