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April 9-15, 2025

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I was challenged last week by a reader who took issue with the fact that I called out Trump for saying there were "very fine people on both sides" in the Unite the Right Rally in Charlottesville in 2017, saying that it had been repeatedly debunked. In a world where we are consistently being told to believe whatever Trump says, I don't see how anyone can take issue with that due to a multitude of reasons: he is either lying, doesn't make any sense, or he just says anything he thinks will give himself plausible deniability, regardless of how ridiculous it is, or how stupid he thinks we are.

Snopes makes the point that he said Trump wasn't talking about neo-Nazis and white nationalists, BUT SERIOUSLY, he only said that because he HAD TO because he was put on the spot. Any reasonably consciously minded person would have called out everything about that rally, and most of us did. Still, if your first thought is to defend him as if he has a clear position, then you might want to reconsider whether you understand the complexity of how entrenched white supremacy is in this country.

I must give Snopes credit for adding this editors' note: "Some readers have raised the objection that this fact check appears to assume Trump was correct in stating that there were "very fine people on both sides" of the Charlottesville incident. That is not the case. This fact check aimed to confirm what Trump said, not whether what he said was true or false. For the record, virtually every source that covered the Unite the Right debacle concluded that it was conceived of, led by, and attended by white supremacists, and that, therefore, Trump's characterization was wrong."

I remember watching the coverage of that rally and couldn't believe what I was seeing with my own eyes. People were carrying tiki torches, dressed in khaki pants and a white polo, and Make America Great Again hats, trying to look like Trump himself, shouting, "Jews will not replace us." Every person in that rally voted for him, and I do not doubt that if he condemned them, it would have been the first words out of his mouth, but no, his first thought was to insist that they were "very fine people." No matter how often people tell you it has been debunked, you must think objectively and reject that notion. To Trump, every vote counts, including theirs, and he wouldn't give up their vote if it would keep him from winning.

I responded to the reader similarly, and I truly hope they take a step back and ask themselves why they chose to come to the defense of Trump on this topic. If it was merely because they want to make sure I am not spreading false information, I think I've shown that that is not the case. If it was because they believed it wasn't accurate, I hope they see they could be listening to opinions that aren't rooted in earnest. I don't know what their political leaning is. Still, I can only assume that they voted for Trump because otherwise, it's a pretty apathetic take if you consider the laundry list of things that one could more reasonably find objection with if you didn't vote for him. I think it's also disingenuous; if I am being honest like that, it's somehow even worthy of a conspiracy. No, it's not.

I really didn't want to spend any time on this, but I had writer's block and obviously had a deadline to get it in. So, my apologies for not having anything else, but this has at least given me something to send to print.

As for current events, I attended the demonstration on Saturday, and I have a bit of renewed hope with the turnout around the country. I hope the world can see that there are still those of us here who live in a sane world.

I know I shouldn't argue with people online, but I found myself in that dark place the other day, so I just want to remind everyone who seems to think that Trump received the majority of votes that it is not true. Did he get more votes than Kamala? Yes, he did. But for all of you who insist he got the majority, please learn how to comprehend. More people voted for someone other than Donald Trump. They were not the only two people on the ballot, so remember that most of the people who voted did not choose him; we just have a really crappy system that really only gives two choices. If we had rank-choice voting, he would have probably lost. I hope America can gravitate to a better option than the one we have now.

I always find it humorous that Trump and his pet Musk try to portray any protest as a bunch of entitled, unemployed paid activists, as if they haven't been out offering a million dollars to voters in Wisconsin last week, or whatever nonsense they were doing in Pennsylvania during the general election, or the nearly 3 million given to the Trump campaign by someone who constantly likes to insist that he started Tesla when he literally bought in and forced out the actual founders. I swear they think the truth isn't out there, yet so many just believe everything they say. They want us to take them seriously, but they can't even accept the truth that is not hard to find. Trump and Musk only want validation, that's it; without it, they cry about how everyone is out to get them.

Musk wanted so badly to be called a genius that he went to court to list himself as a co-founder of Tesla, and now he has even swallowed up Twitter into his xAI so that he can be the "founder" of that company. He didn't invent PayPal either, but he has repeated that lie after he invested in and merged the platform with X.com, which he did co-found, so that he could again say he was a founder. Musk can take credit for investing his money, but he cannot take credit for being some sort of genius tech bro who revolutionized anything. Frankly, he is destroying Tesla and Twitter for everyone but incels. The so-called free speech absolutist who rebuked empathy now wants to know why everyone wants to see him fail because he doesn't think he has done anything wrong.

The American people are making it clear that Musk has aligned himself on the wrong side of history. I wonder how long it takes before Space X follows the same path, but I suppose that if Trump is in office, Space X will continue to receive billions from his buddy. I only hope that the only company he actually founded might be useful in the sense that the people who actually do build the rockets can continue to make breakthroughs in space exploration, because that final frontier is something I have always been fascinated with (although I'd say Musk's role is not really what makes those rockets fly, but just the financier). I just don't want him to take credit for something that people much smarter than him have spent their lives studying.

Listen, I don't wish for America to fail; I just don't think this administration can lead us into a prosperous future, and the one they think they are leading us into is most certainly not one I care to live in. I don't have a backup plan, so I'll continue to fight for this country. To anyone still cheering Trump and his band of despots, you can thank all of us later if we don't crumble first.

Please email me at lansingallstar@gmail.com.

I remember a commercial I heard a lot when I was a kid, and I think it was from UNICEF.

"Silence is apathy and apathy is lethal."

I didn't know what it meant when I was a kid, but it stuck with me, and now, in my life, I feel like I remembered it for a reason.

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Capital Tower



Tower on Grand

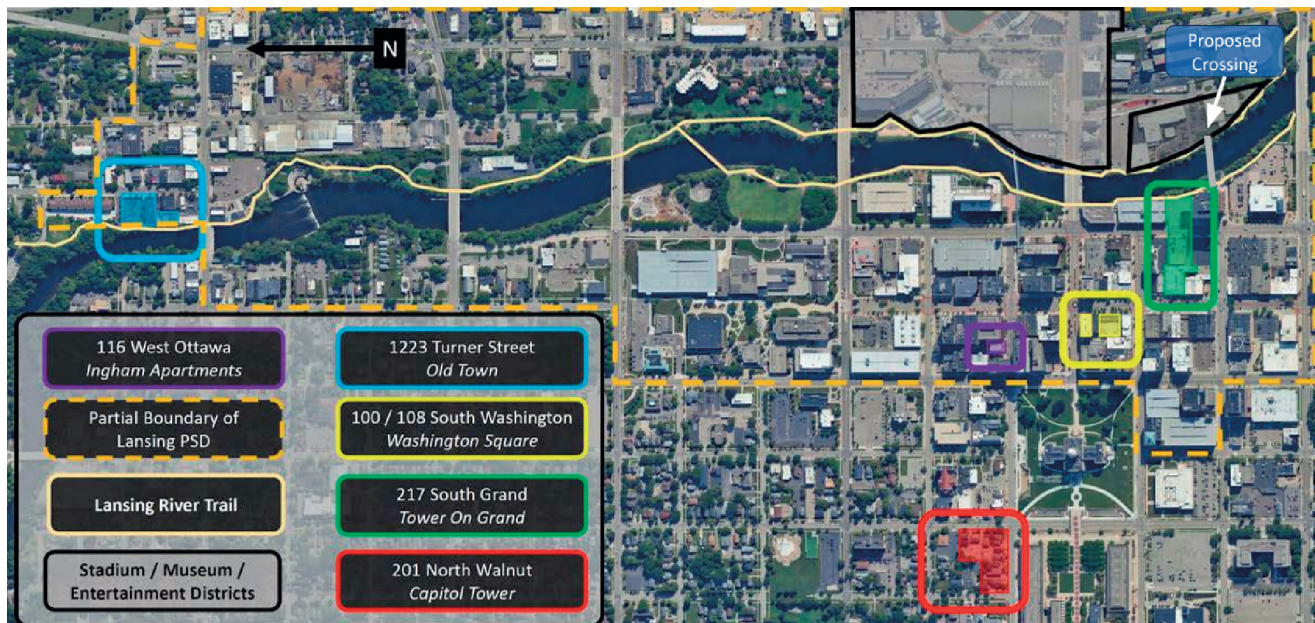


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MSU Museum exhibit explores Detroit techno music

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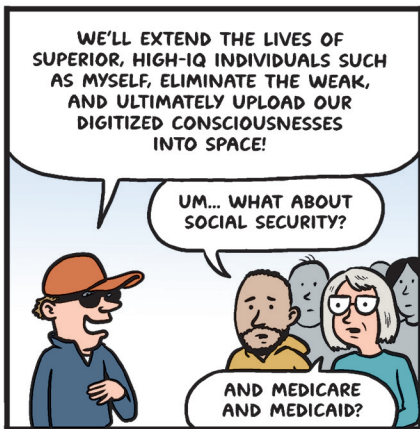
Ten Pound Fiddle celebrates 50th anniversary with all-day party



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Brothers take over beloved northside Lansing restaurant

Cover photo by Eileen Sturm



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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

AMERICA FACES AN UNSPECIFIED BUT DIRE NATIONAL EMERGENCY!
WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO TIGHTEN OUR BELTS--AND SACRIFICE FOR THE COMMON GOOD!

WAIT--WAS THERE A WAR? A TERRORIST ATTACK?

I'M SO CONFUSED!

THE PRESIDENT GIVES A ROUSING SPEECH!
OTHER COUNTRIES ARE LAUGHING AT US! SO I HAD CHAT GPT MAKE UP SOME RANDOM TARIFFS WHICH ARE NOW OUR OFFICIAL POLICY!

IT'S LIBERATION FROM REALITY DAY!

Country	Tariff
China	40%
Canada	30%
Japan	25%
South Korea	15%
India	10%
UK	5%
France	3%
Germany	2%
Italy	1%
Spain	0%
Mexico	0%
Brazil	0%
Russia	0%
Iran	0%
North Korea	0%
South Africa	0%

HIS KEEN MIND IS FOCUSED LIKE A LASER!
"IT'S SUCH AN OLD-FASHIONED TERM BUT A BEAUTIFUL TERM--GROCERIES! IT SORT OF SAYS A BAG WITH DIFFERENT THINGS IN IT!"

MUST...KEEP... SMILING...

*YEP, ACTUAL QUOTE!

HIS UNILATERAL ORDER EVEN SPECIFIES TARIFFS FOR TWO ISLANDS OCCUPIED BY PENGUINS!
DAMMIT! SO MUCH FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE AMERICANS, AS WE HAVE BEEN DOING WITH SUCH RUTHLESS CUNNING!

WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO TRY TO OUTWIT A MASTER DEAL-MAKER LIKE DONALD TRUMP!

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS EXPLAIN THE WISDOM OF THE NEW POLICY!
LOOK, THERE MIGHT BE A LITTLE SHORT TERM PAIN--BUT THE PRESIDENT KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING! HE IS AN EXPERIENCED BUSINESSMAN!

HE--HE DROVE MULTIPLE CASINOS INTO BANKRUPTCY!

GUARDS! RE rendition THIS MAN--FOR WRONGTHINK!

STRANGELY, WALL STREET HAS NOT RESPONDED WELL TO THE NEWS.
WAIT! HE IS DOING THE THING HE REPEATEDLY PROMISED TO DO??

I CERTAINLY DID NOT ANTICIPATE THIS WHEN I VOTED FOR HIM!

I JUST WANTED TO USE THE "R" SLUR WITHOUT GETTING CANCELED!

NEXT WELL, MY WORK HERE IS DONE! TIME TO PLAY GOLF!

AFTER I CONSULT ON NATIONAL SECURITY WITH LAURA LOOMER!

TOM TOMORROW © 2025-04-07 :: JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Work begins on downtown Lansing's grandest vision

Developers say downtown housing will revitalize the area

Since the pandemic sent state employees home, a debate has persisted over downtown's future.

Some have championed returning state employees to the office, bringing back the area's primary workforce. Others say that downtown businesses need to change business models to diversify their clientele.

John Gentilozzi thinks the root problem is simple: Few people live downtown. And, as vice president of Gentilozzi Real Estate, he is addressing it.

On Monday, John and his father, Paul Gentilozzi, celebrated the groundbreaking for Tower on Grand, a 28-story, 300,000-square-foot skyscraper on Grand Avenue near Washtenaw Street. It's the first of the Gentilozzis' \$315 million, five-building New Vision Lansing project, which promises to bring people to downtown and Old Town.

The skyscraper will contain 287 residences and feature a pool, fitness center, yoga studio and Grand River-front terrace. Apartment leasing is expected to begin in early 2028.

"For the next two years, we're going to build Lansing's tallest building," Paul Gentilozzi said to applause.

The spring cold snap did not hinder the celebration, with attendees — and the ceremonial dirt pile — under a grand tent. Speakers included Mayor Andy Schor, state Sen. Sam Singh and state Rep. Angela Witwer.

Schor placed the skyscraper among a transformative series of downtown projects, including building the Ovation Center for Music and Arts, constructing a new City Hall and redeveloping the current one into a hotel complex.

"This area is going to be completely different in two years," he said.

Developer Pat Gillespie praised the Gentilozzis' risk-taking and predicted that the growth would beget more growth.

"You would think as a competitor, I don't want more apartments," Gillespie said, "but when they add 600 to 700



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Paul Gentilozzi, of Gentilozzi Real Estate, at Monday's groundbreaking ceremony for Tower on Grand: "For the next two years, we're going to build Lansing's tallest building."

people in downtown Lansing, the bar and restaurant scene are going to grow and have more business."

"We're already getting calls because of the momentum that you're creating, and it will feel safer on the streets and the riverfront because of all the people you're bringing down," Gillespie continued.

"So, on behalf of the business community and the other real estate developers in the community, thank you for taking the risk and the time to put this project together."

Speakers also expressed the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors. The New Vision Lansing project has received a \$40 million state grant and another \$160 million in tax incentives.

Schor called New Vision Lansing a "public-private partnership," and Singh said the project showed a commitment from the state government to support Lansing.

"For a long time, the city of Lansing was the home of state government, but oftentimes the state government didn't always work as closely with the city of Lansing and the mid-Michigan area," he said. "I'd just say this is a commitment from the state of Michigan."

In an interview last week, John Gentilozzi said the project will help solve

downtown's dependence on state employees.

"There was always this moment where people said, 'What are we going to do about downtown when people leave?' And I don't mean forever, I mean at 5 o'clock," he said.

"People said 'Well, maybe if we had more bars, maybe if there were more restaurants, maybe if there was more entertainment,' but nobody ever asked the question, 'What if there were more people?' What if we brought people downtown to live, like in every other urban core?"

Though he was excited to see downtown break free was reliance on state employees, he stressed that the goals were not mutually exclusive.

"If they happen to work for the state and they can walk to work, that's even better," he said.

Gentilozzi said New Vision Lansing took inspiration from Jane Jacobs' 1958 essay "Downtown is for the People," which argued for a bottom-up approach to urban planning with a focus on people. He said developers and city planners focus too much on planning where people will go and what they will do, instead of building "a thriving environment where people live and there's a community downtown."

He also noted that about half a billion

dollars of development is scheduled for downtown over the next three years, none of which relies on state office workers' presence.

New Vision Lansing was expanded from three to five buildings. One, called the Ingham Building, reuses a historic downtown office building. Another will include 80 apartments in Old Town.

Gentilozzi said bringing people to that historical neighborhood will have similar benefits.

"Lansing doesn't have the size to say, 'This our commercial street, everyone else just sort of lives away from it.' We have to bring these things together," he said. "So, much like downtown, living, working, shopping, eating — all of these things need to be easy for people to get to."

Affordability has also been a focus for Gentilozzi Real Estate. The Washington Square project, another repurposed office building, will be under the Missing Middle program. The program ensures that tenants within 80% to 120% of the area median income spend no more than 30% of their gross pay on rent, Gentilozzi said.

At the groundbreaking, Schor echoed Gentilozzi's belief that bringing people downtown is the best way to revitalize the area.

"We talk a lot about who's downtown and state employees and this and that," he said. "For me, from the beginning, ever since the pandemic ended, we said we want more housing."

Karl Dorshimer, president and CEO of the Lansing Economic Development Corp., said the project "would really transform downtown Lansing and Old Town."

"We need to reach that critical mass where downtown is busy all the time," he said.

Schor said more housing would help the area grow organically.

"We want more people living downtown, because when you live downtown, you do things downtown. You eat lunch, you go out for dinner, you walk the dog, you hang out with friends, you go to the park, you go to the new grocery store we have, your friends stay in the hotels," Schor said.

"That's what comes with housing."

— LEO V. KAPLAN

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE INGHAM COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

In re: Petition of Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority for Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure of Certain Parcels of Real Property

Case No. 25-1236-CH
Hon. Morgan E. Cole

Timothy M. Perrone (P37940)
COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.
Attorneys for Petitioner
601 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 372-9000

NOTICE OF HEARING

To: Weedor Kamara, Barney Demetric, Erin Schultz, Estate of Dolores M. Balcorn, Joan E. Peoples, Justin Bledden, LWA Investments, LLC, Estate of Thomas Q. Wilson, Sr., Estate of Gilberto Urdiales, Jr., Citicorp Home Mortgage Service, Estate of Clarence Hassel, Sr., Sharon Johnson, Portfolio Recovery Associates, LLC, Nicole Harmon, TBTE Group, LLC, Larry Owens, Earnest, Inc., Alex Smith, Aaron Smith, Matthew Boonyasith, Sharon L. Ford, and all persons having an interest in the subject properties listed in Exhibit A

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a hearing on the Petition of Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority for Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure of Certain Parcels of Real Property shall be held before the Honorable Morgan E. Cole, Ingham County Circuit Judge, at the Veterans Memorial Courthouse, 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, on **Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard.

This Notice pertains to the real property located in the City of Lansing or Lansing Township, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, as set forth in Exhibit A.

Notice of Pending Expedited Quiet Title and Foreclosure Action (Form 4329) for each of the subject properties was recorded with the Ingham County Register of Deeds on March 7, 2025.

Judgment of the Court after this hearing may result in title to the property vesting in the Ingham County Land Bank Fast Track Authority, 3024 N. Turner St., Lansing, MI 48906 – Telephone (517) 267-5221.

Any persons with information regarding the owner or prior owner of the subject properties are requested to contact the Land Bank.

Any rights of redemption and any ownership interest in the subject properties may be extinguished by the judgment of the Court.

Any person with a property interest in the subject properties may lose his or her interest, if any, as a result of the quiet title and foreclosure hearing.

THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE INGHAM COUNTY LAND BANK FAST TRACK AUTHORITY AND IS SUBJECT TO AN EXPEDITED QUIET TITLE AND FORECLOSURE ACTION. PERSONS WITH INFORMATION REGARDING THE PRIOR OWNER OF THE PROPERTY ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE LAND BANK FAST TRACK AUTHORITY AT 3024 N. TURNER ST., LANSING, MICHIGAN 48906, TELEPHONE (517) 267-5221.

Respectfully submitted,
COHL, STOKER & TOSKEY, P.C.

Date: March 7, 2025

/s/ Timothy M. Perrone
Timothy M. Perrone (P37940)
Attorney for Petitioner
601 N. Capitol Ave.
Lansing, MI 48933
(517) 372-9000

EXHIBIT A

Individual parcels of property located in the City of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, legally described as:

1. Lot 189, Highland Park Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-10-180-211
Commonly known as (1413) Massachusetts Ave., Lansing, MI 48906
2. Lot 12, Block 2, Holmes Subdivision Plat, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-17-252-071
Commonly known as (1412) W. Ionia St., Lansing, MI 48915
3. S. 34.5 ft., Lots 73 and 74, Huntington Heights Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-22-177-131
Commonly known as (1118) S. Holmes St., Lansing, MI 48912
4. Lot 208 and North ½ of Lot 207, Excelsior Land Companys Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-22-256-201
Commonly known as (1224) Dakin St., Lansing, MI 48912
5. Lot 18, Block 6, Assessor's Plat No. 28, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-22-309-081
Commonly known as (1531) Donora St., Lansing, MI 48910
6. North 94 ft., Lots 52 and 53, Southfield Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-05-08-226-155
Commonly known as Daft St., Lansing, MI 48911
7. North 35 ft., Lot 1, except East 50 ft., Randalls Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-03-353-001
Commonly known as (2128) N. East St., Lansing, MI 48906
8. Lot 2, Greenwood Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-08-201-111
Commonly known as (1616) Glenrose Ave., Lansing, MI 48915
9. West 132 ft. of Lot 11, except the South 4.7 ft. and North 1.5 ft., Assessor's Plat No. 13, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-08-426-021
Commonly known as 1210 N. Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd., Lansing, MI 48915
10. Lots 38 and 39, except commencing 15.5 ft. East of the Northwest corner of Lot 39, thence East 96 ft. of North line Lot 39, Southwesterly 12 ft. on Easterly line Lot 39, Northwesterly 92.5 ft. to Point of Beginning, Otto's Addition, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-10-401-211
Commonly known as (1243) Clark St., Lansing, MI 48906
11. North 33.5 ft. of Lot 4, Assessor's Plat No. 4, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-15-152-231
Commonly known as (333) N. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
12. Lot 13, Giddings Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-29-376-151
Commonly known as (1522) W. Holmes Rd., Lansing, MI 48910
13. Lot 132, Pleasant Grove Subdivision, Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-01-01-32-352-221
Commonly known as (2026) W. Jolly Rd., Lansing, MI 48910

Individual parcels of property located in the Township of Lansing, County of Ingham, State of Michigan, legally described as:

14. Lot 260 and West 5 ft. of adjacent alley, Urbandale Subdivision No. 1, Lansing Township, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-21-01-14-330-018
Commonly known as (235) S. Mifflin Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
15. Lot 261 and West 5 ft. of adjacent alley, Urbandale Subdivision No. 1, Lansing Township, Ingham County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, Ingham County Records. Parcel ID #33-21-01-14-330-019
Commonly known as (239) S. Mifflin Ave., Lansing, MI 48912

Former commissioner seeks BWL reforms in city charter

A former Lansing Board of Water & Light commissioner has proposed the city charter be changed to require the City Council to pick the BWL's internal auditor instead of the public utility's Board of Commissioners.

Dusty Horwitt, who served on the board for two years ending in 2023, said the process used to select the internal auditor can lead to decisions not in the public's interest.

In a letter to the Lansing Charter Commission and interviews, Horwitt pointed out that board members are all unpaid volunteers. Consequently, while they often make decisions about complex issues, they are unlikely to have the time or expertise to understand them in detail. These decisions include installing new electrical generators, expanding services to a new service area or raising rates. Even though the general manager runs the BWL's operations, ultimately these decisions rest with the commissioners.

In cases like these, the internal auditor will often do research for them, outlining the probable effects of different decisions.

Under the charter, the board hires and supervises the internal auditor, who works on a one-year contract.

"If the finding of an audit is critical of the board or the general manager, that might threaten the renewal of their contract," Horwitt said.

Horwitt recommended to the charter commission that the City Council should hold the oversight authority, by hiring and supervising the internal auditor, just as it does in city government. "The BWL should

be governed with a similar separation of administrative and oversight power."

Horwitt also expressed concerns about the way BWL commissioners are appointed, though he did not propose any charter change. Horwitt said that the general manager has played a role in hiring at least some board members.

"Compounding the conflicts at the BWL is the fact that the general manager was significantly involved in my appointment and mentioned that he was involved in the appointments of at least some other commissioners," Hor-

witt told the charter commission. "After I applied to become a commissioner, but before the mayor nominated me to serve on the board, the mayor asked me to interview with the general manager.

"I proceeded with the interview, but felt uncomfortable knowing that the general manager was involved in selecting at least one of his own supervisors. While serving on the board, the general manager once commented to me and other commissioners that he had helped win reappointment for some of the other commissioners.

"The general manager's influence in selecting commissioners may be especially strong because only one person, the mayor, appoints commissioners, and it is often unknown to the public which candidates are being considered for appointment until an

appointment is made."

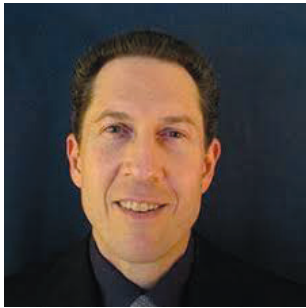
Peffley and Lansing Mayor Andy Schor disagreed.

"The general manager has zero input into the selection of the internal auditor," Peffley said. "I don't even meet the applicants until after they are hired, that is the first interaction I have with them," he said.

Peffley said the internal auditor is selected appropriately. "It's ridiculous that the board would not ask the internal auditor to do tough audits," he said.

"If the audit comes back and exposes some deficiencies, that doesn't make the board look bad, it makes the general manager look bad, but it shows that the board is actually doing its job," he said. "I welcome those kinds of audits, because they help me

See BWL, Page 8



Dusty Horwitt

CELEBRATE EASTER

at University United Methodist Church

1120 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823

The church with the bell tower, on the corner of Harrison and Trowbridge

Come for a message of hope!

Sunday, April 20 | 9:30 & 11AM

In person and livestreamed on YouTube

Easter Egg Hunt for Children

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

University UMC is an inclusive congregation and we welcome all people.



Quakers, the Religious Society of Friends, worship out of expectant silence.

Our worship leads us to believe that there is that of God or Spirit in everyone and therefore all of us are created equal.

We stand in solidarity with the immigrant community and other marginalized groups in these troubled times.

Lansing law criminalizing ‘opposite sex’ restroom sees likely repeal

Speakers at public hearing support trans community

A resolution to repeal part of Lansing’s restroom ordinance seems likely to pass, following strong public support at a public hearing.

Eight people showed up Monday to back the repeal of what they considered a law harmful to the transgender community.

The 1986 ordinance makes it a crime to enter the restroom of the “opposite sex.” The law is not currently enforced, according to Council member Brian T. Jackson, who said its repeal would have little effect since other laws criminalizing bad behavior in restrooms would remain on the books.

“This is not a free rein to go in the bathrooms and do anything,” said Jackson, a trial attorney. “You still can’t do anything illegal.”

One person also spoke virtually in favor of the repeal, and 12 wrote to support it.

“With how the federal administration is galvanizing the country against people like me, I would feel safer if this ordinance was not hanging over my head,” said Tai Heitzeg, a trans woman and city employee.

“One of the things I love about Lansing is the opportunity it has provided me,” Heitzeg said. “I would be forced to the margins of society in most places, but here I get to serve my community and local governments.”

Ward 1 resident Bridget McConaughy called repealing the ordinance a “simple, yet profound” move “to remove ambiguity and to remove a threat that persists for those of us who have to think about whether or not it is safe to enter the restroom.”

McConaughy also said the change would bring Lansing’s city ordinances in line with the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, which in 2023 was amended to include protections for gender identity.

Verena Courtney, meanwhile, expressed that the move would benefit cisgender peo-

ple as well. She cited Dani Davis, a woman who was fired from a Walmart in Florida after a man mistakenly assumed she was trans and berated her in the women’s bathroom.

“Human bodies are not one-size-fits-all,” Courtney said. “There are so many different body types and any woman could be subject to harassment for their hair, having a certain type of bone structure, their size, and ordinances like these encourage witch hunts and harassment.”

Only one person, Linda Lee Tarver, spoke against the repeal. Tarver argued the ordinance should be expanded to include transgender people rather than repealing it altogether, because repealing ordinances “can lead to legal uncertainty and unintended consequences.”

Tarver argued that “there would be no gendered bathrooms” if the ordinance were repealed.

Other cities in the greater Lansing area do not have such ordinances and maintain gendered bathrooms. Additionally, some state departments, including the Attorney General’s Office, explicitly allow transgender

people to use the restroom of their choice.

The repeal may have been routine in previous years, but trans restroom access has been a hot-button issue in the so-called political “culture war.”

In February, the University of Cincinnati changed its restroom signage to “biological men” and “biological women,” though they were changed following protests. Last month, a transgender college student was arrested in Florida after she notified law enforcement that she would use the women’s bathroom in Florida’s Capitol. The act of civil disobedience was meant to ridicule the law under which she was arrested.

Jackson noted that statistics show transgender people are in more danger from cisgender people in bathrooms than the inverse.

One speaker, Alyssa Tersack, said the ordinance’s repeal “might feel like a small, simple act,” but the message of acceptance was anything but.

“I hope you know what a big signal it sends to the community,” she said.

— LEO V. KAPLAN

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FY2026, 7/1/2025 – 6/30/26 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing to solicit public input on the proposed funding allocations for the City of Lansing’s FY 2026 Annual Action Plan which covers the time period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

TO: ALL LANSING CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS
FROM: CITY CLERK
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
PLACE: 124 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE, 10th FLOOR LANSING MI 48933
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
DATE: Monday, April 21th, 2025

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, HOME AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAMS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY’S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION FOR FY 2026 (7/1/2025 - 6/30/2026)

PLEASE NOTE – Entitlement Grant Awards for FY 2026 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026) have not been announced by HUD as of the date of this publication. Amounts proposed for FY 2026 CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are based on prior year entitlement awards. If the grant amounts HUD actually awards to the City of Lansing for CDBG, HOME and ESG are different from the previous year, pro-rata adjustments will be made to the budget amounts proposed for each activity.

Further information regarding this issue, Erin Buitendorp, Development Manager, Economic Development and Planning, 316 N. Capitol Avenue, Suite D-1, Lansing, MI 48933, (517) 483-4053 or erin.buitendorp@lansingmi.gov.

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

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

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

CP#25-111

BWL

from page 7

do what the board has asked me to do.”

Peffley pointed out that the board has fired the last three general managers, so it is clearly firmly in charge of the organization.

“Mr. Horwitt never brought any of this up during his tenure,” Peffley said. “He voted for every audit.”

Schor appointed Horwitt, an environmental consultant, to fill out an unexpired term.

“I certainly ask Peffley to chat with any potential nominees about the board,” Schor said, “just as I do with every other department director and appointee for those boards.”

He said city department heads routinely meet with applicants for city boards and commissions. “That’s fairly standard so people know what goes on at those boards,” he said. “And I value the opinions of my directors regarding nominees. But I make the final decision.”

The board has had its own internal auditor going back to at least former Mayor David Hollister two decades ago, he explained.

“As do several other city agencies such as the Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority and Downtown Lansing Inc.,” he said. “As do both our retirement boards. The city finance team and city external auditor get to review any of that information as well, including the audits that are done by these boards.”

Horwitt said that while he was on the

board, he found that there was a general lack of information shared by management with commissioners, particularly on the major electrical expansion that was announced in July 2023, a project that was estimated to cost \$750 million over 10 years.

“We were provided with just a one-page data sheet and a 10-minute oral summary,” he said. “I have never seen this level of secrecy before.”

This pattern of low information continued across his entire tenure, he said.

For example, he learned about contamination occurring in private water wells from a nearby coal ash storage facility from an article in City Pulse. In another case, he claimed that he only found out that the EPA had cited the BWL for failing to conduct water testing over a three-year period from sources outside of BWL management. Finally, he didn’t feel that the board commissioners received enough information from management before several rate increases.

“There needs to be better communication from management to the board and the public,” he said. “It would have been very helpful to have the auditor look at these issues ahead of time because of the impact and complexity.”

“The solution is to have the City Council appoint the internal auditor, which is the approach taken for every other city agency,” he said.

“It’s important to have a good independent auditor who does not feel constrained in coming to conclusions that could upset the people who hired them,” Horwitt said.

— VICTOR WOODDELL

City PULSE

WE NEED A HOME RUN



It's baseball season in Greater Lansing, and City Pulse needs a home run in these challenging financial times. Your donation can enable us to hit all of the bases in delivering news, in-depth features and the best in arts & culture, dining and event coverage.

Now more than ever

Please donate using the QR code, by visiting lansingcitypulse.com/donate, or by mailing your check to 1905 E. Michigan, Lansing, MI 48912. To make tax-free contributions to the City Pulse Fund, please contact Steve at 517-999-6704.





PROTEST

Thousands flocked to the state Capitol Saturday to protest the Trump administration as part of a national, coordinated “Hands Off!” rally – one of an estimated 1,400 across the country.

“They can ignore court orders, but they cannot ignore all of us,” said Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel.

Other speakers included former U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist and former Wayne County health director Abdul El-Sayed.

The rally was organized by the volunteer group 50501 Michigan, which formed to organize a Feb. 5 rally this year.

Saturday’s turnout was the largest this year, signaling growing opposition to the Trump administration. The diverse coalition backed various issues, but broadly opposed billionaire Trump adviser Elon Musk.

Raymond Holt captured the scene in photos.

– LEO V. KAPLAN



REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



MSU has proposed building a \$150 million, 6,000-seat Olympic sports arena and partnering with a developer to create a new Spartan Gateway District on the corner of Trowbridge and Harrison roads. The university would raze about 14 acres of mostly wooded area south of the under-construction Student Health and Recreation Center on Harrison. The MSU Board of Trustees is scheduled to vote Friday on approving the plans, including leasing land to the developer under a long-term agreement in exchange for developments in addition to the arena, such as the hotel, housing, retail, restaurants, offices, parking and a future academic or health care development, university documents state. The arena would host MSU women's volleyball, gymnastics and men's wrestling. MSU has not released the name of the developer.

The U.S. Homeland Security Department has revoked the visas of an unreported number of MSU international students. The U.S. State Department has contacted those students directly, said MSU spokesperson Amber McCann, and the university's Office for International Students and Scholars is working with them to provide support. She added that OISS monitors the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System and will contact students if officials terminate their SEVIS records. McCann did not say whether any had been deported or left the country. Four University of Michigan students have had their visas revoked, as have some at the universities of Minnesota and California Davis and Central Michigan University. Christine Sauve, policy, engagement and communications manager for the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, said, "These actions highlight the complete lack of due process and fairness that citizens and noncitizens are facing across our immigration system and the erosion of students' First Amendment rights."



The Michigan State Police is investigating an incident Sunday where Ingham County Sheriff's Office deputies were involved in the shoot-

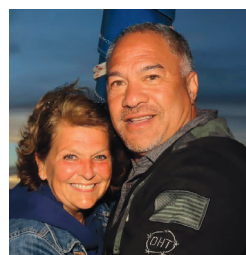


ing and killing of an armed man on U.S. 127 near Barnes Road in Vevay Township. A passing motorist had called 911 to report the man walking the wrong way on the freeway and causing a hazard. Officers spent more than 13 minutes trying to de-escalate the situation, said Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth, and attempted to deploy a stun gun before the shooting. The unidentified man was noncompliant, pulling out knives and walking toward them. One officer suffered an unnamed minor injury. Wriggelsworth debunked rumors that officers had handcuffed the man when he was shot and added that one person from the department is on administrative leave but provided no other details. The MSP has released partial video footage of the incident.



The Robinson Memorial Church of God in Christ is suing the city of Lansing over a \$123,500 tax bill for a garden property that was tax-exempt for years but became taxable commercial property in 2020, reported the Lansing State Journal. The church has asked a judge for a temporary restraining order in Ingham County Circuit Court to halt tax collection and foreclosure proceedings against the lot. Gregory Reed, an attorney for the church, said the congregation could not pay the bill. The 6-acre lot on Perry Robinson Circle near Jolly Road and Cedar Street, used for revivals and educational activities, sits across town from the church at 509 Charles St. The lot lost its tax-exempt status in 2020 when the city reevaluated its tax rolls, though the church itself retained its tax-exempt status.

Christy and Paul Akeos of Spring Arbor returned home from a Mexican prison after Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Charlotte, traveled there to help secure their release. The couple, who flew into Capital Region International Airport, were arrested March 4 after getting off a plane in Cancun. Their family and attorney said the arrest related to a credit card dispute with a resort company that the couple had previously resolved in their favor. The Palace Co., which owns the resort, accused the couple of defrauding the resort out of more than \$116,000. Barrett said the president sent a special envoy to help negotiate their release. Officials did not release details of the dispute's resolution.



Barrett also hosted his second telephone town hall Monday night. Over 5,000 attended, his office said. After a technical difficulty prevented many from attending his earlier telephone town hall, officials shifted the format to dial-out only. Barrett discussed his first bill to pass the house — a bipartisan bill simplifying VA claims notices

— and his excursion to Mexico. He also answered questions about Trump's recently announced tariffs, noting that "it's going to take some time" for the U.S. market to readjust as it becomes less dependent on foreign industry, and on the SAVE Act, which he confirmed he would vote "yes" on.



The city of East Lansing may have to return as much as \$9 million to current and former Lansing Board of Water & Light customers, the Lansing State Journal reported after the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that the 5% franchise "fee" East Lansing officials imposed on BWL customers in the city years ago was, in

fact, a tax. The tax required voter approval, which did not occur, as mandated by a 1978 state Constitution provision. Resident Jim Heos sued the city to challenge the fee in 2020, and the Supreme Court decision was the culmination of five years of litigation, including two appeals. Andrew Abood, one of Heos' attorneys, estimated the total amount to be refunded as about \$9 million.



The adult entertainment club Centerfolds at 5910 S. Pennsylvania Ave. has closed permanently after the city of Lansing revoked its cabaret and liquor licenses due to a series of violent crimes over several years and a recommendation from the City Council. Christopher Bonilla Sr. was shot and killed inside the club in February, and shootings also took place in 2013 and 2016. The Council said it gave the club notice to speak on the license revocation, but no one appeared at the hearing. The Council also described the business's owners as being unwilling to implement increased security procedures.



WKAR was named the 2024 Michigan Public Television Station of the Year during the Broadcast Excellence Awards Gala Detroit, winning for the 13th time in 14 years.

The recent demolition of Eastern High School was a deplorable end to a proud and historic building. Despite claims that it was too far gone to make rehabilitation economically feasible, there is no doubt the structure had tremendous potential for adaptive reuse. In the right hands and with the right amount of capital, the proud old school could have added a few new chapters to its storied history.

Nonetheless, while we and many others are deeply hurt by Eastern's loss, rather than wallow in recriminations, we think it's best to look forward. How can we make sure this never happens again? As a foundation for our ruminations, let's briefly consider the past before offering a strategy for the future.

The recent history of historic preservation in Lansing has been quite a roller coaster. From the 1950s through the 1970s, when modernization was the reigning ethos, some of the city's grandest historic structures came tumbling down, among them the old City Hall, Central High School (where LCC's University Center now stands), and numerous architecturally significant homes that fell to the I-496 project and other manifestations of so-called progress. Later, a few historic structures were intermittently saved and repurposed, from the Arbaugh department store on Washington Square to the Motor Wheel factory to historic storefronts across Old Town.

Saving historic structures hit something of an apogee during the Bernero years in the new centu-

ry, which included the transformation of the Ottawa Street Power Station into the new headquarters of Accident Fund. The old Mutual Building on Capitol Avenue became new digs for The Christman Co. Pat Gillespie turned the Marshall Street Armory into a nonprofit hub while Sean Elliott salvaged the Ranney Building on Washington Square. The Eyde fam-

Let's not repeat this history

The CP Edit

Opinion

ily brought new life into the Knapp's Center, the classic Streamline Moderne masterpiece that anchors the southern tier of Washington Square. The groundwork was laid for saving the current City Hall, a midcentury modern classic.

The early 20th century also saw an explosion of projects that saved former city schools for various businesses and residential uses. Biotech company Neogen repurposed the Allen Street and the Oak Park schools, among others. Nio-wave turned the Walnut Street School into a nuclear physics lab. More recently, the Capital Area Housing Partnership unveiled the new Residences at Walter French at the old flagship school building.

Despite these clear wins for historic preservation through the years, the Eastern High debacle makes it painfully obvious that we haven't learned all that much along the way. Lansing needs to retool its approach to historic preservation from the ground up.

Although we have a Historic District Commission charged with overseeing studies, research and reports on the city's historic assets, the commission is mostly reactive rather than proactive. It doesn't have a budget to support historic preservation work, from inventorying and assessing structures, to enforcing maintenance standards, to investing in the upkeep of particularly important buildings. And there is no city ordinance preventing the owners of historic properties outside a designated historic district from letting them fall apart, known in the preservation biz as "destruction by neglect."

All of which points to the need for solutions. We think a working group should be formed to consider the city's path forward. It would be a welcome next step for Mayor Schor to convene the group, drawing from the deep well of local expertise in such matters, and task them with developing a systematic approach to identifying historic properties across the city, establishing a policy framework for requiring historic buildings to be maintained, and considering a funding source to create the capacity needed to do the real work of preserving our city's proud history. If Ingham County can have a millage to protect farmland, surely a small millage can be put on the ballot in Lansing to generate a modest sum to advance the cause of historic preservation.

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In politics, like sports, it can come down to who wants it more

In my previous life, I covered collegiate and high school sports. I've been to the games, talked to players, written game previews and sat through the coaches' press conferences.

In 2001, I settled into full-time political reporting, and I found the parallels between politics and sports closer than you may think.

In both, you have participants. There's a winner. There's a loser. And there's a lot more to winning than just showing up.

People benefit from natural skills. In sports, those are athletic skills: fantastic hand-eye coordination, quickness and toughness. In politics, one needs interpersonal skills: being an engaging speaker, a clear communicator and a compassionate listener.

Beyond natural skills, though, is practice. Just as a runner gets faster through a good conditioning program, a politician improves through experience.

But the world is full of naturally gifted people. Experience isn't a rare commodity, either. What separates the winners?

How did this year's Michigan State men's basketball team, for example, win the Big Ten regular season title when last year's team struggled to get to .500 when more than half the team was the same?

In sports, like politics, it's the fire. It's the desire. Who wants it more?

Who is hungry? And who is content?

Who believes they have something to contribute, that what they represent is bigger than who they are? And who is participating seemingly out of obligation?

As candidates pop out of the woodwork for governor, U.S. Senate, Congress and several other offices, I watch for this passion, this ability to connect.

Let's start with state Sen. Mallory McMorrow. For months, she spent from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m. every day hammering away on a book about herself, her journey from someone pissed off by Donald Trump to a two-term state senator.

She claims the timing of her new book and her announcement for the U.S. Senate last week were coincidental. Either way, her burning desire to serve spawned a phenomenal cam-

paign rollout covered by numerous media outlets.

She teased her announcement for weeks, then rolled it out at 6 a.m. on a non-Michigan Legislature session day. She hit the morning shows and pushed yesterday's news off the front pages as people woke up. Sure, she benefited from a slow news day, but she did interviews galore to accompany her compelling 2-minute, 25-second video.

The result: \$1 million raised in the first 24 hours. A ton of attention from potential donors and voters. The content of the message aside, McMorrow's fire and passion were contagious. People want to be part of it.

Then there's John James. He's as skilled and experienced in politics as McMorrow. In 2026, he's running for governor after two narrow U.S. Senate losses and two congressional wins in Macomb County.

His rollout came without a press release. He posted a Facebook message around 5 p.m. Monday entitled "Dear Michigan family." At that point, most of the working press was finishing their daily content. Radio programs booked their guests long ago. Was there time to get this on the 6 p.m. news?

It didn't matter. James didn't do any media interviews anyway. Democrats had plenty of things to say in reaction, but on the James side, the rollout was obligatory. Here I am. Let's go. It's time to march for that biannual dental cleaning.

His message claims, "We'll have the rallies and the balloons soon." Maybe, maybe not.

Maybe there's energy he's keeping in reserve. Perhaps it's like an old lawn mower that needs a few extra pulls in the spring to fire it up.

It's early, I know. James' name ID is significantly higher than McMorrow's. The issues James will run on are different from McMorrow's, too.

The winds of politics constantly change. However, with these two candidates at this painfully early stage, all voters need is functioning eyes and ears to notice who wants it more.

Just like in sports, that can make the difference.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

ONEIDA CHARTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the Oneida Township Election Commission "Public Accuracy and Logic Test" for the May 6, 2025, Special election has been scheduled for **Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 11:00 A.M.** at Oneida Township Hall, 11041 Oneida Rd. Grand Ledge, Michigan. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate the program and computers that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed as set forth by law. (MCL 168.798(1))

Jacqueline Kilgore
Oneida Township Clerk
517-622-8078

CP#25-097

Eagle Township, Clinton County Annual Meeting Synopsis

March 29, 2025, at 10:00 am - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee Currie and 4 citizens. Absent: Trustee M. Hoppes

Board Actions:

- 1) Electors approved salary resolutions for the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and Trustee for FY 25-26.

Board Meeting Synopsis

March 29, 2025, at 10:33 am - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Treasurer C. Hoppes, Trustee Currie and 5 citizens. Absent: Trustee M. Hoppes

Board Actions:

- 1) Budget Public Hearing for FY 25-26.
- 2) Adopted Resolution 03-29-2025-01 General Appropriations for FY 25-26.
- 3) Adopted Resolution 03-29-2025-02 Whispering Winds Special Assessment District Assessment Roll.
- 4) Approved payment of bills.
- 5) Approved BEAD grant letters of support.
- 6) Approved hall maintenance purchases for shed and mower.
- 7) Approved additional security camera.

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is April 17, 2025, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownshipmi.gov for latest updates.

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

CP#25-109

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Downtown Development Authority on **Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.**, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, Classroom 235, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this Public Hearing. For the purposes of the Public Hearing, it shall be assumed that the tax rate will be 1.6462 mills. A copy of the FY26 budget is available on the City's website at Downtown Development Authority | East Lansing, MI - Official Website (cityofeastlansing.com)

The FY26 budget is available for viewing at the East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, Room 217, East Lansing, between the hours of 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

For more information, please contact Heather Pope at (517) 319-6930 or hpope@cityofeastlansing.com. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Downtown Development Authority, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to hpope@cityofeastlansing.com.

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

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

Robert Belleman
Secretary

Dated: April 9, 2025
East Lansing, MI 48823

CP#25-108

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Detroit's machine music comes alive in East Lansing

By AJ GLAUB

Hidden within the Michigan State University Federal Credit Union building in downtown East Lansing is a living, pulsating time capsule of Detroit techno music. Ride one of the shiny new elevators to the top floor, and you'll find yourself in the sound.

The sixth-floor gallery is the temporary home of the MSU Museum, showcasing "Techno: The Rise of Detroit's Machine Music" through July 12. Viewing hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Inside the gallery, four video screens ripple in time with a 45-minute sound installation composed by the pioneering Detroit techno collective Underground Resistance. The visuals, programmed to respond to the music, dance around glass cases displaying the machines that birthed the sound.

One recent evening, Stacey "Hotwaxx" Hale, a trailblazing Detroit DJ and producer known as the "godmother of house music," closed out an MSU Museum event celebrating Detroit women in electronic music with a set composed entirely of tracks produced by such women.

"I never had a crate like that before," Hale said. In this case, her "crate" was a digital folder packed with music by Detroit women producers. "That has never happened. That was history."

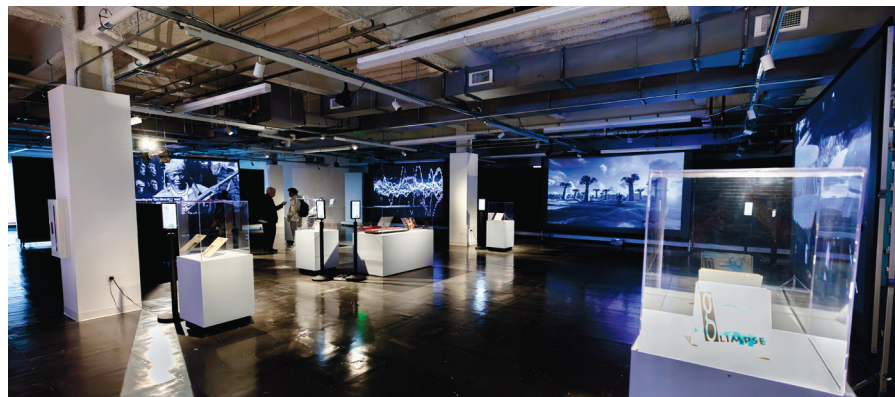
As she played, she named each woman behind the track as it dropped: K-HAND. DJ Minx. DJ Holographic. Jenny LaFemme.

"It was an instant learning moment for everyone there," Hale said. "They wanted more. They applauded."

"Techno: The Rise of Detroit's Machine Music" opened in February and continues to draw students, electronic music fans and curious visitors from across the region. Developed over the course of a year, the show connects Detroit techno to both its local roots and global impact.

Mark Sullivan, creative director of the museum's CoLab Studio, had been trying to bring techno to campus since the 1990s.

"We saw the connection between



Courtesy MSU Museum

The MSU Museum's "Techno: The Rise of Detroit's Machine Music" exhibit, on display through July 12 at the MSUFCU building in downtown East Lansing, features four video screens programmed to respond to a 45-minute sound installation composed by the pioneering Detroit techno collective Underground Resistance. Glass cases display the machines that birthed the sound.

what the MSU Museum wants to represent and Detroit techno," Sullivan said. "This really started 30 years ago, and now we're giving the people who made the history the chance to tell the history."

Museum director Devon Akmon, who grew up in Detroit's rave scene, called the exhibition a full-circle moment.

"I think it was important to bring techno into the museum because it's a vital part of Detroit's cultural legacy — one that's often been overlooked, misunderstood or, frankly, told incorrectly," Akmon said. "It had to be done with the people who created the sound, the movement, who are the pioneers," he continued.

"To truly honor Michigan's cultural contributions, techno or otherwise, we have to center the people who lived it. That's how you build trust, tell deeper stories and create something real."

Julian Chambliss, the museum's Val Berryman Curator of History and a scholar of Afrofuturism, served as the exhibition's lead curator.

"When people ask, 'What's the goal of this exhibition?' I usually say there are two," Chambliss said. "One is to let people know that techno was created in Detroit by Black youth. And two, to challenge a misunderstanding. People often see Detroit techno as dystopian. But the youth making this music saw a bright future. The music is a projection into the future. It's speculative. It's Afrofuturist at its core."

Chambliss defines Afrofuturism as

"the intersection between speculation and liberation, born of the efforts of people of African diasporic descent in opposition to oppression."

"The result of every Afrofuturist project should be a decrease in harm and an increase in care. It asks, in a very real way, 'What would it take to make a better future?'" he said.

To bring that vision into the gallery, Chambliss teamed up with John "Jammin" Collins, a veteran Detroit DJ, member of Underground Resistance and board member of Exhibit 3000, Detroit's own techno museum.

"I came on to present how things should be curated," Collins said. "They relied on me to validate, to confirm and to get it right."

He helped bring in Underground Resistance to produce the 45-minute sound installation.

"What we're trying to capture is the history of techno music," he said. "It starts off with Africa. If you really listen to the music, the lyrics and the words being spoken give you the history of techno."

That history, he said, is still misunderstood.

"People still assume techno was created by white people, but this music was created by African Americans from Detroit. Getting that story, that narrative out, that's always been key to me."

He said Afrofuturism isn't bound to any single moment.

"We're in the future, yeah, but we still have another future. The future changes, and there's always another future be-

yond this one. Afrofuturism is ongoing."

Techno, he explained, matches that with its infinite potential.

"There's no formula, no boundaries. It's still new, and it's not going anywhere. It's here forever."

To visualize the sound, the museum brought in Andrew Charles Edman to create a four-screen video installation. A generative artist from Detroit, Edman used audio-reactive programming tools to sync visuals with the music, creating movement across the space in a way that pulls the entire exhibit into the rhythm.

"I wanted the installation to feel like one solid mix," Edman said.

He found his visual approach through one Underground Resistance track in particular.

"The Illuminator' was probably my jumping-off point," he said. "When I heard that in the mix, I found my center."

After the exhibit opened, a group of MSU students approached museum staff to get involved.

"We've got a techno group on campus," they told Sullivan. "We've been performing in the co-ops. Could we contribute?"

He invited them to DJ. "And sure enough, they're gonna do it," he said. "Three of the student DJs are gonna do an hour each."

On Friday (April 11), Collins returns to perform a live set inside the museum.

"Whenever I DJ, I have to make that connection with the crowd," he said. "It's my job to take them on a musical journey, to help them escape into the future and think about things. Also to appreciate where we are now or maybe be a bit critical of where we are — but with the understanding that it can get better in the future."

On April 17, Detroit techno DJ and producer Carl Craig and Underground Resistance co-founder Mike Banks will join Chambliss for a panel titled "Techno Futures: Detroit's Afrofuturist Groove." The night will end with a performance by Craig.

"One of the things that has been really impactful is discovering the deep conversations about techno with students and the community taking place right now. I'm struck by the ways we can create space for these conversations to happen," Chambliss said.

Trump cuts upend state's humanities programs; Michigan Read on hold

By BILL CASTANIER

For the past couple months, Jennifer Rupp, executive director of the Michigan Humanities Council, has been, metaphorically speaking, tied to a train track waiting for a freight train and not knowing its schedule.

This past Thursday, she awoke to an email with a letter attached. The train had arrived.

At midnight Wednesday, all state councils received a letter from National Endowment for the Humanities' acting chair, Michael McDonald, immediately terminating all funding, including reimbursement of funds already spent by grantees but not received in some cases. Michigan's Council received about \$900,000 annually from the federal government.

"We have no access to any funding," said Rupp.

She said it is likely that the Federation of State Humanities Councils, which represents the 56 state and jurisdictional councils like Puerto Rico, will sue.

"It is an illegal capture of funds," Rupp said. The Michigan Council provides funding each year to a variety of

libraries, museums and arts groups through competitive grants. Grants this past year paid for exhibits and programs featuring everything from oral histories of the American Indian School experience to origin stories of migrants mounted by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

The Humanities Council also has sponsored the Great Michigan Read for 18 years, exposing the state to books and authors of some renown, including Angeline Boulley, a Native American writer who penned the #1 New York Times bestselling "Firekeeper's Daughter."

Rupp told City Pulse the next Great Michigan Read featuring Curtis Chin, author of "Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant: A Memoir," is on hold and unless the funding decision is reversed, layoffs at the local agency will be considered. Using federal funds and underwriting, the Council has given away more than 100,000 books and program materials since the Great Michigan Read started.

Our country may be entering into an era of "Fahrenheit 451" for libraries, museums and arts groups. Recent cuts and the elimination of grants and layoffs at

the federal level will seriously impair and eliminate programs and services at state and local libraries. In Michigan, that could mean the loss of nearly \$10 million in federal funding and double that if you count local match.

"Fahrenheit 451" is a classic dystopian tale about book banning by the late Ray Bradbury. Two famous quotes that came out of this literary gem are "a book is a loaded gun" and "books are to remind us what asses and fools we are."

At seven statewide organizations, including the Michigan Humanities Council, it now appears that anything even suggestive of approaching DEI will be severely restricted or ended in its entirety. What that means for the Smithsonian's Institution's African American and American Indian national museums in Washington is unclear since their essence are stories about slavery, discrimination and colonialism.

Although the American Indian museum was not specifically named in the president's recent executive orders, it's likely its exhibit policy will be watched closely since one of President Donald J. Trump's favorite presidents, Andrew Jackson, was responsible for the Indi-



Rupp

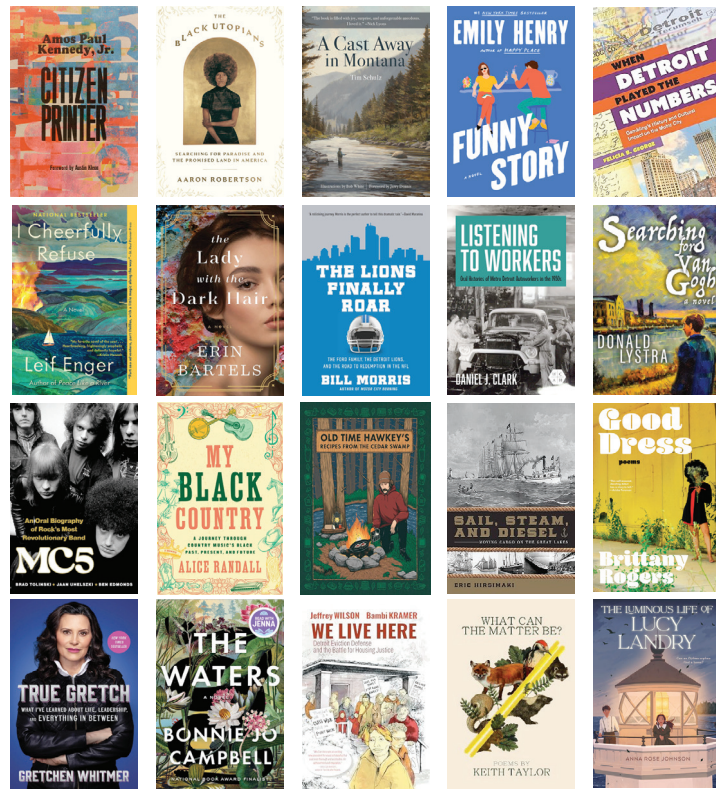
an resettlement and land grabs in this country.

In addition to ongoing attempts to ban books at libraries, these institutions along with small museums were targeted for federal cuts. The so-called Department of Government Efficiency led efforts that resulted in layoffs and grant cuts at the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, which provides funding for these groups at the local and state level.

Larry Wagenaar, executive director of the Michigan Historical Society, said cuts to museums and libraries are "totally tragic."

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2025 Michigan Notable Books



NIGHT FOR NOTABLES

April 26, 2025

6:00 - 9:00 pm

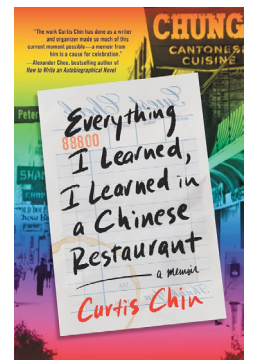
Join us as we honor the 2025 Michigan Notable Books

Keynote Speaker: Curtis Chin, Everything I Learned, I Learned in a Chinese Restaurant

2024 Michigan Notable Book

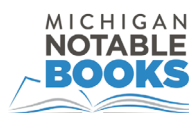
An entertaining and witty memoir about growing up as a gay

Chinese American kid in 1980's Detroit.



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Trump cuts

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One major cut which Michigan library patrons will see if efforts at cutting state funding (Washington, Connecticut and California have already received recision letters) are successful is the elimination of MelCat and MCat programs that allow patrons to get books and use databases on loan from distant libraries when they are unavailable locally.

State Library officials said that more than 1 million books each year are delivered to patrons this way.

This free service would have made industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie smile. Carnegie built thousands of free libraries. He would have

been apoplectic at the news to deliver cuts rather than books. Lansing's Carnegie Library, which opened in 1905 and ultimately evolved into Capital Area District Library, still stands on Shiawassee Street and has been repurposed by Lansing Community College.

In addition, hundreds of small community museums will have no access to the grant funds that were administered through IMLS and used to launch exhibits and modernization.

Federal cuts will devastate the Michigan Humanities Council's grant programs. Rupp said the cuts are "heart-breaking and will absolutely erode being able to tell all people's stories."

Wagenaar said federal funding "was a promise made. Federal funding used to be the gold standard of funding."

Waagenar said that "these cuts are

coming at a time when the Historical Society of Michigan has signed up a record number of students for high school History Day where they compete." National History Day is in part funded through the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Debbie Mikula, director of the Michigan Library Association representing more than 2,500 libraries and executive groups in the state, said the IMLA cuts would end interagency loans of books and material and cooperative use of proprietary databases.

"These programs have taken more than 20 years to establish," she said.


"The ending of grants would decimate these programs which readers in rural areas rely on," she said.

"There just aren't enough philanthropic organizations or wealthy donors to make up the loss of federal funding," Mikula said.

"Libraries are one of the last public institutions available for free," she added.

Finally, the National Endowment for the Arts and the state and local agencies that it funds are crossing their fingers hoping the travails of other agencies won't reach them.

In the meantime, other than loss of funding it's likely you will see programs that receive federal funding continuing to scrub their websites of any DEI-style language and thinking twice about what type of programming



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES
NOTICE OF GRANT TERMINATION

April 2, 2025
Mrs. Jennifer Rupp
Michigan Humanities Council

Dear NEH Grantee,

This letter provides notice that the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is terminating your federal grant (Grant Application No. [REDACTED]) effective April 2, 2025, in accordance with the termination clause in your Grant Agreement.

Your grant no longer effectuates the agency's needs and priorities and conditions of the Grant Agreement and is subject to termination due to several reasonable causes, as outlined in 2CFR§200.340. NEH has reasonable cause to terminate your grant in light of the fact that the NEH is repurposing its funding allocations in a new direction in furtherance of the President's agenda. The President's February 19, 2025 executive order mandates that the NEH eliminate all non-statutorily required activities and functions. See *Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Bureaucracy*, E.O. 14217 (Feb. 19, 2025). Your grant's immediate termination is necessary to safeguard the interests of the federal government, including its fiscal priorities. The termination of your grant represents an urgent priority for the administration, and due to exceptional circumstances, adherence to the traditional notification process is not possible. Therefore, the NEH hereby terminates your grant in its entirety effective April 2, 2025.

Please remember that your obligations under the Grant Agreement continue to apply. Additionally, an audit may be conducted by the NEH after the termination of your grant.

Please contact Grant_Notifications@nehemail.onmicrosoft.com with only urgent questions.


Sincerely,
/s/ Michael McDonald
Michael McDonald
Acting Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities
400 7th Street S.W., Washington, DC 20506

The letter from the National Endowment for the Humanities terminating the Michigan Humanities Council's federal funding.

and exhibits they will launch. Self-censorship will become the norm, according to several museum executives I talked with.

"The arts, museum and cultural agencies losing federal funding will have to go to the private sector, and they all will be competing for the same dollars, Mikula said.

In the meantime, Attorney General Dana Nessel joined with 19 other state attorneys general last week to sue the Trump administration in federal court to block its efforts to cut federal funding to libraries. The lawsuit is similar to other lawsuits against the administration based on the premise that it exceeded the power given it in the Constitution. The lawsuit was filed in the Rhode Island U.S. District Court and seeks immediate injunctive relief.

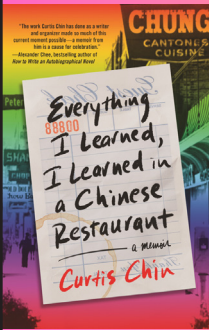



Celebrate National Library Week

Author Talk: Curtis Chin

Monday, April 7
7-8:30pm

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Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

An energized roomful of second graders at Post Oak Academy swapped insect stories Feb. 24 with MSU Broad Museum interns Lindsy Miller (left) and Cate Havern before getting down to making art.

‘It’s what makes us human’

Broad Museum, Park West Foundation bring art to schools and vice versa

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

On a brisk February morning, two student interns from the MSU Broad Art Museum slipped into a second-grade classroom at Lansing’s Post Oak Academy, carrying a plastic bin of paint sticks and a stack of circular wood panels.

A minute before, the kids were quietly engrossed in online research.

The screens went dark and the kids lit up.

“We missed you!” one student cried.

Interns Cate Havern and Lindsy Miller were there to bug the classroom — literally.

The class was studying insects and their habitats, setting the stage for a perfect mash-up of science and art.

Havern asked the kids if they recalled visiting the Broad the previous fall. An image of the steel-clad museum appeared on the screen behind her.

“Yeah, it’s a big triangle!” cried one student, obviously a budding architecture expert.

“We saw the flowers on the floor,” added another, referring to an intricate art installation by Esmaa Mo-hamoud.

The workshops at Post Oak, a public elementary school, and the reciprocal field trip to the Broad were part of an ambitious program supported by the Park

West Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Park West Gallery in Southfield, Michigan.

So far, the program has served more than 16,000 students in mid-Michigan K-12 schools with widely varying levels of support for art education, including some that have none at all. At the same time, the program has enabled Michigan State University stu-

dents to rack up 4,500 teaching hours at more than 50 schools.

The energy and engagement in the room vividly demonstrated that art is not a frivolous add-on to the curriculum. Art connects the brain, hands and spirit in profound ways no passive lesson can match.

The interns and Post Oak teacher Kayla Gamache cheered the kids on as they filled their wooden circles with ladybugs, mantises, butterflies and other tiny wonders.

It turns out that learning about insects, caring about their habitat and bringing them to life with a “super awesome paint stick” (in Havern’s words) are pretty much the same thing.

As the kids worked on their art, fantastic facts popped out of them.

“Metamorphosis is when something goes through a change and it just keeps going,” second grader Charleigh Berry declared.

Another student, Nora Clark, proudly listed the natural wonders she painted into her circle.

“There’s a ladybug, a cloud, two trees, two bushes and the underground,” she explained.

About 45 seconds later, she jumped back up to show a fresh blue smudge.



Cover Photo

Green Elementary students danced to an abstract canvas by “Centers of Energy” artist Samia Halaby on a visit to the MSU Broad last year. Photo by Eileen Sturm

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Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

(Left) Liam Michocoán shows off the monarch butterflies he painted at a February workshop at Post Oak. Michocoán's father came from the region in Mexico where all monarchs gather each winter. (Center) Second grader Henry Person ponders his next artistic choice as Havern offers encouragement. (Right) Second graders Nora Clark and Caleb Gabany show off their insect tableaux.

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"I put some water underground."

Curiosity and wonderment are like an infinite aquifer, ready to be tapped. You could see the sponge-like minds in the room undergo metamorphosis by the minute.

Color and light

Teachers and parents are deeply worried about the changing world that today's kids face. Each day brings new warnings of depression, screen addiction, social media entanglement, inability to focus and low achievement.

Spend an hour watching kids dive into an art project, or soak up the art at the Broad, and the significance of the Park West program comes into dramatic focus.

"There's so much stress in the world. Kids are feeling the stress in a different way," explained Meghan Collins, museum educator of K-12 and family programs at the MSU Broad. "To be able to slow down, express some creativity, use imagination — if the world is going to keep going this way, I feel like those things are so important."

Collins, a graduate of MSU's art education program, was named Museum Educator of the Year by the Michigan Art Education Association in 2025. She helps a rotating crew of student interns design and conduct the workshops and goes with them into the schools.

The classes are carefully keyed to the different developmental stages and interests of kids from pre-school to high school, but they share a common spirit and goal.

"Having something physical to do that's not on a screen, actual tactile engagement — that is a huge thing," Collins said. "Many kids have a different sensory experience most of the day. Working with art materials is highly engaging."

Unlike math or science, art is a realm with many (or no) right answers. To run with the insect metaphor, the Post Oak students pollinated and cross-fertilized each other's work with a collegiality and

camaraderie that was a joy to behold.

Endless varieties of experience, thought and creative activity make art education uniquely valuable, in Meghan Collins' estimation.

"In a lot of the things they're doing, there might only be one answer, because it might be really important that everyone knows that thing," Collins said. "In this case, it's important to learn that everyone sees the world differently."

Not only did the kids pick different bugs to paint; some wrote facts about

bugs; others painted habitats; others found alternate approaches.

In recent years, many local districts, including Lansing schools, have re-introduced art education after severe cuts in the past two decades. Some districts have an art teacher in one or more schools; others have irregular arts nights or other art-centered events; others give little or no attention to art.

"There is a disparity in the quality of arts education happening in different areas," Collins said. "But when we

engage with a school, we're bringing something unique, no matter what kind of arts program they do have."

One unique resource no school has is the Broad Museum itself. A recent exhibit of abstract paintings by Samia Halaby, an internationally acclaimed artist who got her master's degree at MSU, was so rich in colorful stimuli it was hard for the kids to know where to look — or dance — first.

The kids partnered up by twos, picked different sections of a very long, tilted painting called "Centers of Energy" and danced the whole panorama as a group.

"We did that with all ages, from the youngest kids all the way up through our college kids, and it was so much fun," Collins said. "Just reading the label is one way to learn, but there are so many ways to experience an art work."

When the Post Oak group visited the Broad in October, the MSU interns wowed them with a wild variety of art, from Mohamoud's installation of 6,000 die-cut steel Monarch butterflies to the paintings, sculptures, ceramic Chinese tiger pillows, ancient artifacts and other riches of the historic collection housed in the CORE gallery in the museum's lower level.

The kids asked questions, gave their own interpretations, lingered, basked, rang the chimes and smelled the smells at the sensory stations. Of course, they also danced, inspired this time by breakdance-themed art from the 2025 MFA exhibit.

The synergy between the two components of the program is simple yet strong. Museum field trips show the kids what art can do. In classroom workshops, they do it.

"We told them that artists make art about what they think about," Collins said.

A few weeks after the visit to the Broad, the interns visited Post Oak and flipped the script, asking them, "What are you thinking about?"

Primed by the art they'd seen at the Broad, they created sculptures out of wire, foam, cardboard, textured papers and other fun stuff — everything from see-through masks to a delicately deco-



Photo by Eileen Sturm

A class from East Lansing's Robert L. Green Elementary School turned the Broad Museum elevator into an impromptu art installation on a visit last year.

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rated purse.

In February, Collins called Post Oak's Gamache and offered to make a second visit, this time keyed to the current lessons on insects and their habitats.

"The first visit, we were focused on the kids and their ideas, but if we can help teachers make bigger connections to the curriculum, that's even better," Collins said.

There was still plenty of room for creative expression.

Second grader Liam Michoacán proudly held up a painting with two monarch butterflies and three chrysalides.

His mother, Sandra Figueroa, was observing the workshop. Her son was the quiet type, but she was happy to explain that Liam had a special connection to the Monarchs. His father came from the tiny region of Mexico where the Monarchs gather each year.

When a student looked worried, wondering what to paint, teacher Kayla Gamache or one of the interns sat down next to them and offered encouragement.

"In art, there's no right or wrong," Gamache told the students. "It doesn't matter if you mess up a little bit."

She took delight in every insight, every fact, every fancy her students put into the images.

"This is so cool!" she encouraged them.

At a workshop last year, a girl pulled out a drawing of a dragon from her desk and showed it to Collins. The girl was disappointed that some green color dripped onto the paper.

"Maybe there's a special reason for the green," Collins prompted her.

The girl lit up.

"It shoots slime!" she said.

The MSU interns bring the same spirit of enthusiasm and fun to every workshop, while suiting each task to the age and interests of the students.

In a recent pre-school session at the MSU Child Development Lab, Broad interns gave a group of four-year-olds the same wooden panels and paint sticks they used in the Post Oak insect project, but only talked about colors and paint.

"Some kids are in the drawing phase, where they're making a picture that shows something, and some kids are just coloring," Collins said.

Mostly, the kids lit up trying different color combinations.

"What if you put purple on top of that?"

"Put red and green together and make brown!"

The variations in the art were striking. One preschooler spent the entire session painstakingly coloring every square millimeter of her circle red, red, red.

Another one painted a whole solar system, with energy moving through it, and provided the intern with a verbal backstory.

Older students engage with the art, and create it, in more complex ways. Last year, a workshop at Holt Junior High was inspired by Mohamoud's immersive sculptures at the Broad.

"Her artwork was so much about the space, and the way the light interacted



Photo by Amber Crosby-Boerma

Inspired by Mohamoud's "Complex Dreams," Holt Junior High School students made intricate "illuminated environments" at a workshop with interns last fall.

with the sculpture," Collins said. "So, we gave them a box, and a light, and sculpture material."

The middle schoolers came up with all kinds of magic boxes. One student asked if they could turn off the lights, and they worked in the dark, with only the art works to see from.

Sponges, meet basketballs

Confronted with the ambiguities of contemporary art, adults often retreat to the false shelter of scorn.

Kids know better.

"Resistance Training," a sports-themed 2024 exhibit at the Broad, featured a wall of partially deflated basketballs gathered from ditches, driveways and neighborhood courts by Detroit sculptor Tyrell Winston.

"Kids are ready for contemporary art," Collins said. "They come across an interesting or strange object, like the basketball piece — they're curious. They ask some great questions. 'Are those real basketballs or did they try to make them look like basketballs? Why did the artist use them?' Little kids are asking these questions. They know the artist made them for a reason."

To prime the kids' imaginations, the interns asked them to pick one basketball, imagine where it may have been found and what "life" it had before it ended up on the wall. Later, in the classroom workshops, they gathered found objects and invented stories to go with them.

"Kids often see things adults don't," Collins said. "They use expressions and metaphors that surprise you."



Photo by Amber Crosby-Boerma

Holt Junior High School students explore artist Esmāa Mohamoud's field of die-cut dandelions on a Broad visit last year.

Mohamoud's die-cut field of dandelions inspired an outburst of stories and comments.

"It's like a place I've never been that I want to go to," one student said.

Young children are wide open to experiencing and making art, and that is one of the reasons Park West Foundation director Diane Pandolfi spearheaded the foundation's support of programs at the MSU Broad.

Pandolfi, an educator for 44 years, compared kids to "sponges."

"We all become jaded," Pandolfi said. "Little kids are open to everything. They ask questions. They don't judge. We don't become judges until the middle years. Then we judge everything. We decide there's bad art, bad hair, bad clothes."

The philanthropic arm of Southfield-based Park West Gallery has supported the Broad's art education programs for six years. From 2019 to 2022, the foundation gave the Broad \$30,000 each year.

Pandolfi and her staff were so impressed with the program's success, even during the pandemic's online exile, that the amount of support was tripled, to \$90,000 a year for each of the following three years.

The two parties are working how to make the arrangement more lasting and, possibly, permanent.

"You very rarely have such a rich, successful and effective partnership in education," Pandolfi said.

Ten years ago, Pandolfi retired from a 40-year career in education in New Jersey, as a teacher and school principal.

The retirement didn't last long. At Pandolfi's goodbye party in 2015, her brother, Park West gallery CEO, co-founder (and former NASA engineer) Albert Scaglione, asked her to head up the foundation.

The foundation runs a variety of programs, from bringing big-name art by the likes of Picasso, Goya and Dali to smaller museums at no charge to supporting activities and material needs for kids that have aged out of foster care.

But the art education programs have a special meaning for her.

"As a 44-year educator, I believe that art and music are the heart and soul of any educational program," Pandolfi said. "You've got to learn math, English, science and other stuff, but the arts are different. It's what really makes us human."

The hookup between the MSU Broad and Park West was far from inevitable. Six years ago, Sandra Brown, the Broad's associate director of development for cultural arts, was looking for ways to put the museum's educational programs on a firmer footing.

Brown reached out to colleague Tracey Zambeck, the MSU development arm's regional director of major gifts for Southeast Michigan, for help with and leads on potential supporters.

"Tracey opened up alumni yearbooks and found my brother's name as founder and CEO of Park West Gallery," Pandolfi said. He had earned an MSU graduate degree in mechanical engineering.

Zambeck couldn't get the globe-trotting gallery owner on the phone, but she was undeterred.

"She drove to Southfield to get an audience with my brother," Pandolfi said with admiration. "She still couldn't get

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through.” The foundation’s communications director, John Lichtenberg, finally collared Pandolfi.

“He told me this lady came in off the street, looking for a grant to educate kids about art, and I thought that was great,” Pandolfi said. They set up a conference call with Brown and got the program started.

Pandolfi hopes the Park West initiative at the Broad will keep growing and touch every school in the region, urban, suburban or rural.

“Everybody should at least be exposed to art,” she said. “It’s the lack of access, of exposure, that makes people uncomfortable. You might love it. You might even make it your profession.”

Collins sees the program as a golden opportunity to extend MSU’s educational mission and support local school districts struggling to keep all the curricular balls in the air.

She likened the Broad program to the Wharton Center’s “Take It From the Top,” an ambitious slate of workshops and classes that link local students from second grade to high school with Broadway professionals to learn the fundamentals of acting, singing and dancing and the nuts and bolts of musical theater.

“We just want to be a part of the arts ecosystem here, and make sure every-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Potterville students on a field trip ring a replica of Harry Bertoia’s beryllium chimes at a sensory station in the museum’s lower-level CORE gallery on a March visit.

body is finding opportunities to engage with art, and make art,” Collins said.

The student interns are a key part of that ecosystem. The skills they develop while working with students will serve them for many years as they pursue careers in education, social work and other professions.

Intern Cate Havern, who is majoring in elementary education, learned about the Broad program through a professor and joined last fall.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Elementary school students from Potterville worked out an interpretive dance on a March 18 field trip to the museum, inspired by artwork from the current master of fine arts exhibit.

“It’s exciting and heartwarming to bring art to schools that don’t have art programs,” she said. “The students are so hands on, so into it.”

Intern Lindsi Miller, who is majoring in social work, also started last fall.

“It’s so much more of a diverse experience than I was expecting,” Miller said. “I had no idea I was going to be visiting classrooms and making art with kids.”

Many of the program’s benefits are intangible, but not all of them. Along the way, Havern and Miller have helped hundreds of works of art come

into being.

“We’ve done clay sculptures, boxes with lights in them, so many different things,” Havern said.

She relishes the possibility that in the year 2085, a 70-year-old former Post Oak student will dust off a clay sculpture, a light box or a painting of a bug found on a basement shelf and feel a fresh rush of art adrenaline.

“It’s so amazing to see the artworks the kids come up with,” Havern said. “It’s fun to imagine whether they’ll be intact years from now.”

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TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

SUPER SECRET CULT BAND PERFORMS AT THE FIDDLE'S 50TH



Photo by Stewart Glynn

The Super Secret Cult Band is just one of many performers and attractions set for the Ten Pound Fiddle's 50th anniversary event on Saturday (April 12).

Folk concert series celebrates a milestone this weekend

Back in May 2013, Dylan Rogers and his former band of buskers, the Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle, closed out the 50th annual East Lansing Art Festival.

This weekend, Rogers' latest group, the Super Secret Cult Band, performs at yet another milestone local event: the Ten Pound Fiddle's 50th anniversary celebration. For \$20 per ticket, the all-day party offers a packed lineup of concerts, jam sessions, workshops, dancing and community singing, all at University Lutheran Church

in East Lansing.

Among the long roster of performers are Fiddle fixtures like Kitty Donohoe, Second Opinion, Joel Mabus and Sally Rogers. Record and CD collectors may also want to attend simply for the folk, jazz and blues CD and vinyl sale. Most titles are \$1 each. Rogers, 37, said he's thrilled to be a part of the momentous bill.

Outside of his own music, Rogers keeps busy promoting local artists and touring acts at his REO Town venue, the Robin Theatre, which often hosts Fiddle events.

The guitarist and vocalist chatted with City Pulse about the Super Secret Cult Band, in which he's known as Brother Dylan Rogers alongside bandmates Sister Abbey Hoffman (vocals) and Brother Michael McConeghy (vocals/guitar). Here's what he had to say.

Given you were already playing in the Lansing Unionized Vaudeville Spectacle, why did you form the Super Secret Cult Band?

Dylan Rogers: Abbey Hoffman, Mike McConeghy and I formed Super Secret Cult Band in 2019. They're both good friends, devout cultists and brilliant singers whom I've worked with for many years, including in the LUVS. The first group of songs was born out of an interest in addressing despair and nihilism in a light-hearted way. It's also a way to lean into my interests in the occult, religion and weird fiction. Plus, it was a dream of mine to work on a project centered on lyricism and vocal harmony. We perform around a single microphone, so it's a very portable project — especially relative to the vaudeville show, which sometimes had as many as 18 performers.

What's up with the LUVS these days? Any chance of a reunion show?

We're in deep hibernation. A reunion is unlikely.

Super Secret Cult Band is playing the Ten Pound Fiddle anniversary show. Has the group ever played the Fiddle before?

We haven't played the Fiddle before. It's an incredible opportu-



"The Cult Cabin Tapes" is available to stream on Bandcamp.

nity to celebrate the Fiddle's 50th in this way. That organization is an absolute gem. Lansing doesn't know how good we have it. One interesting observation related to us playing the Fiddle is that folk music scenes often have space for a couple of satirical or novelty acts alongside the technically

brilliant traditional artists. As the Fiddle celebrates 50 years, it's an honor that a cult band gets to play the role of court jester for this era.

The Super Secret Cult Band has some serious throwback vibes. Do you listen to a lot of older music?

I listen to a ton of Motown and oldies in general. The pop music of post-war and Cold War America. It's so shiny and beautiful and pure, but there's often something toxic beneath the

See Turn It Down, Page 23

Ten Pound Fiddle 50th anniversary celebration

Saturday, April 12
University Lutheran Church
1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
\$20

11 a.m.-4 p.m.: Used CD and LP sale to benefit the Fiddle Scouts

Noon-4:45 p.m.: Sixteen one-hour sessions of community singing, jamming, dancing, instrument workshops, ukulele activities, presentations and more

6-10 p.m.: Performances by Pretty Shaky String Band, Sally Rogers, Joel Mabus, Robert B. Jones & Matt Watroba, Kitty Donohoe, Mark Dvorak, Second Opinion, the Ukulele Kings, the Springtalls, the Dangling Particles, Deacon Earl & Roger Gentry, Super Secret Cult Band

For the full schedule, visit tenpoundfiddle.org.

Stormy Kromer
— IRONWOOD, MICHIGAN —

Ann Willey
Comstock Park

Cora Smith
Harbor Springs

John Gregg
Eaton Rapids

Michael Sincic
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Stephanie Gregg
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Turn It Down

from page 22

surface.

What have you been up to recently? I see you released “The Cult Cabin Tapes” back in October.

We took a band retreat over the summer and ended up with a batch of recordings we liked. Some of them were recorded on cassette tape. I've always had an affinity for tape, and I used Tascam four-track recorders throughout my teens and 20s. I learned about a cassette duplicator in Brooklyn, New York, who does great work. We decided to release these recordings on a cherry red cassette tape, with a Bandcamp download code included in the case. It's been fun.

What's your favorite song on “The Cult Cabin Tapes”?

I'm partial to “Say a Little Prayer” and “The Kiss” right now. “Say a Little Prayer” is a poppy devotional jingle. Its chaste facade, akin to '60s songs of puppy love, allows a variety of horror references to sneak past the censors. “The Kiss” has a guitar arrangement by Brother Michael and is a conversation between a vampire and their familiar. It touches on topics of consent and how to spoon in a coffin.

How do you approach songwriting for this outfit?

I usually pen the song and then bring it to the band for vocal arrangements. Sometimes, that sparks new lyrics or reconfigurations. Brother Michael has been doing more arrangements for guitar lately, which adds a lovely new dynamic to the songs. I find inspiration in cable news, gothic fiction and other spooky media.

Where has Super Secret Cult Band played shows over the years?

We've stayed pretty close to home in Lansing. Coming up, we have appearanc-

es in Grand Rapids and Cleveland. We'll begin traveling more in the coming years. We conduct our shows like initiation ceremonies. We invite the audience to join us in celebrating the absurdity of our time. Live performances usually involve costume changes, short sketches and lots of important information about the coming end of days.

How is the Robin Theatre going over in REO Town?

We're good at the Robin! I'm staying busy and giving myself space to evolve and shift gears when necessary. We already have some incredible acts lined up for the fall, and we'll be taking some time off over the summer to rest and recalibrate. We'll remain open as a bookshop during this time. That has felt particularly great, giving ourselves a chance to be open to the public even when we're not hosting shows.

When did you first start playing music, and have you always lived in Lansing?

This feels like a longer story, I suppose. I started writing and trying to play music in middle school. I wanted to play guitar like Billie Joe Armstrong from Green Day. I mostly grew up in Lansing, but I also moved around a bit, living in Northern California and Midland, Michigan, as well. My childhood home is just south of REO Town.

Listen to Super Secret Cult Band at supersecretcultband.bandcamp.com.

THE PULSIFIEDS

A. J. Boggs & Company is looking for multiple Software Engineers for its Okemos office. Reqmts: Master's deg in Comp Sci, Comp Engg, rlted. Frequent travel up to 60% of time to undetermined client sites in Michigan. Qualified candidates to mail resumes to Mindy Hatch at 4736 Marsh Rd, Okemos, MI 48864.

Specialist-Teacher Continuing The Michigan State University Dept. of Statistics and Probability seeks qualified candidates for the following full time position:
Specialist-Teacher Continuing (East Lansing, MI) Teaching and activities supporting teaching. Provide instruction of undergraduates in statistics and probability and data science. Curriculum development, student mentoring. Qualified candidates will possess Master's in Statistics or closely related field. Jessica Toner, Michigan State University, Dept. of Statistics and Probability, 619 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing, MI 48824. To apply for this posting, please go to www.careers.msu.edu and search for posting number 1029074. MSU is committed to achieving excellence through cultural diversity. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, citizenship, age, disability or protected veteran status.

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Jonesin' Crossword

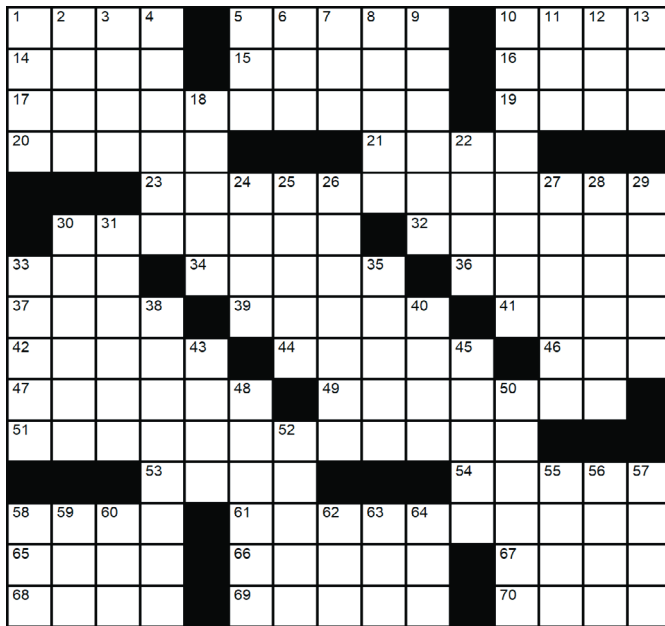
By Matt Jones

"I'm ... Not Batman"
-- actors in different
roles.

by Matt Jones
© 2025 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Right away
- 5. Contrarians
- 10. "___ the hell!?"
- 14. "Superbad" star Michael
- 15. Orphan of Swiss literature
- 16. Collectible card status
- 17. 2016 black comedy/mystery starring George Clooney
- 19. Poet Lazarus
- 20. "Return of the Jedi" moon
- 21. Angry cat noise
- 23. 2006 dramedy starring Ben Affleck
- 30. Parfait ingredient
- 32. ___ Mae (loan company)
- 33. Word before la la
- 34. Grammy-winning jazz singer/pianist Diana
- 36. Simple question style
- 37. At ___ end (perplexed)
- 39. 1983 comedy starring Michael Keaton
- 41. Actor Cole of "Angie Tribeca" and "black-ish"
- 42. Brand used in potato chips in the 1990s
- 44. '60s skirts
- 46. Greek consonants

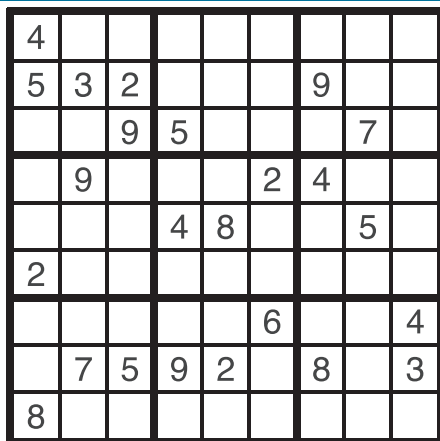


- 47. Trick-y student, so to speak?
 - 49. Most creepy
 - 51. 2019 auto racing movie starring Christian Bale
 - 53. Seem imminent
 - 54. Block, legally
 - 58. Avocado, e.g.
 - 61. 1985 sci-fi comedy starring the late Val Kilmer
 - 65. "The Handmaid's Tale" streamer
 - 66. Newsperson of yore
 - 67. "Frozen" character
 - 68. Sound from a pound
 - 69. Entertainer Gorme
 - 70. "Round and Round" band
- DOWN**
- 1. Hurt
 - 2. Actor Hayes
 - 3. Overly dry
 - 4. Daughter of Pablo Picasso
 - 5. "It just hit me!"
 - 6. "Born," in a bio
 - 7. "___ the season"
 - 8. Wyoming neighbor
 - 9. XM merger partner
 - 10. Went to the mat
 - 11. Croque monsieur ingredient
 - 12. Pitcher's asset
 - 13. Steeped drink
 - 18. Mouse Trap starter part
 - 22. Stick around
 - 24. "Cheers" regular
 - 25. Notification set on a phone
 - 26. Milder, as weather
 - 27. Twins Mary-Kate and Ashley
 - 28. Triumph in the end
 - 29. Vegas lights
 - 30. "Boss Level" star
 - Frank
 - 31. Not family-friendly
 - 33. "Give me ___ everything!" (jokey request)
 - 35. Solitary sort
 - 38. Prepare for horse riding
 - 40. Actress Sorvino
 - 43. Porto-___ (Benin's capital)
 - 45. "No ___!"
 - 48. Jet pilot's concern
 - 50. Former Disney CEO Michael
 - 52. File material
 - 55. Tequila of reality TV
 - 56. Boot
 - 57. 11th-graders' exam
 - 58. Your, old-style
 - 59. Regret
 - 60. Right-angle pipe
 - 62. Subsidy
 - 63. "Magnum, P.I." wear
 - 64. Test for college srs

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Answers on page 31

SUDOKU



Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Intermediate

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

April 9-15, 2025

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Life is asking you to be a source of generosity and strength for the people and animals in your sphere. I hope you will exude maximum amounts of your natural charisma as you bestow maximum blessings. Soak up the admiration and affection you deserve, too, as you convey admiration and affection to others. Here's a secret: The more you share your resources, help and intelligence, the more of that good stuff will flow back your way.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Ceramicist Jun Hamada says that trying to force harmony into her art leads to sterile work. "The most beautiful pieces come from the moments I stop trying to make them beautiful," she notes. "They emerge from embracing the clay's natural tendencies, even when they seem to fight against my intentions." I recommend her approach to you in the coming weeks. Your best results may emerge as you allow supposed flaws and glitches to play an unexpected part in the process. Alliances might benefit, even deepen, through honest friction rather than imposed peace. What will happen when you loosen your attachment to enforced harmony and let life's natural tensions gyrate?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Gemini-born Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) was a prolific architect who orchestrated many daring designs. Among his most audacious experiments was a project to build a house over a waterfall in Pennsylvania. "It can't be done!" experts said. But he did it. Before he was ready to accomplish the impossible, though, he had to spend months studying the site's natural patterns. I bring this to your attention, Gemini, because I believe you are ready to consider your own equivalent of constructing a house over a waterfall. Prepare well! Do your homework!

CANCER (June 21-July 22): In the early phase of his illustrious career as a photographer, Edward Weston (1886-1958) cultivated a soft-focus, romantic style. But he ultimately converted to stark, uncompromising realism. "The camera," he said, "should be used for recording life, for rendering the very substance and quintessence of the thing itself." If there is anything about you that prefers warm, fuzzy illusions over objective, detailed truth, I suggest you switch emphasis for a while. If you like, you can return to the soft-focus approach in June. But for now, a gritty, unsentimental attitude will be essential to your well-being.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Here's my mini-manifesto about change, just in time for a phase when change is most necessary and possible for you. 1. Real change is often a slow and subtle process. There may be rare dramatic shifts, but mostly, the process is gradual and incremental. 2. Instead of pushing hard for a short time, you're more likely to change things by persistently pushing with modest strength for a sustained time. 3. Rather than trying to confront and wrestle with a big problem exactly as it is, it's often more effective to break the seemingly insurmountable challenge into small, manageable pieces that can be solved one at a time through simple efforts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Textile artist Mei Zhang wondered if the synthetic dyes she used on her fabrics were limited. Might there be a wider variety of colors she could use in her creations? She discovered that her grandmother, using age-old techniques, had produced hues that modern dyes couldn't replicate. "The most sustainable path forward," Zhang concluded, "often involves rediscovering what we've forgotten rather than inventing something entirely new." I recommend that counsel to you, Virgo. The solution to a current challenge might come from looking back instead of pushing forward. Consider what old approaches or traditional wisdom you might call on to generate novelty. Weave together fresh applications with timeless principles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The moon rises about 50 minutes later every day and always at a slightly

different place on the horizon. The amount of light it shows us is also constantly in flux. And yet, where and how it will appear tomorrow or 10 years from today is completely predictable. Its ever-changing nature follows a rhythmic pattern. I believe the same is true about our emotions and feelings, which in astrology are ruled by the moon. They are forever shifting, and yet if we survey the big picture of how they arise, we will see their overall flow has distinct patterns. Now would be a good time for you to get to know your flow better. See if you can detect recurring motifs. Try to develop more objectivity about how your precious emotions and feelings really work. If you do this correctly, you will deepen and enhance the guiding power of your precious emotions and feelings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Research reveals that interludes of productive uncertainty may strengthen our brain's neural pathways — even more so than if we consistently leap to immediate comprehension. The key modifier to this fortifying uncertainty is "productive." We must be willing to dwell with poise in our puzzlement, even welcome and enjoy the fertile mystery it invokes in us. Neurobiologist Aiden Chen says, "Confusion, when properly supported, isn't an obstacle to learning but a catalyst for understanding." These ideas will be good medicine in the coming weeks, dear Scorpio.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Persian American author Haleh Liza Gafari translates the poetry of 13th-century Sufi mystic Rumi. One of their joint books is titled "Gold." She writes, "Rumi's gold is not the precious metal, but a feeling-state arrived at through the alchemical process of burning through layers of self, greed, pettiness, calculation, doctrine — all of it. The prayer of Sufism is 'teach me to love more deeply.' Gold is the deepest love." That's the gold I hope you aspire to embody in the coming weeks, Sagittarius. You are in a resplendently golden phase when you have more power than usual to create, find and commune with Rumi's type of gold.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The coming weeks will be an excellent time to reframe the meaning of "emptiness" in your life. To launch your quest, I will remind you that quiet interludes and gaps in your schedule can be rejuvenating. Sitting still and doing nothing in particular may be a good way to recharge your spiritual batteries. Relieving yourself of the pressure to be endlessly active could be just what you need to open up space for fresh possibilities.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): There was a time, many years ago, when I consulted a divinatory oracle every day of my life. Sometimes, it was the tarot or the I Ching. I threw the Norse runes, did automatic writing, used a pendulum and tried bibliomancy. Astrology was always in the mix, too, of course. Looking back on those days, I am amused at my obsession with scrying the future and uncovering subconscious currents. But employing these aids had a wonderful result: It helped me develop and fine-tune my intuition and psychic powers, which, after all, are the ultimate divination strategy. I bring this to your attention, Aquarius, because I believe you now have an enhanced power to cultivate and strengthen your intuition and psychic powers.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The fovea is the part of the eye that enables sharp vision. Humans have just one kind of fovea, which gives them the ability to see clearly straight ahead. Eagles have both a central and peripheral fovea. The latter gives them an amazing visual acuity for things at a distance. This extra asset also enables them to accurately detect very slow movements. I suspect you will have a metaphorical semblance of the eagle's perceptual capacity in the coming weeks, Pisces. You will be able to see things you wouldn't normally see and things that other people can't see. Take full advantage of this superpower! Find what you didn't even know you were looking for.

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

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, April 9

"A Course of Love" Zoom Discussion Group, with Lucille Olson and Bill Diedrich - 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.

Adult Bingo - Join us for a fun afternoon of bingo, complete with light refreshments and prizes for the winners! 2:30-4 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Al-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.

Bingo - Every Wednesday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Bingo cafe 5 p.m. Early bird 6 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter.

BOGO Book Sale - Shop for books, jigsaw puzzles, DVDs and CDs. Buy one, get one of equal or lesser value free. 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. dtdl.org/friends.

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

Capital City Film Festival - Annual festival showcasing an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive media and more in Michigan's capital city. For a schedule of screenings and events, visit ccff.co/schedule.

"Chicago" - In Chicago's jazz age, two of Cook County Jail's most notorious murderesses, vaudeville star Velma Kelly and chorus girl Roxie Hart, compete for headlines amid a media frenzy. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

"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.

GLPS Student Art Showcase & Reception - Nearly 100 different pieces of art by GLPS students will be on display throughout the library. Enjoy refreshments while you view the creations. 5:30-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

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

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

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

Lansing Lugnuts vs. Great Lakes Loons - Game highlight: Every Wednesday home game, dogs are welcome at Jackson Field. 6:05 p.m. 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

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. 8-10 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Lenten Adult Education - All are welcome for a light dinner at 6 p.m., with adult education on the Jubilee at 6:30 p.m. St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, 4650 Meridian Road, Williamston. facebook.com/stkatherinesepiscopalchurch.

Life Drawing at REACH Studio Art Center - You'll receive constructive feedback as each session moves from quick warm-up drawings to longer poses with our partially clothed model. No experience needed. 6 p.m. 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

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

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

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

"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.

Read Between the Wines Book Club - We'll discuss Lynda Rutledge's "West with Giraffes." Glasses of wine will be \$1 off. 5 p.m. Burgdorf's Winery, 4212 Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wineburgdorfs.

Science After Dark - Join Astronomy on Tap and lo-fi jazz quartet Normal Mode for a musical night exploring the cosmos. 7-10 p.m. REO Town Clubhouse, 1314 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. sciencefestival.msu.edu.


"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.

Solarize Meridian Township - The Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association's Solarize program educates homeowners about solar energy. Attendees will have an opportunity to receive group discounts from a solar installer. 6:30 p.m. Henry's Place, 4926 Marsh Road, Okemos. 2glrea.org.

Tap II for Teens & Adults - 15-week class. 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett

Record Store Day

Saturday, April 12
Participating record stores nationwide



On Saturday (April 12), a slew of exclusive releases from big and small artists alike will be delivered to local record stores as part of the annual Record Store Day event. The celebration is intended to drive traffic to local record stores and honor their unique culture.

Four stores in the area will participate, according to the Record Store Day website: The Record Lounge in REO Town; Flat, Black & Circular in East Lansing; Mi-Rural Records in Grand Ledge; and Schuler Books & Music in Okemos.

The Record Lounge is based in the REO Town Marketplace, which will also host the Lansing Independent Comics & Zine Fest on the same day.

Record Store Day has a dramatic sales impact. In 2024, the event led to the highest weekly vinyl record sales in 30 years (and Record Store Day exclusives even beat out the just-released Taylor Swift album). Shoppers gunning for exclusive records have been known to queue up outside the stores. Mi-Rural Records will start distributing numbered tokens at 7 a.m. for a 9 a.m. opening.

Not every store will carry every release, and businesses often don't know what exclusives they'll be getting until days before the event, so prospective shoppers should keep their eyes on participating local shops' social media. Mi-Rural is distributing two gift baskets and a number of gift bags in honor of the event.

Prominent releases this year include a Nirvana cover album by Post Malone; a collection of recordings from Rage Against the Machine's 1993 tour; and a live, acoustic LP by beabadoobee. Smaller releases include a remixed version of the 1986 Slint album Tweez, of which only 1,700 copies will be printed.

For the full list of releases, visit recordstoreday.com/SpecialReleases.

Additionally, while not an official Record Store Day participant, the Ten Pound Fiddle will be selling thousands of folk, Americana and blues CDs and records from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at University Lutheran Church in East Lansing. Most will be \$1 each, and profits will benefit the Fiddle Scouts program, which brings regional and local musicians to the area to perform for children. This will be the Fiddle's final CD and record sale.

Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

Thursday, April 10

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

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

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

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

Alexandria McMath at the Graduate Rock Bar - 8:30 p.m. 133 Evergreen Ave., East Lansing. 517-348-0900. facebook.com/graduaterockbar.

BOGO Book Sale - Shop for books, jigsaw puzzles, DVDs and CDs. Buy one, get one of equal or lesser value free. 10:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. dtdl.org/friends.

Capital City Film Festival - Annual festival showcasing an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive media and more in Michigan's capital city. For a schedule of screenings and events, visit ccff.co/schedule.

Charlotte Community Library Birthday Book Club: "Deliverance," by James Dickey - 6 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

"Chicago" - In Chicago's jazz age, two of Cook County Jail's most notorious murderesses, vaudeville star Velma Kelly and chorus girl Roxie Hart, compete for headlines amid a media frenzy. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Clayworks 2025 Spring Pottery Sale - Meet our potters and take home a gift for yourself or someone else! Noon-7 p.m. Faith Church, 2300 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. clayworkspottery.net.

See Events, Page 26

'How I Learned to Drive' spotlights the realities of abuse with care

By MARY CUSACK

In my 19 years of writing theater reviews, I've attended hundreds of plays. I've seen the good, the bad, the disturbing and the poignant. Never have I experienced a play that infected my dreams, however, until I saw "How I Learned to Drive" at Riverwalk Theatre. While not exactly the stuff of nightmares for me, it certainly could be for some.

The show, running at Riverwalk Thursday (April 10) through Sunday (April 13), unravels a story of generational sexual abuse through the narrative of its main character, Li'l Bit (Cassie Little). The adult Li'l Bit tells the story of how she was groomed by her Uncle Peck (Steven Neal), bouncing around the 1960s and 1970s to not only detail what he did to her but also to illustrate the lifelong effects of the abuse.

Although the grooming begins years before Li'l Bit begins driving, Uncle Peck has an opening to escalate the



Review

"How I Learned to Drive"

April 10-13
7 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday-Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
(517) 482-5700
riverwalktheatre.com

abuse by getting her away from the family when he teaches her to drive. Li'l Bit savors the freedom that driving gives her but is clearly conflicted about the role Uncle Peck has in providing that escape.

Playwright Paula Vogel's Pulitzer Prize-winning script handles this extremely uncomfortable topic with clarity and empathy. Her use of humor not only provides relief from the heaviness of the content but also advances the story. One example is a series of tips Li'l Bit's mother (Holly Kay-Cannon) gives her about how a lady should drink, which becomes a lesson on how a lady can get sloppy drunk.

Vogel treats Uncle Peck with some level of empathy without endorsing or forgiving his behavior. Further, no one avoids culpability in this cycle of abuse, from the grandfather (Charles Hoogstraten), whose traditional values cause him to discourage independence for his daughter and granddaughter, to Aunt Mary (Anna Hill), whose choices within her marriage might make her an accomplice to Uncle Peck's abuse.

Little is phenomenal, expertly changing her physicality and facial expressions to portray Li'l Bit at various ages. Her performance is strongest when the 18-year-old Li'l Bit confronts Uncle Peck after moving away to college. Li'l Bit has begun to shed Uncle Peck's control over her, and in this tense scene, she could either fall back into or break free of the abusive dynamic.

The scene marks a shift in Uncle Peck's life as well. He employs every emotionally manipulative tactic he's mastered to try to break down Li'l Bit's resistance, perhaps even convincing himself that his actions have been honorable in the long run.

Neal is perfectly cast in the role of Uncle Peck, coming across as an innocuous everyman. Uncle Peck is never portrayed as a monster but instead as a calm, supportive, gentle man who manipulates his victims by assuring them that they're in control and can stop things at any time. This makes his behavior all the more insidious because he's created unbalanced relationships in which his victims want to please him, of course.

I commend Riverwalk for its efforts to prepare audiences for and support them through this difficult work.



Photo by Ariniko Artistry

Cassie Little (left) as Li'l Bit and Steven Neal as Uncle Peck in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "How I Learned to Drive," by Paula Vogel.

In addition to its multiple methods of publicizing the trigger warnings, the theater also has support services available in the lobby, provided by Children Trust Michigan, Child and Family Charities, CASA for Kids Inc. and Small Talk Children's Advocacy Center.

"How I Learned to Drive" isn't a fun night at the theater, but for those who can handle the subject matter, it's a must-see. Director Diane Cooke and her cast and crew have done a magnificent job bringing this important work — and the conversations it will spur — to Lansing-area audiences.

Events

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

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

Diabetes PATH - Six-week workshop designed to help individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes improve their health and feel better. 1-3:30 p.m. DeWitt District Library, 13101 Schavey Road, DeWitt. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email hist-edc@tcoa.org.

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

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

"How I Learned to Drive" - A compelling story of survival told through a woman's recollections of the romantic and sexual relationship she developed with her aunt's husband as a teenager. 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

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

Lansing Lugnuts vs. Great Lakes Loons - Game highlight: Every Thursday home game, enjoy \$3 domestics (cans/drafts), \$5 seltzers and \$3 16-ounce soft drink specials! 6:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. mlb.com/lansing.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

MSU Jazz Nonets - Four jazz nonets blend the sounds of big band with small group performances to kick off the Jazz Spectacular series. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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.

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.

Science After Dark (Communication on Tap) - Join experts in communication fields for an intriguing night of discussion on topics across communication, health and more. 5:30-7:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. sciencefestival.msu.edu.

"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.

Singles in 2025 - Join Love Spark and UrbanBeat as we set out to change the game for local singles. This event will include live music and an interactive forum for singles to share their dating experiences. 8:30-11 p.m. 1213 Turner St., Old Town. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

Summerlands Brewing Co. Crossword Challenge - Each team will be given a copy of the same crossword puzzle. The first team to complete the crossword correctly will win a \$10 certificate valid for a future visit. Start at 7 or 8 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlands-brewing.

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

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

Friday, April 11

BOGO Book Sale - Shop for books, jigsaw puzzles, DVDs and CDs. Buy one, get one of equal or lesser value free. 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. dtdl.org/friends.

Books, Bites, and Bids - Join East Lansing Public Library for our annual fundraiser event! Enjoy an incredible silent auction, catering, beer and wine, live music and more. Funds raised will be used for local history initiatives. 5:30-8 p.m. 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing. elpl.org.

Capital City Film Festival - Annual festival showcasing an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive media and more in Michigan's capital city. For a schedule of screenings and events, visit ccff.co/schedule.

CCFF Presents: Love Effect - Witness the power of love and alchemy in this funk-fusion set by the Love Effect quartet. Keep the night pulsating with funk, hip-hop and dub selections by local DJs Ruckus and Ganja Girl. Ages 21+. 9 p.m. The Avenue, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ccff.co.

"Chicago" - In Chicago's jazz age, two of Cook County Jail's most notorious murderesses, vaudeville star Velma Kelly and chorus girl Roxie Hart, compete for headlines amid a media frenzy. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Clayworks 2025 Spring Pottery Sale - Meet our potters and take home a gift for yourself or someone else! 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Faith Church, 2300 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. claywork-spottery.net.

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.

See Events, Page 27

Events

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DeWitt VFW Fish Fry - 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.

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.

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

"FINE: The End" Mezzo-Soprano and Piano Recital - 5:30 p.m. Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, 640 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. frib.msu.edu/gateway.

Fish Fry Fridays - To-go orders available. Adults \$15, children 6-12 \$8, children 5 and under eat free. 4:30-7:30 p.m. VFW Post 701, 123 N. Rosemary St., Lansing. 517-485-1656.

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.

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

Homeschool Fridays at Launch Trampoline Park - Join us from Noon-3 p.m. on Fridays. Just \$10 for two hours of play. Add on laser tag for \$5. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. launchfamily-entertainment.com/lansing.

"How I Learned to Drive" - A compelling story of survival told through a woman's recollections of the romantic and sexual relationship she developed with her aunt's husband as a teenager. 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

"Inching Toward Yeolha" - A dark, absurd comedy about a secluded village in Central Asia desperate to explore a new world while clutching tightly to the past. 8 p.m. Wharton Center Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

Jazz Swing Dance - The audience will find it hard not to get up and dance as three jazz orchestras perform the repertoire of the great jazz masters as well as swing. 8 p.m. Billman Music Pavilion, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

John Collins DJ Set - Experience the legendary sound of Detroit techno. A member of the Underground Resistance collective, Collins brings the raw energy, visionary beats and revolutionary spirit that helped shape a global movement. 8 p.m. 311 Abbot Road, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

Lansing Lugnuts vs. Great Lakes Loons - Game highlight: Hot dogs are just \$1 all night long! 6:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

LCC Jazz Band with Transcendence Performing Arts Center - Attendees will enjoy the big-band stylings of a variety of jazz standards. 7 p.m. University Club, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Lucid Vibe Live at Summerlands Brewing Co. - 7:30 p.m. 1957 Cedar St., Holt. facebook.com/summerlandsbrewing.

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

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Minecraft Club - Join other kids and play Minecraft on the library's private server. Laptops provided. Grades 3+. Registration req. 4 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

MSU Baseball vs. Northwestern University - 5:30 p.m. Jeff Ishbia Field at McLane Stadium, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/baseball.

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

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

"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.

Powerlight Band - Feel the soulful energy as Powerlight Band brings the best of Motown, funk and R&B to the stage. 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urbanbeatevents.com.

"Puffs" - For seven years, a certain boy wizard went to a certain wizard school and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs, who just happened to be there, too. Free. 7 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

"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.

Sensory-Friendly Night at Harris Nature Center - A special after-hours evening for families with members who have sensory processing needs. Exhibits will be altered to reduce sounds and lighting. There will also be a quiet room and sensory kits available. 5:30-7:30 p.m. 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/hnc.

Susan Werner - Best known as an acoustic songwriter who came up through coffeehouses and folk festivals, Werner has earned a reputation as one of the most innovative songwriters working today. 7:30 p.m. University Lutheran Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Tech Forward: Women in Trades, Technologies and Public Service Careers - Annual event intended to inspire, empower and engage women exploring trades, technologies and public service careers. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. LCC West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. lcc.edu/tfwomen.

TGIF Little Black Dress Dance Party - Doors open at 7 p.m., line-dance lesson at 7:15 p.m., dance runs 8 p.m. to midnight. Dinner buffet, coffee and water provided. Cash/credit bar available. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. tgifdance.com.

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.

Wacousta-DeWitt Masonic Lodge Fish Fry - This will be the last fundraiser fish fry of the season. Served takeout style, with seating available. There will also be a bake sale featuring mini pies. 4:30-6:30 p.m. 9030 Herbison Road, Grand Ledge. wacousta.net/wacousta-fish-suppers.

Aesthetics of Solidarity Symposium

9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 10
9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Friday, April 11

Virtual

Art has long been used as a tool for expressing solidarity. A symposium hosted by the Michigan State University Broad Art Museum, running 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday (April 10) and 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday (April 11), will explore such use of art among Arab American and Arab diaspora artists in the United States.

Panelists will include a discussion of Mansoor Adayfi's art and writing tackling his imprisonment in Guantanamo Bay at 11:30 a.m. Thursday and an investigation of how artists have formed solidarities through publications and other printed material at 9:30 a.m. Friday. The keynote speaker will be Mariam Ghani, an activist, photographer and filmmaker who will discuss the limits of solidarity and the purpose of grief as a collective feeling.

The symposium will be virtual. Interested attendees can register at broadmuseum.msu.edu. All panels will use the same Zoom link, which attendees will receive upon registration.



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Events

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Saturday, April 12

Atmosphere Stunt: Official CCFF Afterparty - Punk-techno band Nature and AK and Black-moonchild of Detroit's beloved party series The Blueprint will close out the festival's 15th season. Ages 21+. 9 p.m. The Avenue, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. ccff.co.

Balancing Fire: A Dance for the Libra Full Moon - This dance circle seeks to find the balance of the fiery, trailblazing qualities of Aries season with the airy principles of harmony and beauty, which the Venusian archetype of Libra seeks to weigh upon its scales of justice. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Lovelight Collective, 107 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. lovelight-collective.com.

BOGO Book Sale - Shop for books, jigsaw puzzles, DVDs and CDs. Buy one, get one of equal or lesser value free. 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing. dtdl.org/friends.

Capital City Film Festival - Annual festival showcasing an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive media and more in Michigan's capital city. For a schedule of screenings and events, visit ccff.co/schedule.

"Chicago" - In Chicago's jazz age, two of Cook County Jail's most notorious murderesses, vaudeville star Velma Kelly and chorus girl Roxie Hart, compete for headlines amid a media frenzy. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

The Collective Presents Motown - The Collective is a band of experienced Lansing musicians who share a love for the Motown sound and R&B. 7

p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. urban-beatevents.com.

Eaton Rapids Egg Hunt - Join us at Martin Hansen Amphitheater for the 2025 Eaton Rapids egg hunt. Hunt through the amphitheater grounds, pavilions and Playground of Dreams to search for over 5,000 Eggs! 11 a.m. 315 W. Knight St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/CityOfEatonRapids.

Essentially Ellington High School Jazz Band Regional Competition - High school jazz bands will perform for Jazz at Lincoln Center clinicians and professionals. Winners will perform in the finale concert at 8 p.m. and advance to the competition's next phase in New York. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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

Free Health & Wellness Fair at Better Health Market - Health and nutrition experts, as well as healers and wellness practitioners, will be in attendance. Enjoy a day filled with expert advice, giveaways and fun activities designed to enhance your health journey. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 305 N. Clipper St., Lansing. betterhealthmarket.com.

Free Throw w/ Ben Quad - From crowd-pleasers like "Two Beers In" to their emotionally charged tracks from "What's Past is Prologue," Free Throw has been making waves in the indie music scene. 8 p.m. Grewal Hall, 224 S. Washington Square, Lansing. hall224.com.

Haslett Library Used Book Sale - The Friends of the Haslett Library will hold a used book sale. New and renewal memberships will be available at the door. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

"How I Learned to Drive" - A compelling story of survival told through a woman's recollections of the romantic and sexual relationship she

developed with her aunt's husband as a teenager. 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Hypnosis Works! - Workshop with demonstrations. Dispel myths about hypnosis. Ruth Sternaman, certified hypnotherapist, will answer common questions. 2 p.m. Light House Chapel, 1501 Windsor St., Lansing. facebook.com/lansinglight-housechapel.

"Inching Toward Yeolha" - A dark, absurd comedy about a secluded village in Central Asia desperate to explore a new world while clutching tightly to the past. 8 p.m. Wharton Center Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

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

Jazz Spectacular Finale Concert - After three days of great jazz, this performance brings it all together, highlighting MSU's Professors of Jazz, Jazz Orchestra I and the Outstanding High School Band of the Day. 8 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

Lansing Independent Comics & Zine Fest - With the aim of strengthening the local self-publishing community, LICZ brings together cartoonists, zinesters, artists, local publishing resources and more! 11 a.m.-5 p.m. REO Town Marketplace, 1027 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. liczfest.com.

Lansing Lugnuts vs. Great Lakes Loons - Game highlight: Enjoy Coors Light thirsty Thursday drink deals all game long! 1:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. milb.com/lansing.

Lower Michigan Horse Association April Show - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. facebook.com/LMHAAHorseShows.

Mixed Flavors Live at the Irish Pub - 8 p.m. 1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing. 517-253-8713. facebook.com/IrishPubLansing.

MSU Baseball vs. Northwestern University - 3:30 p.m. Jeff Ishbia Field at McLane Stadium, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/baseball.

MSU Earth Bash - Celebrate all things reduce, reuse and recycle with a day at the campus recycling center and thrift store. Go thrifting at the surplus store, take home plant seeds, make upcycled crafts and more. Noon-4 p.m. 468 Green Way, Lansing. msurecycling.com.

North Star Birthing Services Community Baby Shower - A free event to celebrate new and expectant Lansing-area parents. Receive much-needed items and resources to help welcome a new baby. 1-4 p.m. The Cadillac Room, 1115 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. northstardoulas.com.

"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.

"Puffs" - For seven years, a certain boy wizard went to a certain wizard school and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs, who just happened to be there, too. Free. 7 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Red Cross Adult & Pediatric CPR w/AED Training - Learn adult and pediatric CPR, automated external defibrillator, first aid and emergency procedures like the Heimlich maneuver. Ages 12+. Registration req. 10 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

"Scrapscapes" - 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.

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CAPITAL CITY FILM FESTIVAL

NARRATIVE FEATURE
Vulcanizadora
 Two friends set out to follow through on a disturbing pact they made years earlier. Don't miss the latest from Michigan's own Joel Potrykus.
 6 PM | Thursday, April 10

MICHIGAN PREMIERE
Micro Budget
 When Terry (Patrick Noth) discovers he's about to be a father, he does what any other sane person would do. He moves himself and his nine-months-pregnant wife from Iowa to Los Angeles to shoot a low-budget indie movie.
 8:15 PM | Friday, April 11

SHORTS PROGRAM **FREE**
Family Friendly Shorts
 This FREE event showcases a loop of nine creative and engaging animated films from Taiwan. These are fun and appropriate for the whole family!
 10 AM - 5 PM | Saturday, April 12

BOYS GO TO JUPITER
 A dreamy and surreal animated coming-of-age story.
 5:25 PM | Saturday, April 12

WHORLED **FREE**
 A "road trip for the ears" of Celtic, bluegrass, and jazz influences.
 8 PM | Thursday, April 10

HAPPENING NOW!
CCFF.CO/SCHEDULE

LSO reaches multiple heights in Spanish extravaganza



Photo by Olivia Beebe

Barcelona, Spain-based composer Marc Migó made the trip all the way to Lansing to hear the LSO perform his 2024 work “The Ecstasy of St. Teresa” at its “Sketches of Spain” concert Friday evening (April 4).

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Billboards and posters plastered around town told us that Friday’s (April 4) Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert had a Spanish theme. But they didn’t warn us that we’d need a megadose of Spanish fly to keep up with the multiple bursts of ecstasy maestro Timothy Muffitt and his extra-large orchestra were about to unleash.

The carnal exegesis wasn’t just the figment of a dirty mind. No less an authority than Barcelona, Spain-based composer Marc Migó, who made the trip all the way to Lansing to hear his thrilling 2024 work “The Ecstasy of St. Teresa,” practically spelled it out in a spoken introduction to his music.

Migó told the Wharton Center audience he was inspired by the look on St. Teresa’s face in a controversial work by the 17th-century sculptor Gian Lorenzo Bernini — a look that appears, to some observers, to be more indicative of sexual than religious ecstasy.

Migó said he would leave it up to the audience to decide which form of pleasure he depicts in the piece, but ... duh!

Does he think we’re made of stone?

To cinch the deal, Migó wrote in the booklet notes that music, unlike sculpture, can use the dimension of time to explore “a stimulating search of ecstatic processes,” and that’s just what he delivered.

A dry, catacomb-dark rumbling from the double basses and cellos gave off the feeling of waking from a deep sleep. Fragments of medieval plainchant and

little tremors that sounded like birdsong coalesced out of the mist. Before long, the pulsations were coming from every direction and building to overwhelming force, not synchronously but with all the sections sloshing into and over each other like colliding storm fronts. The overall impression was a slipping away of control or the desire to control an irresistible force. When the paroxysm was spent, feather-delicate caresses of violin and woodwinds lulled the music back into deep sleep, this time in soft focus and aglow with contentment.

Review

That doesn’t sound like spiritual ecstasy to me.

But the carnal biathlon wasn’t over. While smoking an imaginary cigarette in the afterglow, it was easy to forget what else was in store that night: the most famous example of a slow, relentless buildup to orgasmic release in the entire classical repertoire, Maurice Ravel’s “Boléro.”

For all its familiarity, “Boléro” is an audacious shocker when played live if the musicians are firing on all cylinders. For a performance to work, everyone has to pull and pull and pull on that famous melody that plays over and over again, like Ernest Hemingway’s old man reeling in that marlin, without letting the line go slack for a split second. That’s just how it went Friday, from the barely audible snare drum rattle at the outset to the collapsing galaxy of a climax. A masterful string of solo turns in the early-innings buildup included the

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Events

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Second Saturday Divorce Workshop - Learn to navigate the rollercoaster of emotions, legalities and life after divorce at our in-person divorce workshop. 9 a.m. 2139 Commons Pkwy., Ste. B, Okemos. eventbrite.com/o/kylee-mohammed-chfc-cdfa-77498789483.

SpARtan Wellness: DIY Handmade Paints - Celebrate Earth Month by making art using natural pigments made from sustainable resources. Intended for MSU students. 2-4 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Spring 2025 Bonsai Hands-on Workshop - Join us at Nash Nurseries for a hands-on experience in the art of bonsai with our great friend and bonsai enthusiast Mike Simmons. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 4975 W. Grand River Road, Owosso. eventbrite.com/o/nash-nurseries-17112851258.

Spring Into Giving - Join us for a fun-filled Easter celebration for the whole family! Embark on an egg hunt, meet the Easter Bunny and pet a real-life bunny, all while supporting a great cause! 9 a.m.-noon. Lil Sunflowers Learning Academy, 638 S. Grand Ave., Fowlerville. eventbrite.com/o/megan-witt-108515773101.

Statewide Astronomy Night at the MSU Observatory - Explore the wonders of the universe with night-sky viewing and hands-on activities with MSU physicists and astronomers. 7-10 p.m. 4299 Pavilion Drive, Lansing. sciencefestival.msu.edu.

Ten Pound Fiddle 50th Anniversary Celebration All-Day Party - Join your community for a full day of concerts, jams, workshops, dancing and community singing! Noon-10 p.m. University Lutheran

Church, 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Sunday, April 13

2025 Spartan Spring Warm-Up Horse Show - A laid-back, “fuzzy,” open show that also offers live feedback classes in showmanship, equitation and horsemanship. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. MSU Pavilion, 4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing. canr.msu.edu.

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

“Chicago” - In Chicago’s jazz age, two of Cook County Jail’s most notorious murderesses, vaudeville star Velma Kelly and chorus girl Roxie Hart, compete for headlines amid a media frenzy. 1 and 6:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. whartoncenter.com.

Crochet a Pet Bed - Our crochet expert will guide you through the process of crafting a cozy, chunky yarn bed for your beloved small pet. 1-3 p.m. The Craft Bar, 513 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. Register at thecraftbar.shop.

Drum Circle at Bath Community Center - 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. 5959 Park Lake Road, Bath. facebook.com/GreaterLansingAreaDrummers.

Euchre - 5:30-8 p.m. Sir Pizza, 201 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. 517-484-4825.

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.

See Events, Page 30

The Habibi Dancers

Present ANNUAL CONCERT

RAKS & RHYTHM

FEATURING *Mr. Orogen*

April 12, 2025

Doors - 7:30

TICKETS:

\$15 IN ADVANCE

\$20 AT DOOR

THE EAST LANSING HANNAH COMMUNITY CENTER
819 ABBOT ROAD
EAST LANSING, MI 48823

HABIBIDANCERS.ORG

Events

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“How I Learned to Drive” - A compelling story of survival told through a woman’s recollections of the romantic and sexual relationship she developed with her aunt’s husband as a teenager. 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

“Inching Toward Yeolha” - A dark, absurd comedy about a secluded village in Central Asia desperate to explore a new world while clutching tightly to the past. 2 p.m. Wharton Center Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

Ingham Festival Chorale Concert: “Songs of Hope, Peace and Praise” - Free-will offering. Reception follows concert. 4 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. facebook.com/inghamfestivalchoralemi.

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

Lansing Lugnuts vs. Great Lakes Loons - Game highlight: Entertainment for kids throughout the game and an opportunity for kids to run the bases after the game. Plus, show your ticket stub at Capital City Market for 25% off your entire purchase and free ice cream! 1:05 p.m. Jackson Field, 505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. mlb.com/lansing.

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.

Lower Michigan Horse Association April Show - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. facebook.com/LMHAAHorseShows.

MSU Baseball vs. Northwestern University - 1 p.m. Jeff Ishbia Field at McLane Stadium, 223

Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/baseball.

MSU Tuba and Euphonium Alumni Concert - Enjoy an afternoon of tuba and euphonium music, featuring solo works, quartets and special performances by an alumni tuba-euphonium ensemble celebrating Professor Philip Sinder’s 43 years with the College of Music. 3 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, 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.

“Puffs” - For seven years, a certain boy wizard went to a certain wizard school and conquered evil. This, however, is not his story. This is the story of the Puffs, who just happened to be there, too. Free. 2 p.m. Dart Auditorium, 500 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. loc.edu/showinfo.

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.

Spring Gardening Presentation - Gain insights into soil fertility, garden site prep, seed selection and more. Walk away with free seeds, educational guides and the knowledge to start your own garden. 1 p.m. Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. cadl.org/about/our-locations/okemos.

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

Monday, April 14

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

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

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.

Circuit Bugs - Participants will learn basic circuitry concepts while assembling LED lights, batteries and wires to bring their bug creations to life. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Euchre - 1-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/Eaton-RapidsSeniorCenter.

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.

Garden Club of Greater Lansing April Meeting - 5-6 p.m.: Business meeting. 6:15-7:30 p.m.: Marilyn Smith from Ocimeae Lavender Farm will present on types of lavender, products, etc. Grace United Methodist Church, 1900 Boston Blvd., Lansing. thegardenclubofgreaterlansing.org.

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

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

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

MSU Dems/Ingham Dems Spartan Community Dinner Reception - Join your fellow Ingham County and MSU College Democrats for our end-

of-the-academic-year celebration, featuring Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist and MDP Chair Curtis Hertel Jr. 6:30 p.m. Case Hall, 842 Chestnut Road, East Lansing. instagram.com/msudemms.

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.

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

Tuesday, April 15

“A Course in Miracles” Discussion Group, with Lisa Schmidt - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

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

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

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LSO

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welcome appearance of saxophone master Walter Blanding, on loan from MSU jazz studies, who contributed a juicy, well-lubricated turn at that famous melody. Principal bassoonist Michael Kroth had a hell of a night, with major solo turns in nearly every piece on the program, including “Boléro.”

In the most substantial piece of the evening, Édouard Lalo’s five-movement “Symphonie Espagnole,” guest violinist Chee-Yun was the perfect partner for an energized, extra-large (more than 85 strong) orchestra. This was a full-on symphony, a dark beast from the rugged habitat of Beethoven and Brahms, not a ballet pastiche or a virtuoso vehicle. Chee-Yun’s tone was confident, dark and warm, with almost zero vibrato. Listening to her was like cozying up to a fire. In spirit, and even acoustically, her instrument sounded like the mellowest of cellos, even in the high register. But she also shapeshifted according to the music’s whims, going dark in the slow movement and swimming up and down the scale in the fina-

le like a silvery minnow.

She also seemed to be having a grand time. No suffering for the sake of art here. After the first movement, she smiled at Muffitt and raised her eyebrows at concertmaster William Thain, as if to say, “This is going rather well, eh?” In such confident and skillful hands, it was easy to just relax and take it all in.

In the midst of such substantial fare, Suite No. 2 from Manuel de Falla’s ballet “The Three-Cornered Hat” offered the evening’s only chance to pull out the familiar grab bag of Spanish clichés. A festive fandango? Check. A fiery flare-up of flamenco? Check. Clicking castanets? Check.

But that’s not how Muffitt rolls. I’d eat my left shoe if he’s ever checked a musical box in his life. He brought a first-kiss freshness and an alert, erect dignity to de Falla’s well-worn Spanish gestures. He opened it up, gave it room to breathe and forced you to feel every fandango stomp in your sternum, to wipe the village dust from your face and blink from the glare of the Spanish sun. Still in the blush of ecstasy from the Migó, the orchestra played it as if this piece, too, was written in 2024.

State of Michigan Probate Court, Ingham County, Notice to Creditors, Decedent’s Estate. File No. 24-001321-DE-P33. Estate of Kemal Xavier Bouraoui-Karoui. Date of birth: 08-19-1965. NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Kemal Xavier Bouraoui-Karoui, died Oct. 5, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Yasmina Marie Bouraoui-Karoui, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, 517-483-6300, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice, 4/9/25. Yasmina Marie Bouraoui-Karoui, 1314 Prospect St., Lansing MI 48912, 517-410-3938.

CP#25-112



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: ORDINANCE 2025-03
FEDEWA HOLDINGS – VACANT DOBIE ROAD

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Ordinance 2025-03

The Township Board at its regular meeting on April 3, 2025 approved for final adoption Ordinance 2025-03, a request to rezone approximately 4.28 acres of vacant land on Dobie Road, immediately to the north of 4515 Dobie Road, from RAA, One-Family Low Density Residential to RD, Multiple Family Residential up to 8 dwelling units per acre, subject to a conditional rezoning agreement limiting the development on the site. The parcel identification number for the parcel to be rezoned is #33-02-02-22-454-003.

Materials related to the rezoning request may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198 (517.853.4560) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Angela Demas
Township Clerk

CP#25-110

Events

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Al-Anon Meeting - 9 a.m. Alano Club South, 3500 S. Cedar St., Lansing. cmialanon.org.

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

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

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.

Easter Bunny Meet & Greet - The Easter Bunny will be greeting and taking pictures with children from 6-7 p.m. at the Delta Township Enrichment Center. No registration required. Free. 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. facebook.com/delta-township.

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

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 Spring Art Show - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

MSU Baseball vs. Western Michigan University - 6 p.m. Jeff Ishbia Field at McLane Stadium, 223 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/baseball.

MSU Concert Band and Campus Band - Program includes "These Radiant Moments," by Harrison J. Collins; "Prelude in the Dorian Mode," by Antonio de Cabezón; "Mock Morris," by Percy Grainger; "Cajun Folk Songs II," by Frank Ticheli; and "Pas Redoublé," by Camille Saint-Saëns. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

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. lapseg.org.

Parkinson's Support Group Education Meeting - Join us for our monthly afternoon of information, education and fun. The topic for April is aphasia and potential choking problems. 3 p.m. Burcham Hills, 2700 Burcham Drive, East Lansing. lapseg.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.

"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.

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

YA Book Club - Each participant reads the same book beforehand and comes to the meeting ready to chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 8-12. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Wednesday, April 16

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

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

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

Artist Talks: 2025 Master of Fine Arts Exhibition - Join MSU Department of Art, Art History, and Design master of fine arts degree candidates as they discuss their work on view in the Master of Fine Arts Exhibition. 6 p.m. Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

Bingo - Every Wednesday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Bingo cafe 5 p.m. Early bird 6 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter.

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.

Citizen Science: Salt Watch - Learn how to test water samples for salt levels using easy-to-use kits, record your findings, and share your data with scientists working to preserve water quality. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

Emergency Services - 6 p.m. LSW Emergency

Lansing Independent Comics & Zine Fest

11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, April 12
REO Town Marketplace
1027 S. Washington Ave., Lansing



Despite a thriving DIY culture and an impressive zine collection at Michigan State University Libraries, for years, Lansing has lacked its own zine fest — until now.

The Lansing Independent Comics and Zine Fest runs 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday (April 12) at the REO Town Marketplace. The event, hosted by Ultra Mega Goods, a local screenprinting business, will feature more than 40 exhibitors, from Lansing-based indie artists and local businesses to national creators. These include Annie Curle, the Michigan-based author of the comic series "It Strikes a Chord"; Detroit-based Senna Church, an animator and artist who fuses lighthearted comedy with high fantasy; and Sam Szabo, a transgender cartoonist whose work has been featured by the Museum of Modern Art. Joshua Barton, zine librarian at MSU, will also be in attendance to educate attendees on zines and inform them of MSU's collection.

Admission is free. For more information, visit liczfest.com.

Services, 7425 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

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

"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.

Historians at the Movies: "Office Space" - Each month, the LCC history department invites students and history experts to watch a movie together and discuss significant eras, events and themes featured in the film. 6:30 p.m. Virtual — register at lcc.edu/history-matters.

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.

"Inching Toward Yeolha" - A dark, absurd comedy about a secluded village in Central Asia desperate to explore a new world while clutching tightly to the past. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. theatre.msu.edu.

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

Kindergarten Craft Club - Create a wiggly pasta snake! Registration req. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

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

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. 8-10 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old

M-78, East Lansing. lansingrollerderby.com.

Life Drawing at REACH Studio Art Center - You'll receive constructive feedback as each session moves from quick warm-up drawings to longer poses with our partially clothed model. No experience needed. 6 p.m. 1804 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. reachstudioart.org.

Michigan Notable Author Aaron Robertson at Charlotte Community Library - Robertson will discuss his book, "The Black Utopians: Searching for Paradise and the Promised Land in America." 6:30 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild Spring Art Show - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

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

MSU University Chorale and State Singers - Titled "Ring Out, Wild Bells," this concert, inspired by Alfred Tennyson's poem, features music that calls for wringing out inequities and injustices and ringing in a new era of fairness, acceptance and tolerance. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

"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.

"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.

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

Weaving the Web: Mirth - 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. weaver-softheweb.org.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 24

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 24

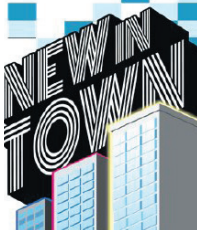
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FOOD & DRINK DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

New Piazzano's owners focus on continuity, with minimal changes

By LEO V. KAPLAN

For the better part of two decades, Paul Brown was a regular at Piazzano's. Now, he and his brother, Michael Jewell, are running the beloved northside restaurant.



Piazzano's

1825 N. Grand River Ave.,
Lansing
7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday
9 a.m.-8 p.m. Sunday
(517) 484-9922

"I didn't want it to change," Brown said.

The former owner, Jim Farhat, had been operating the restaurant for nearly

30 years. He wanted to retire, but he also wanted the restaurant he had built — and the community that had evolved alongside it — to persist.

"We had people coming through to look, like a marijuana business, some barbecue restaurants, different things that were gonna change the way things went," Farhat said. "I wanted to keep everything the same."

Brown said the 2021 closure of DeLuca's Restaurant, an iconic Lansing pizzeria, inspired him to take the leap.

"I didn't necessarily want to get into the restaurant business, but this is something that needed to stick around," he said. "And after watching what hap-

pened to DeLuca's, this was really the only way it was gonna happen."

Brown and Jewell plan to expand the restaurant's hours, switching to a limited menu after 8:30 p.m. but staying open until 10 p.m. on weekdays and 11 p.m. on weekends.

They've also remodeled the bar area, adding five TVs while carefully toeing the line between a family-friendly spot and a late-night hangout.

"It was really important to Jim that this stayed a family atmosphere," Brown said. "So, we had to find a way to do it and be smooth about it so that we're not inviting a bunch of people who are gonna come in here and drink a ton, but at the same time, if you want to watch a game, we're able to do that."

Those changes aside, Piazzano's is still Piazzano's. The recipes are the same.

Brown said he's been stunned to see the new ownership bring revitalized support to the business, with many customers coming in for the first time.

"I'm getting anywhere from two to as many as seven tables a night, just about every night, saying they've never been in here before, and they've lived in Lansing almost their whole lives," Brown said. "We're overwhelmed with the amount of support we've gotten from the community. I don't think I could have asked for anything better, quite honestly."



Courtesy photo

Piazzano's co-owner Paul Brown (right) poses with previous owner Jim Farhat at the renovated bar, which now features TVs.

Thanks to the restaurant's staff and Farhat's mentorship, the transition has been smooth, but Brown said he's been learning on the job.

"If you're an outsider looking in, it looks like we know what we were doing. Being inside, I'm learning a lot every day," he said.

Like the Farhats, the new owners' families are also involved with the business.

"My brother and I, his fiancée and

kids and my daughter are all helping out here," Brown said. "We're trying to keep this a family-owned business."

Keeping things consistent is why they bought the place, after all.

"We've made just a few changes because trying to keep the integrity of the place and just the vibe that's in here is something that's important to me," Brown said. "Otherwise, there was no reason for us to do this."

Rice makes the perfect base for spring's bounty of produce

By ARI LEVAUX

As we approach the growing season and the kaleidoscope of fresh produce it brings, this is a good time to discuss rice, the ultimate blank slate of cooking. I say this because rice is more likely to be compatible with whatever's in the garden, CSA box or that cloth bag you brought home from the farmers market than any other carb. A pasta meal, by contrast, will typically have a narrower list of possible ingredients, such as tomatoes, garlic and basil. But carrots, squash, corn, peas ... not so



much. With an entire growing season of diversity ahead of us, flexibility will be key to consuming as much earthly bounty as possible, and rice is more flexible than most yoga instructors.

When it comes to cooking rice, I consider myself something of a less muscular version of John Henry, the fabled steel-driving man who could out-pound a machine. I may be nothing special with a sledgehammer, but I can cook rice better than any rice cooker. I don't even measure the amounts of rice or water I add to the pot. I just pour the rice from a 25-pound sack until it looks

like enough, then stick my finger in it.

My rice finger compares the relative depths of the rice and water and notifies me if I need to add more water or pour some off. I realize that you, dear reader, might need a bit more to work with than simply "stick your finger in the rice pot and listen to what your finger reports." Alas, I've been doing this for so long that I didn't really know what my finger was sensing, so I grabbed a tape measure and reverse-engineered my technique in order to be able to translate it into English.

But first, a few words about rice varieties. There's a bewildering number of them, with different flavors, textures, colors and cooking needs. The beauty of

my technique is it works with any rice, even if you don't know what kind it is. Jasmine is my favorite rice. It has a mesmerizing fragrance that fills the house as it cooks. I also like basmati, the flavor of which is a bit more nutty and less floral but just as intoxicating. Supposedly, brown rice is healthier, but I prefer the flavor and texture of white rice. The only problem is that my preferred types of white rice are coated in a starchy powder. I rinse the starch off so the rice will be fluffier and less sticky.

As you read the following instructions, they may strike you as more complicated than just measuring out your rice and water. That might be an easier

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Nourish your body and your taste buds at Korea House

By **LIZY FERGUSON**

As a lifelong Lansing resident, East Lansing's Korea House is where I was first introduced to Korean food and has remained a regular in my eating-out rotation ever since. The restaurant has a beautiful dining room with low, warm lighting and sleek wooden tables and booths, as well as efficient and friendly service. The menu offers a huge variety, from Korean classics like bulgogi and fried chicken to sushi, noodle dishes and soups.

On my last visit, after weighing my options, I went with a familiar takeout favorite of mine: the bibimbap. Because I was eating in this time, I opted for the dolsot version, which comes in a hot stone bowl.

Before my entree arrived, I got to enjoy what is perhaps the best part of eating out at a Korean restaurant: the banchan, or small side dishes that are served before or with your meal. There's kim-

chi, of course, as well as bean sprouts, pan-fried strips of tofu and a sweet and vinegary mashed potato creation.

The base of bibimbap is rice, and when served in the aforementioned sizzling hot bowl, the bottom layer of rice becomes a crispy delight. Atop this, all in their own neat little sections, there are tender strips of sesame-and-soy-marinated beef, bean sprouts, pickled daikon radish and sauteed spinach, cabbage, zucchini, mushrooms and carrots. The whole thing is topped with a perfectly fried egg and served with a sweet and spicy gochujang sauce.

The fun of this dish is in the variety of fresh, vibrant ingredients, making for endless combinations. You can either stir everything together from the outset or combine things bite by bite, scooping beneath to add some rice to each mouthful and getting what's left of the banchan involved as well. In tandem, the flavors are smoky and savory,



Dolsot bibimbap

\$14.68

Korea House

978 Trowbridge Road, East Lansing

11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., 4-10 p.m.
Tuesday-Saturday

11:30 a.m.-3 p.m., 4-9 p.m.
Sunday

(517) 332-0608

koreahouse.us



Lizy Ferguson for City Pulse

Composed of rice, strips of marinated beef, spinach, cabbage, zucchini, mushrooms, carrots, bean sprouts, pickled daikon radish and a fried egg, Korea House's bibimbap has everything the body needs and everything the taste buds crave.

with inflections of vegetal brightness and earthy, caramelized sweetness. It's a healthy meal, too, full of veggies and fermented ingredients. You could make it into two meals, but I was too hungry, and it was too delicious.

Whether you're new to Korean food

or are already familiar with its charms, you can't go wrong with Korea House, and you can't go wrong with bibimbap, dolsot or not. It's got everything that the body needs and everything (and then some) that the taste buds crave.



TOP 5 FISH FRIES

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

1. Crack Chicken

Casual counter-service restaurant known for its specially seasoned chicken and fried seafood

4901 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
(517) 579-5005
crackchicken.net

10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
10 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday

2. Culver's — all locations

Fast-food chain offering signature burgers, frozen custard, fried fish and more
See culvers.com for locations, hours and

phone numbers

3. Eastside Fish Fry & Grill

Small market with a takeout counter for fried or grilled seafood, chicken and more exotic fare like frog and gator

2417 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
(517) 993-5988
eastsidefishfry.com

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday

4. Harry's Place

Laid-back bar and grill offering burgers, sandwiches, pizzas and more, plus fried cod dinners on Fridays

404 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing
(517) 484-9661
facebook.com/harryspluck Lansing
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

5. The Old Bag of Nails Pub

Regional restaurant chain serving classic pub fare, including signature battered fish and chips

210 Cascade Blvd., Lansing
(517) 826-6266
oldbagofnails.com

11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

Flash

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way to make one meal, but the finger technique will save you time and guesswork when making future rice-based meals. If you hang in there and push through the learning curve, you'll come out the other side as a rice master.

Add around 2 or 3 cups of rice to a small pot with a tight-fitting lid, preferably a glass lid so you can monitor progress. Fill the pot the rest of the way with water and stir. If the water turns cloudy, you've got starch. Dump the cloudy water and add more, stirring again. Repeat this process until the water stays clear. Then stick your finger in it. According to my tape measure, the water's depth should exceed the rice level by about three-quarters of an inch.

Put the lid on and turn the heat to high. When it reaches a boil, turn the heat down to medium. After about 10 minutes, the water will drop below the rice level, and the rice will puff up and

begin to look done. At this point, remove the lid and pluck a grain from the top.

If the grain is done, simply replace the lid, turn off the heat and let the rice peacefully come in for a landing.

If it's just a little crunchy, stick a spoon straight down and gently create a gap so you can see how much water is left. If it's almost gone, add just a little more, like a half cup, and turn off the heat. The rice will still be plenty hot enough to absorb that water and finish cooking.

If it's very crunchy, add maybe a cup of water, replace the lid and cook for a few more minutes on low. I'm being vague on the quantities because I have no way of knowing what you'll see in front of you. But the more you do this, the easier it will be to taste the rice, look in the pot and decide how much water to add. Whatever you do, don't let it run out of water while the heat is on or the rice will burn.

A perfectly cooked batch of rice needs little else. A dash of seaweed sprinkles or

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Photo by Ari LeVaux

With an entire growing season of diversity ahead of us, flexibility will be key to consuming as much earthly bounty as possible, and rice is more likely to be compatible with whatever's in the garden than any other carb.

Flash

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a splash of soy sauce will make a simple but satisfying meal. Or serve it alongside the cooked veggies of your choice. Or make a little sauce. I'm going to give you a recipe for a shoulder season stir fry.

Although spring is here, we remain on a winter diet because it's still too early for new growth. If we're eating locally, then we're still in the root cellar period dominated by storage crops like carrots, onions, garlic and squash.

I'm leaving this recipe loose because I don't want to micromanage. As with the rice cooking, my goal here is to set

you free, not boss you around. I don't want to send you to the store. Rather, I want you to be able to create a rice-based meal with whatever you happen to have on hand. This will help build the flexibility to make new dishes as the season evolves from radishes to peas to zucchini, corn, peppers, tomatoes and so on.

Since the squash harvested last fall is still readily available, I decided to serve my rice with a carnival squash, which is basically a delicata squash that's shaped like an acorn squash. I like delicata and carnival squashes because they're easy to pan fry. The thin skin is edible, so you don't need to peel it. The small seeds get crispy in the pan, adding texture to the dish.

Pan-fried squash chunks over rice

Makes two servings

Ingredients:

- 1-pound carnival or delicata squash
- 3 tablespoons of your choice of fat: I like olive oil, butter, bacon or sesame oil, or a combination of any of these
- 1/4 medium onion, minced
- One clove garlic, minced
- 2 tablespoons oyster sauce. If you don't have it, use fish sauce or soy sauce
- Juice of 1/4 lemon or a tablespoon of rice wine
- White pepper if you have it. Otherwise, black pepper

Procedure:

Cut the squash into half-inch

slices. Lay the slices on a cutting board and chop them into chunks.

Place a heavy-bottomed pan on a burner set to medium heat. Add the oil and squash, including the skin and seeds, and fry until the seeds begin to pop.

Add the onion and cook until it becomes translucent.

Deglaze the pan with the lemon juice or cooking wine.

Add the garlic, stir it around, and as soon as you smell the magical aroma of garlic cooking, add the oyster sauce and ground white or black pepper.

Stir it all together and serve with you know what. (Hint: it rhymes with "nice.")

Spice up your Easter Sunday dinner

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Easter is a religious holiday during which faithful Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ is often referred to as the “lamb of God,” and many Easter celebrations feature lamb on the menu as a reflection of Christ’s sacrifice.

There are many ways to prepare lamb, but those who want to incorporate some novelty into their Easter meal might look toward the bold flavors of Asia. This recipe for Indian lamb curry from “Dinner’s Ready,” by the editors of Cooking Light magazine, is a hearty and delicious way to feed Easter guests.

Indian lamb curry *Makes eight servings*

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds boneless leg of lamb, trimmed and cut into 1-inch cubes
- One 14.5-ounce can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 cups finely chopped white onion
- 2 tablespoons grated ginger
- 2 tablespoons mustard seeds
- 2 teaspoons garam masala
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper
- Four garlic cloves, minced
- 4 cups cooked basmati rice
- 1/2 cup plain, fat-free yogurt
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro

1. Heat a large, nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the lamb and sauté for five minutes or until browned. Remove the lamb from pan and place in a 4-quart electric slow cooker.

2. Drain the tomatoes, reserving the juice. Place the flour in a small bowl. Gradually add the tomato juice, stirring with a whisk until smooth. Stir the tomatoes, tomato juice mixture, onion, ginger, garlic and spices into the lamb. Cover and cook on low for eight hours or until the lamb is tender. Serve over rice. Top with yogurt and sprinkle with cilantro.



Metro Creative Connection

The bold flavors of Indian lamb curry make it an ideal dish for those who want to incorporate some novelty into their traditional Easter dinner.

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