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The Lansing Democratic legislative delegation

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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

The human factor: Lansing struggles with aging apartments

Lansing code compliance officials are struggling with keeping residents in three aging apartment complexes that may not meet code requirements or dumping them on the streets.

The issue has been in the headlines as well as under the radar as city officials continue to fight to bring the buildings up to code. “It is a complicated issue. We do not have enough quality and affordable housing,” said Brian McGrain, the city’s economic development and planning director.

“It is a national problem, and it is playing out in Lansing in its own way. We have to reach a threshold to make people homeless. No one wants to make someone homeless. How do we move housing into a better state?”

It’s a quandary his team of 14 code compliance and premises officers struggle with every day.

The most immediate issue involves Marvin Gardens, which comprises two buildings on the southside. It has been under review by code officials for months. Yet when McGrain and other staff toured the facility with management just after Christmas, they still saw problems.

“We found things that need to be done. We are prepared to red tag that property if things aren’t dealt with quickly,” McGrain said. “While there, management stocked the fire extinguishers, but the windows we have identified as an issue have not been replaced.”

McGrain said he will join other code officials to review the property again this week, and the threat of red tags is imminent, he said. Joining him as he reviews the property will be the city’s housing ombudsman, Joe MacDonald.

“We need to be able to offer resources if people are displaced,” McGrain said. The entire complex remains pink-tagged. That means the apartments have not yet been issued rental certificates. Rental certificates assure renters that the property they are renting has been inspected.

Meanwhile, a resource list of apartments with affordable rents — including Marvin Gardens — was circulated by an Ingham County Health Depart-



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

The front of one of the Marvin Gardens’ pink-tagged apartment buildings on Cavanaugh Road near Martin Luther King J. Boulevard in south Lansing.

ment official and raised the hackles of some activists.

In a letter to the Ingham County commissioners, Rejuvenating South Lansing representative Jason Wilkes chastised the department. He shared the letter in the group’s email list Monday night.

“All one would have to do is pay attention to the news about the horrible conditions that residents have complained about to this management group time and time again with no results!” he wrote. He said many of the property owners are the “same bad actors” who “prey on the less fortunate and subject them to homes that none of us would live in.”

“I have a real hard time understanding why supporting these slum lords, at best, is something that the Ingham County Health Dept. would do,” Wilkes wrote.

Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail said the information was provided to partner agencies. It is up to those agencies “to vet the properties.”

“I would rather share options with our partners than not,” she said. “Checking the apartments out is up to our partner agencies. The Ingham County Health Department does not inspect rental properties.”

Wilkes said he was disappointed with Vail’s response.



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

A warning sticker placed on the outside entry doors of all the Everett Apartments’ buildings.

The battle has been ongoing since November 2021, after management failed to address numerous code violations by an October 2021 deadline. Among the concerns at the time: The balcony railings and floorboards were found to be rotted out at every unit in the complex, posing a “real safety concern” for tenants who might step outside, according to city officials. Inspection reports also pointed to sagging roofs that were desperately in need of replacement, loose toilets, missing smoke detectors, busted gutters and other issues. Windows are broken. Trash and broken appliances were scattered across the complex last month. Some walls were graffitied.

McGrain said the city continues to have grave concerns about the safety of the balconies on the property.

Part of the issue facing the city is the sheer number of rental units: about 28,000 rental units — about half the city’s housing stock.

“We’ve tried to make changes to focus on those that need attention,” McGrain said. “It’s older housing stock. It requires reinvestment. These things require constant attention and a lot of money.”

But it is difficult “nexus,” McGrain said.

“We have some landlords out there that can do a better job,” he said. “We need help to keep their feet to the fire. But we have to do this without pushing housing prices up and without making people homeless.”

— TODD HEYWOOD

“I think they need to look at the information they are sharing with their partners,” he said. “I think they need to revisit that policy or procedure and make sure that they are not sharing information that can lead to harm.”

McGrain and his team faced evicting residents of seven or eight units at the southside’s Everett Apartments just before Christmas. The first floor has substantial damage from flooding and plumbing concerns. The owners have not done the work to fix that damage, McGrain noted. As a result, the city has ordered them to submit a written plan on how and when they will be completing the repairs. The remainder of the buildings has tags on their doors that read “Final Notice to Landlord Lack of Valid Certificate of Compliance.”

While the first-floor apartments remain red-tagged from the flooding and plumbing issues, the remaining units in that building were also red-tagged.

“Management was cooperative in rehousing some of the tenants,” said McGrain. “Some tenants wanted to move to another unit, some just wanted to leave.”

The city remains in a court battle with the owners of Rivershell Apartments on Bayview Drive in south Lansing since 2021.

“The courts are very deliberate,” he said.

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT THE BLACK CHURCH

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MSU "Bias Busters" class publishes latest book

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Robin Theatre series combines coffee and cinema

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Punks With Lunch to host benefit show Saturday

Cover photo by Roxanne Frith

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

THEY WRITE THEMSELVES, PART 2
AN ACTUAL CARTOON WRITTEN BY THE A.I. CHATBOT "CHAT-GPT"
Prompt: write a Tom Tomorrow cartoon starring Sparky the Penguin and Tucker Carlson, set in a post-apocalyptic future.

The first panel shows Sparky the Penguin standing on a desolate wasteland, with ruins of buildings in the background.



Sparky looks out at the desolate landscape and says--
"What happened to the world? It's like all of civilization has been destroyed."



A hologram of Tucker Carlson appears, floating in the air. He says--
"Fear not, my loyal viewers! The free market will save us all!"



Sparky looks at Carlson in disbelief and says--
"But...how can the free market save us from this disaster?"



Carlson's hologram sneers and says--
"It will guide us to a brighter future, where the wealthy and powerful will thrive, and the rest of us will be left to fend for ourselves."



The final panel shows Sparky shaking his head in disgust as Carlson's hologram fades away.

"What a charlatan. The free market didn't save us from this apocalypse, it caused it."



OKAY, YOU'VE REALLY GOT TO STOP DOING THIS NOW.



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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



BY NICOLE NOEHEL

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced former state Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., an East Lansing Democrat, will join her executive office as legislative director.

He served in the Senate from 2015 to 2022, and before that in the House. He is known for “his work behind the scenes to push for Democratic issues” and “his zealous public rebukes of Republican ideas he found repugnant,” according to the Detroit Free Press.

His late father was co-speaker of the House in 1993-’94 when it was evenly split between Democrats and Republicans. His brother, Kevin, from St. Claire Shores, was just elected to the state Senate after serving in the House.



FundMe to provide scholarships to Mason High School students for band camp (Smith was a member of the Mason Marching Band when she attended the school), and another online fundraiser seeks to help the Taylor family pay their hospital bills.

At least eight people in mid-Michigan were killed by the Christmas weekend snowstorm, Michelle Fox, chief investigator for the Office of the Medical Examiner for Sparrow Forensic Pathology, told the Lansing State Journal.

Three elderly people were found in the snow. Three others faced deadly cardiac-related injuries from shoveling or snow blowing. A seventh died from carbon monoxide poisoning in his car, and another was found dead in an unheated garage.



Following Lisa Babcock’s resignation, East Lansing City Council will choose from 14 applicants to fill her seat.

Babcock was elected as a judge for the East Lansing 54B District Court in the November 2022 election. City Council

members must be East Lansing residents who are registered to vote in the city. Applicants are Nichole Biber, Daniel Bollman, Island Ewert, Tina Farhat, Noel Garcia Jr., Barbara Hiranpradist, Rebecca Kasen, Eston Livingston, Mikey Manuel, Laith Mihyar, Abigail Tykocki, Chris Wardell, Kalette Willis and Eugenia Zacks-Carney. The Council will discuss next steps at its first regular meeting on Tuesday (Jan. 10). Its choice will serve until the next East Lansing City Councilmembers are sworn in following the November 2023 city election.

A Webberville teen was among four casualties of a 46-car pileup on the Ohio Turnpike on Dec. 23.

Emma Smith, 19, a graduate of Mason High School, was traveling with Lisa and Mark Taylor, owners of Fidler’s on the Grand on North Grand River Avenue, and their three children, according to the Lansing State Journal. The crash, which occurred during a major snowstorm on a stretch of Interstate 80 in Gorton Township, Ohio, killed Smith and sent all the members of the Taylor family to the hospital. Three other people, all Ohio residents, were killed in the pileup. Smith’s aunt created a Go-

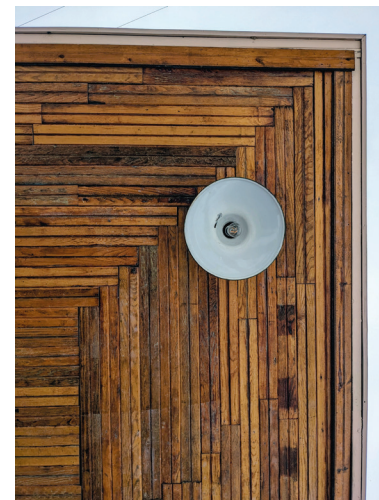


Last year was the first since 2018 that Lansing had fewer homicides than the previous year, according to the Lansing State Journal. There were 16 homicides in 2022, a 38% decrease from the 26 homicides in 2021. The

last time this number decreased from year to year was when 2017 saw 15 homicides and 2018 saw just 11. Most of 2022’s homicides were a result of gun violence. One death was due to stabbing, and another was vehicular.

Ellison Brewery is close to opening its long-awaited second location in REOTown. The company will host a job fair today and tomorrow (Jan. 4 and 5). There will be a soft opening event in late January, with a formal opening drag brunch on Feb. 12. The site, 1314 S.

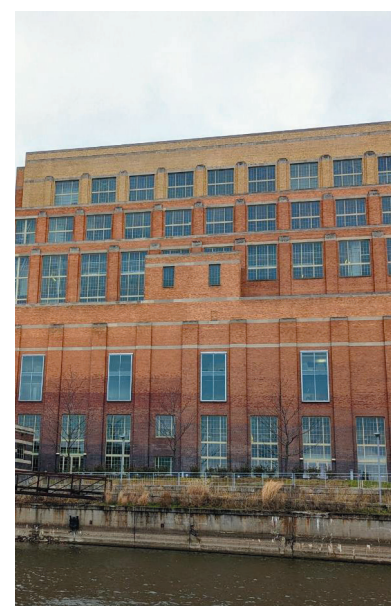
Washington Ave., has been in the works for more than three years. Ellison’s sales and marketing director, Mark Logusz, told the Lansing State Journal that the COVID-19 pandemic and the “arduous process” of getting state permits caused major delays. The historic building, formerly a showroom for Diamond REO trucks and the headquarters for the Michigan National Guard’s 46th Infantry Division, includes a first-floor restaurant and bar space and a second-floor event space with a stage, private bathrooms, separate bar and room for up to 148 people.



This week’s Eye for Design (above) has been both an Eye Candy and an Eyesore. If you know which building, send an email to knarianj@mail.lcc.edu and you could win an Eye for Design mug!

The last Eye for Design (below) was identified by Jill Horn. The detail — two rows of limestone surrounded by multi-colored brick — belongs to the Accident Fund Insurance Group building, formerly known as the Ottawa Street Power Station. The building received a \$182 million makeover to transform it from a decommissioned coal-burning plant into a modern office space. Its tiered construction and Art Deco details make it a standout of downtown Lansing and the River Trail.

— JAMES KNARIAN



“Eye for Design” is a monthly contest that features distinctive fine points of architecture in Greater Lansing. It rotates with Eyesore and Eye Candy.

The start of a new year almost always brings a renewed sense of hope and optimism for a brighter future. Coming off some of the most tumultuous times in U.S. history — the COVID pandemic and the Trump-led Capitol insurrection in particular — it won't take much to make 2023 a better year than we've experienced in the recent past. We've also learned through the trials of bitter disappointment that it's best to keep our expectations in check. With these caveats, we offer a few of our hopes for 2023:

Dems in the driver's seat

Michigan Democrats will control the Legislature and the Governor's Office for the first time in 40 years, but their razor-thin majorities in both the House and Senate will make it difficult to do anything hard or controversial. Much like the U.S. Senate, where West Virginia's Joe Manchin and Arizona's Kyrsten Sinema regularly threw a monkey wrench into President Biden's agenda, Michigan Democrats are likely to face issues where they can't count on the vote of members who represent swing districts. Democratic leaders will have to walk a fine line as they look toward the 2024 elections, balancing their desire to get things done (read: reversing the damage caused by 40 years of Republican rule as quickly as possible) against the need to protect vulnerable caucus members who hold their seats by a slim margin.

Some may be tempted to flex their newfound legislative muscle to quickly advance a progressive agenda, but we think it's wiser to exercise some restraint and focus on strengthening their majority in the next cycle by demonstrating that Democrats can govern from the center and get things done. As cogently stated by City Pulse political columnist Kyle Melinn, "If they make this term about paybacks and kowtowing to the hopes and dreams of a passionate progressive base, their time in the majority will be short."

Fix the damn local roads

Throughout her first term, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer repeated her "fix the damn roads" mantra more times than we can count. We didn't realize she mostly meant "fix the damn state roads." Michigan's most abused roads are in and around densely populated urban areas. Among the worst are found in the maze of neighborhood streets that don't qualify for federal road funding. We urge state leaders to seize the day and toss out the Rube Goldberg legal contraption known as Act 51 (the state's convoluted distribution formula for road dollars). Replace it with a new formula that makes a major investment in fixing local streets in Michigan's largest cities. A couple billion off the top of the state's ARP-driven budget surplus should fund the effort.

Cement LGBTQ rights

The Michigan Supreme Court ruled in July that the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act already protects the state's LGBTQ community through existing language that prohibits discrimination based on sex in employment, housing, education and access to public accommodations. The high court's landmark decision was a welcome

step forward, but the job isn't done until the act itself is amended to fully and explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. The vast majority of Michiganders will support the move.

Sensible gun regulations

Stemming the tide of gun violence means enacting reasonable restrictions on gun ownership. A heated war of words is inevitable but that's preferable to continued war on the streets, where deranged individuals with easy access to high-powered weaponry continue to slaughter innocent people, often targeting them for their race, religion or sexual orientation. It's time to enact what Whitmer referenced this week in her second inaugural address as "common sense" gun reforms. These should include more robust background checks, banning large-capacity magazines, safe storage requirements, and a "red flag" law that allows a court to order the temporary removal of firearms from a person who may present a danger to themselves or others.

Bolster freedom of information

Long-stalled reforms in Michigan's sunshine law also should top the legislative to-do list. That the governor and state lawmakers are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act, which guarantees public access to most government records, is indefensible. A legislative fix unanimously passed the state House in 2021 before hitting a stone wall in the Senate. With full Democratic control, the legislature should get FOIA amendments on the governor's desk in the first 90 days of the new year.

Lean into tax equity

Bipartisan agreement appears to be within reach on expanding Michigan's Earned Income Tax Credit, a move that will deliver direct financial relief to thousands of working families across the state. Rolling back state taxes on pension income, long promised by Whitmer, also should be on the table. And, we're intrigued by State Rep. Julie Brixie's call for a graduated income tax in Michigan. It would be a bold step toward a more fair and equitable tax structure but probably a hard sell for vulnerable Democratic lawmakers, who will be loath to vote for anything resembling a tax hike.

Invest in our future

Finally, improving Michigan's long-term economic prospects must be front and center. We're encouraged by the wave of new investments across the state in next-generation electric vehicles, battery storage technologies and recreating domestic supply chains for semiconductors and solar panels. But new jobs alone won't be sufficient to position our state for future success and prosperity. Substantial and sustained investments in higher education and vocational training must be accompanied by a renewed focus on attainable workforce housing and an all-out effort to attract and retain the talent that will be needed to power Michigan's next economy.

If only half of these measures get done in 2023, we'll consider it a rousing success. Stay tuned.

An agenda for 2023

The CP Edit

Opinion



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Contact Berl Schwartz for more information: publisher@lansingcitypulse.com or (517) 999-5061. (Please include your name, address and telephone number so we can reach you. Keep letters to 250 words or fewer. City Pulse reserves the right to edit letters and columns.)

Next state Republican Party chair needs to raise money ... somehow

Outgoing Michigan Republican Party Co-Chair Meshawn Maddock doesn't want to be the next MIGOP chair.

She does, however, have a message to whoever does win the post at next month's convention: We need our big donors back.

In a letter to supporters that I obtained, Maddock lays out the situation at MIGOP in dollars and cents.

The MIGOP needs \$1.3 million to hold the conventions and state committee meetings required by law and at least \$750,000 to staff party operations over a two-year election cycle.

Then there are insurance, legal costs and utilities. Then, on top of that, the party will need a few million more to actually have an impact on winning elections, which is the whole point of having a party.

Maddock concedes that the Michigan Republican Party doesn't have left many of the corporate big-wigs who funded its operations for decades. Outgoing Chair Ron Weiser covered up the problem last cycle by sinking as much as \$7 million of his own money into the party.

With him about to be gone, he's not dipping into his pocket for another \$7 million. The new Republican Party chair, whoever it is, is stuck.

The "donor class" is not on the same page as the "grassroots." Maddock and everyone else know it. In her letter, she points the finger at the "left-leaning" media and the "liberal elites" for shaming corporations that give a penny to Republican causes.

But we all know it goes deeper than that. When your message is stuck on unproven, widespread election fraud claims from two years ago, it's a hard sell for those who see political donations as investments.

Financially backing the tin-foil hat crowd doesn't improve the business culture of corporate America. Trying to explain away the U.S. Capitol riot as a peaceful protest that was spun out of control by a few agitators and then overblown by the media and politically opportunistic Democrats doesn't improve any company's bottom line.

Instead, business executives who give to Republicans or passively accept con-

spiracy theories become political targets. That's not good for business.

Unfortunately for the Republicans, however, they need these donors back. Badly.

One of the eight Michigan Republican Party chair candidates is suggesting hitting up the 2,112 precinct delegates for \$1,500 a quarter. Maddock said this idea was put on the table by someone "who has clearly never done actual fundraising."

Many of these people can't spare an extra \$500 a year to give to the Michigan Republican party, let alone \$1,500 four times a year.

On his way out the door, Weiser is suggesting a new rule that all delegates at the Feb. 18 convention, where the new chair will be named, pay \$50 to get in the door, according to The Detroit News. Even if all 2,112 delegates pay that amount, that yields a little more than \$100,000, a mere fraction of what's needed to fund the party.

That's not entirely the point, though. The party activists who are steering the Republican Party into X-Files Land need to realize that their "platform" comes at a cost. And if they're not willing to put money behind it, they can't expect others will either.

The 2022 election should be case and point that their dog doesn't hunt.

Most Michigan voters have moved on from 2020. They've moved on from the pandemic. They're not going to be spun into believing that Trump supporters were maliciously led into the U.S. Capitol by left-leaning activists.

A majority of Michigan voters believe:

- A ban on all abortions all the time isn't realistic.
- Keeping guns away from the mentally instable is realistic.
- Legal protections for LGBTQ residents are realistic.

What isn't realistic is using book bans and gender-fluid teenagers to drum up votes. It didn't work in 2022 and it's not bringing in big bucks in 2023.

The Republicans showing up to the Feb. 18 convention are not on the same page as a majority of Michigan voters and will elect a like-minded chair. It's someone who needs to find out all too soon that money will need to be raised ... somehow.

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



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

Opinion

Happy New Year!

Ethan Embry @EmbryEthan

It's pretty incredible that Greta made Andrew's carbon footprint nearly 0 in 48 hours.

8:16 PM · Dec 29, 2022

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CP#23-001

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all meeting minutes for the Charter Township of Lansing are posted to and available on the Township's website at www.lansingtowship.org. Meeting minutes may also be obtained by emailing dptyclerk@lansingtowship.org.

Meeting minutes are also posted in, and available for inspection at, the office of the Township Clerk (located at 3209 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan) during normal business hours.

Maggie Sanders, Supervisor
Cortney Lighthouse, Clerk

CP#22-276

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF INGHAM
PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
OF HEARING
FILE No. 20-001219-GA-P33**

In the matter of Doris Marie Wilkins. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS including: whose address(es) is/are unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected-by the following:

TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held February 9th, 2022 at 3:00pm at 313 W. Kalamazoo St. Lansing, MI 48933 before Judge Dunnings for the following purpose:

Guardianship hearing for incapacitated adult.

CP#23-002

'Neighborhood' as an essential unit of change

By JOAN NELSON

Back in spring 2004, those of us working at the Allen Neighborhood Center had just completed a door-to-door survey that left us in a mild state of shock. We had included a question recommended by the U.S. Agriculture Department to determine "food insecurity." We were startled to discover that the rate among our 100 low- to moderate-income survey participants was an alarming 29%.

Our immediate thought was to better promote the weekly food pantry that we had launched some years earlier. And then, we began a series of conversations with our neighbors.

Residents told us about theirs and their neighbors' lack of access not just to food, but specifically to nutritionally dense, fresh, local produce. We talked about the negative health consequences of a compromised diet. They highlighted the limited number of grocery stores on the east side and that the 10% to 20% of residents who are carless relied on corner stores for (mostly processed) food.

One idea to emerge from these discussions was to establish a *neighborhood*-based farmers market. At that time, there were just two municipal farmers markets in the region: the old City Market downtown and Okemos Meridian Market, neither of which was particularly walkable or accessible to eastside residents.

As a result, the Allen Neighborhood Center launched a 10-week pilot program with four farmers in late summer 2004. The neighborhood responded beyond our expectations, and by that fall, we were committed to slowly but steadily growing the Allen Farmers Market. We also began to feature musicians, (including Eastern High School jazz students), to draw patrons

and create weekly "happenings" for neighbors.

Now, almost two decades later, the market is going strong, featuring 25 farmers and vendors who provide year-round access to local food for roughly 20,000 patrons annually and contribute to eastside identity, culture and connectivity.

The center's health, housing, gardening and youth initiatives that followed all grew out of a similar process. It involved joining with neighbors and other stakeholders to assess a particular situation or challenge and invariably ask some version of the question, "What is the neighborhood piece of the solution?"

In this way, neighborhood-crafted and neighborhood-driven projects became our standard approach to meeting neighbors' needs. While health and human service organizations typically direct their programs toward individuals and families, the center's approach was to identify ways in which the next largest social unit past family — neighborhood — can systematically and steadily create circumstances, projects and structures that will improve quality of life. Of course, neighborhoods can't solve complex social problems alone — but this sector has an important and often overlooked role to play.

The Allen Neighborhood Center is certainly not the only neighborhood-based organization that relies on grass-roots engagement and planning to good effect; there are plenty of others everywhere! Nor is this a *new* approach. In our own community, there is a rich history of neighborhood-driven improvement that includes Lansing Model Cities (part of Lyndon Johnson's "war on poverty"); Neighborhood Watch and Community Policing; and Community Health Summits.

In the coming months, I will be sharing stories of these three transformative initiatives, all of which involved a critical role for neighborhoods — and that, incidentally, were personally transformative for me. I do feel a little like For-



Courtesy, Allen Neighborhood Center

The eastside's Allen Farmers Market, pictured here in 2022, is the result of working with residents to address neighborhood needs — in this case, improved access to healthful food.

rest Gump — happening to be in the vicinity of key events that are part of the history of a place. For instance, in 1971, my first job out of college was as a community organizer for Model Cities. A decade later, the first community police officer in Lansing was a regular visitor to my neighborhood business, Movement Arts. And, finally, I had the privilege of facilitating the Eastside Summit from 1997 to 2000, which then morphed into the Allen Neighborhood Center, where I remained until just a few months ago.

More important, each of these neighborhood-based initiatives had an enduring impact on quality of life in Lansing. Think solid waste pick-up, a robust bus service, a dispersed network of public health clinics, and the Eastside Neighborhood Organization — to name just a few outcomes of Model Cities and its 15 Model Neighborhoods.

A decade later, community policing with its support for cops as community organizers, resulted in over 100 Neighborhood Watch organizations in Lansing. While initially focused on crime prevention, gradually many of these neighborhood groups have embraced a broader agenda that includes park improvement, beautification, housing and more.

And in the 1990s, when the Ingham County Health Department became that decade's institutional backbone for neighborhood change, we saw neighbor-engaged health summits held on the east side, west side and south

side, each addressing so-called social determinants of health — housing, education, access to health, etc. The Health Department followed with "cultural summits," including an African-American Health Summit and the Mestizo-Anishinabek Health Summit. All five summits produced a comprehensive action plan and an organization to implement it. The eastside plan, "Growing in Community on Lansing's Eastside," became the Allen Neighborhood Center's strategic plan for our first five years.

In the months ahead, look for more detail about these historic initiatives, the people involved, the social and physical infrastructure they created, and the firm expectation that they set for neighborhood input into any significant City of Lansing initiative.

Working close to home on issues of importance can be a rewarding focus for people who see themselves as changemakers. Pick your issue — affordable and flexible housing, food systems, health access, youth development, senior support, or whatever else seems most pressing in your area — and then join with others to determine precisely what the neighborhood — and your — piece of the solution might be.

(Joan Nelson was the founding executive director of the Allen Neighborhood Center, on Lansing's east side. She joins *City Pulse* this week as a contributor. Her column will appear in the first issue of the month.)



Opinion

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CP#23-003

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Suzi Regan to fly solo in 'Wild Horses'

One-woman show opens in late January at Williamston Theatre



Courtesy of Williamston Theatre

Actress Suzi Regan will perform the one-woman, coming-of-age show "Wild Horses" at the Williamston Theatre, debuting at the end of January.

By TODD HEYWOOD

Performing a one-person show is daunting. Actress Suzi Regan called it "lonely." Nonetheless, she's readying herself for the Williamston Theatre's production of "Wild Horses," by Allison Gregory.

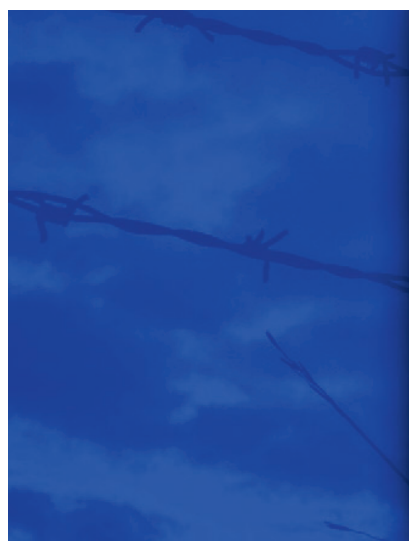
The play, which is directed by Lansing's indomitable Mary Job, tells the story of a group of 13-year-old girls on the cusp of becoming adults.

"As one character says, 'I want to unsee what I saw, but I can't,'" Regan said. In that moment, life-changing realities hit home and hit hard.

But Regan said to expect the show to bring joy as well.

"It's a sweet story about three friends over their 13th summer, just having adventures, living passionately their experiences," she explained.

Through the characters' stories, the audience will experience the group's forays into first kisses and sneaking booze from the family bar.



"Allison Gregory really did a great service to the sweetness and sometimes sadness of this coming-of-age thing," Regan said.

As Regan has prepared for the show, she's realized that "coming of age" is really the moment in people's lives where "an experience changes everything, and because of that, perspective has changed."

"A recurring theme in this is all the fear that comes along with freedom," she said. "With freedom comes responsibility, but how do you, with only a small toolbox, make those choices that ... you just don't know, especially as a 13-year-old?"

She noted that much of that confusion from early freedom and choice rests in the lack of experience to inform choices — and that, too, causes fear.

"Another thing that Allison has done is really allow us to identify with and connect with the fact that 13-year-olds know what is real," she said. "They know if their parents are having an affair. They know if something is not quite right. They may not be able to articulate it, but they know when something is real."

Regan has performed a one-person

show before, but it featured seven characters in seven different scenes.

"This is much different," she said. "'Wild Horses' is really a stream of consciousness where other characters come and go."

Regan, 58, grew up in Berkley and attended Michigan State University. She's performed on professional stages throughout Michigan, including the Performance Network Theatre in Ann Arbor and BoarsHead Theater in Lansing, both now defunct. She's also spent time at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea.

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



It was at Purple Rose that she connected with John Leopard, Tony Caselli, Christine Purchis and Emily Sutton-Smith. The quartet had the audacious idea of creating a professional theater in Williamston. That was in 2005, and Regan has wandered in and

out of the Williamston Theatre as it has changed over the years.

She took a hiatus from performing to work for four years helping other actors line up voice work. It's a growing art form, with beginners racking up anywhere from \$14,000 to \$36,000 a year, according to Zip Recruiter. Top voice artists can bring in as much as \$200,000 a year.

"What's cool about it is that you can do it from home," she said. She's still doing some recruitment and representation for voice actors, but the itch for the stage is back.

In a twist of fate, Regan was not originally slated to perform in "Wild Horses." She was booked for a production in the summer of 2022, but life got in the way, and she ended up with this one-woman show.

"Wild Horses" begins with preview performances on Jan. 26, 27, 28 and 29, with a formal opening of the show on Feb. 3. Preview performances are designed to allow actors, directors and other artistic and technical talent to make sure the show is working with a live audience.

January is otherwise short on local theater, but February will be a whirlwind of performances, so watch for next month's Behind the Curtain for a complete rundown of the month.

"Wild Horses"

Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St.,
Williamston
Previews: Jan. 26-29,
8 p.m.
Show runs Feb.
3-Feb. 26.
8 p.m. Thursdays,
Fridays and
Saturdays
2 p.m. Sundays.
willamstontheatre.
org

MSU journalism class breaks barriers through books

By **BILL CASTANIER**

When Joe Grimm arrived on Michigan State University's campus in 2013 as a visiting editor-in-residence, he had an idea for a new journalism class based on a project he had worked on in his career as an editor and reader advocate for the Detroit Free Press. While there, Grimm confronted racial biases and stereotyping of the Arab-American and Muslim populations of Detroit. Working with other journalists and the aforementioned communities, he published an in-house guide that answered questions about this group of people.

Based on his experiences, he created a class called "Bias Busters" at MSU, which began to look at the stereotypes surrounding other groups, including the LGBTQ+ community, veterans, Indian-Americans and Native Americans. Grimm says the first class hit some bumps in the road, and at the end of the semester, he didn't feel there was enough content for a book.

"When I told them that we won't have a book, they rebelled. So, I said, 'OK, let's vote.' They voted, and the answer was 'Yes, we want a book,' he said.

That book, "100 Questions About Americans," covering the immigrant experience, became the prototype for more than 20 other "100 Questions" variants. Nine years later, the class has published its newest product, "100 Questions and Answers About the Black Church: The Social and Spiritual Movement of a



Courtesy of the Burton family archives

Bias Busters, a journalism class at MSU that tackles stereotypes of various communities, published its latest book, "100 Questions and Answers About the Black Church: The Social and Spiritual Movement of a People," about these sacred, historical institutions in the Black community, such as Lansing's Friendship Baptist Church, pictured above.

People," which answers questions like "What is speaking in tongues?" and "What was the Slave Bible?"

Grimm, who teaches Bias Busters twice a year, said he found that publishing a book was very important to students.

"When I ask students why they take the class, their answer is 'We want to publish a book,'" he said.

And they keep coming. Next to be published is "100 Questions about the Amish and Mennonites." When the students return this January, they will begin "100 Questions about the Hmong: Secret No More." Grimm said the "secret" refers to the role the Hmong played in the Vietnam War. The book is underwritten by a grant from the Michigan Humanities Council.

In order to accurately represent the communities they are writing about, Grimm says, "The class enlists allies, and the allies, made up of the community members, have the final say."

It's important to note that answers are based on fact, not supposition or opinion, and when necessary, each fact is backed by data.

Grimm also works with an outside editor. For example, for the Black church book, he worked with Freda G. Sampson, a Detroit native who has deep experience in community engagement and implementing equity and

inclusion in nonprofit organizations and corporations.

"Throughout the semester, we talk with allies about the project and get approval (for the questions and answers). The class also plans at least one field trip each semester," Grimm said. "For the Black church book, the students visited St. Stephen's Community Church in Lansing for services and talked with Pastor Rev. Sameerah L. Shareef. For the book on the Amish and Mennonite communities, the class took a road trip to Shipshewana, Indiana, to meet with community members and visit a museum."

The books don't shy away from difficult questions and answers. For exam-

ple, the Black church book raises questions about the role of women in church hierarchies and the relationship Black churches have with the LGBTQ+ community. Both answers point toward work to be done.

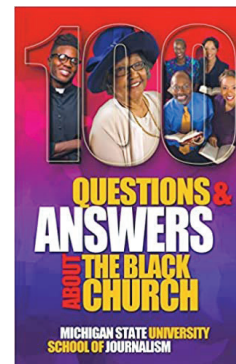
The book also provides an easy guide to the history of these institutions in America and how they evolved from the days of slavery. A series of questions and answers considers the role of Black churches in the Civil Rights Movement and answers the important question "Are churches still attacked?"

Grimm said that as the book's content progressed, some concerns arose about possible stereotyping due to questions about "speaking in tongues, church hats and music and dance."

"Our editor, Freda Sampson, countered that it is important to confront the stereotypes of popular culture, so we explained the reason for things like music and dance," Grimm said.

The students' finished product retails for \$13.95 and is available on Amazon.

Grimm said his Bias Busters class supports itself through book sales, and the series is relevant for anyone who has questions about communities other than their own that they are too afraid to ask. "It's for the curious," he said.



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Capital area Dems weigh priorities with razor-thin majorities in the Legislature

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

The last time Democrats controlled both chambers of the Michigan Legislature as well as the executive offices of governor, secretary of state and attorney general was 1983-'84, near the end of which, James Blanchard won his first term as governor.

On Sunday, Blanchard sat behind Gov. Gretchen Whitmer as she was sworn in for a second term — the first in 40 years when Democrats control both the executive and legislative branches, albeit narrowly.

And local Democratic legislators will play an important leadership role in the course led by Whitmer, herself an East Lansing resident. Moreover, she has tapped former state Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., another East Lansing resident, as her legislative director.

Here is a look at the makeup of the local delegation, followed by their goals for the 102nd session of the Michigan Legislature, which began officially on New Year's Day and ends on Dec. 31, 2024.

The Senate

— East Lansing resident **Sam Singh** will be floor leader, with control of the agenda, timing and flow of all legislative business. Singh, 51, who graduated from Michigan State University, was mayor of East Lansing and a state representative. Elected in November to his first Senate term, he represents a portion of his former House district in Ingham County but also an area north into Shiawassee County. The son of immigrants from India, he has worked in the nonprofit world.

— Joining Singh in the Senate is **Sarah Anthony**, of Lansing. She's the first Black woman tapped to chair the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee. That committee — and the companion House panel — chisel, hammer and wrench the annual budget before it goes to the floor. Anthony, 39, is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's from Western Michigan University in public administration. She served on the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. A former state House member, she was elected in November to her first Senate term to represent part of Ingham County and much of Eaton County.

House of Representatives:

— **Angela Witwer**, of Delta Township, returns to represent much of Eaton County and take over chairing the



Roxanne Frith for City Pulse

Democratic members of the Michigan delegation take time out from inauguration festivities on Sunday to snap a selfie.



Photo by Roxanne Frith

Sarah Anthony (center), a newly elected senator, will hold a key position as the head of the Appropriations Committee.

Appropriations Committee. Witwer, 60, is the co-founder of Edge Partnership, a public relations firm. Before that, she worked for 22 years at Sparrow Health System. She also served on the Waverly



Roxanne Frith for City Pulse

Newly elected Sen. Sam Singh will serve as floor leader as Democrats pursue their legislative goals with a one-vote majority in the House and two in the Senate.

School Board of Education. This will be her third House term in the House, although the first in a new district covering the majority of Eaton County.

— Rejoining Witwer is **Julie Brixie**. The Meridian Township Democrat replaced Singh when he was term-limited

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Legislature

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out of the House in 2019. She will serve a new district that stretches farther south in Ingham County. The 56-year-old lawmaker is a Chicago native who graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor of science degree in physical geography. She came here to work for Michigan State University, where she ran a mobile soil toxicology lab. She served on the Meridian Township Board of Trustees, then as township treasurer.

— **Kara Hope**, of Delta Township, who is serving her second term, rounds out the returning House lawmakers. Hope's district covers much of south Lansing and stretches into rural southwestern Ingham County. Hope, 48, was an Ingham County commissioner. She is a native of Ionia, where she was a reporter for the local paper after graduating from MSU and before earning a Cooley Law School degree. She was editor of the Cooley Law Review and interned with the Innocence Project. She was an attorney with the Michigan Court of Appeals and then a defense attorney before turning to family law. She also taught at Cooley.

— Newcomer **Penelope Tsernoglou**, of East Lansing, represents a new district that includes northeastern Ingham County and a portion of Shiawassee and Clinton counties. The 43-year-old served as an Ingham County commissioner for six years. She is a co-owner of Practical Political Consulting. She has a law degree from the Michigan State University College of Law.

— Also joining the area delegation representing northwestern Lansing, portions of Clinton County and the city of Grand Ledge is **Emily Dievendorf**, of Lansing. Dievendorf has been an advocate for the LGBTQ community who has also worked on racial justice issues. A graduate of Michigan State University's James Madison College, Dievendorf was the executive director of Equality Michigan from 2012 to 2015. After departing the nonprofit, she unsuccessfully ran for the Lansing City Council. Her 25-vote primary win over Jon Horford, a Grand Ledge basketball hero, surprised the political establishment in the August primary election. The 44-year-old identifies as bisexual and nonbinary, meaning not exclusively as a man or woman. She uses she and they pronouns. They are the first openly nonbinary member of the state Legislature.

Whitmer starts her second term with just a one-vote House majority and two in the Senate. With the governor and Hertel pushing an agenda and a mid-Michigan team of leaders in position to influence what will land on Whitmer's desk for a signature or veto, what does our legislation delegation hope to accomplish?

In interviews, the incoming lawmakers listed a host of issues, from gun control measures to violence prevention to improving the environment. Their Zoom interviews will be available online Thursday.

Tsernoglou conducted her interview from the parking lot of a local ice arena where her daughter was at hockey practice. Brixie was in Chicago, spending the



Roxanne Frith for City Pulse

The inaugural scene at the Capitol on New Year's Day as Gov. Gretchen Whitmer delivers her address.



Roxanne Frith for City Pulse

Reps. Kara Hope (left) from Holt and Angela Witwer from Eaton County are returning members of the local delegation.

days helping with her father, who was in hospice. He died two days after her interview. The rest joined from home offices.

Taxes

Whitmer wants to ax an unpopular tax on pensions passed over a decade ago by her predecessor, Gov. Rick Snyder. Until 2011, Michigan seniors could take home modest pensions or cash in on their 401(k)s with minimal tax liabilities. But Snyder had campaigned on gutting the even more unpopular Michigan Business Tax, signed into law by his predecessor, Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm. He had to find a way to plug the \$1.7 billion hole that eliminating that tax would cause in the state budget. He defended the pension tax as a matter of "fairness."



Roxanne Frith for City Pulse

Julie Brixie of Meridian Township is another returning House member.

Whitmer has the mid-Michigan delegation in her corner.

"There was a lot of the tax burden that was really shifted during the Snyder Administration away from businesses and corporations and onto individuals, including retirees, and that needs to be fixed," Brixie said.

But as a former township treasurer, Brixie is familiar with the holes produced in tax revenues when lawmakers fiddle with cash generators like taxes.

"I would favor a solution such as a graduated income tax where people who earn less money are taxed at a lower rate and people who earn more money are taxed at a higher rate," she said, noting her previous introduction of such a measure. "This is a mechanism that would allow equity and would probably result in a tax cut for folks on the lower income scale."

She said she is "eager" to work with Whitmer's team in bringing a graduated income tax to a vote.

Besides eliminating the pension tax, Whitmer wants to expand the state's Earned Income Tax Credit, which the delegation supports.

Inflation has clobbered the average American's bank accounts for the last year. Anthony said she heard voters' concerns loudly and clearly while knocking doors during the campaign.

"They wanted relief," Anthony said. "I mean, my goodness, every time I go to the grocery store, I'm shocked that — even just carrying out two bags — I'm almost spending a hundred dollars."

Witwer said she plans to focus on the economy and jobs, a familiar refrain from the 2022 election from all the candidates. To do that, she said she wants to focus on "kitchen table issues." One of them is adjusting the state's Earned Income Tax Credit.

The EITC allows Michiganders to write off 6% of their federal EITC on their state taxes. Before Snyder's tax plans became law in 2011, Michiganders could write off as much as 20%.

Thanks to an influx of federal COVID relief dollars, Michigan's general fund has a surplus of \$7 billion.

Witwer said she supported plans to "adjust the EITC so that there's more money in people's pockets in Michigan."

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Singh, like his Democratic colleagues, supports a revision to the EITC as well as a fix of the pension tax.

“Since we do have a significant surplus, we want to make sure that those are targeted to people who need relief,” he said. “Especially in this economy that not everyone is gaining at the same level and so we have proposed putting back the Earned Income Tax Credit back to levels that were pre-governor Snyder that would put money back into working families pockets.”

LGBTQ Civil rights and abortion

The U.S. Supreme Court and the Michigan Supreme Court have both endorsed the legal theory that discrimination against transgender people or lesbian, gay and bisexual people is discrimination on the basis of sex.

But the 2022 election season saw local and statewide candidates using LGBTQ people as a cudgel in the culture wars, accusing educators of being “groomers.”

“I think that Michigan residents spoke out pretty loud and clear that they weren’t interested in a lot of the hateful social issues that the Republicans were touting,” Anthony said.

Brixie said there’s a sea change afoot that will result in the passage of long-sought amendments to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to cover the LGBTQ community. She said that GOP leaders prevented hearings and a vote on the issue last session — because, she maintained, not only would it have passed, it would have received GOP support.

“It would have gotten done,” she said.

Brixie cited amending the act as one of her key goals this year, as did Singh. Witwer said amending Elliott-Larsen and repealing the 1931 law making it a crime for a person to perform an abortion in the state “are extremely important to people in Michigan and corporations.” She said Michiganders could expect to see movement on both “in the first part of the year.”

Dievendorf said they found out during the last few years of political scandals around sexual harassment that survivors were continuing to be “victimized” through loopholes in the laws. Those loopholes have to be addressed in what she called “transformative justice.”

“There are very basic changes that can be made to protect everyone,” she said.

Passage of Proposal 3, which enshrined abortions rights in the Michigan Constitution, bolstered her argument that eliminating the 92-year-old law is what the majority wants.

“It’s important to get old laws off the books, because things change,” Hope said. “A one-term president can appoint three Supreme Court Justices and change things.”

Transparency laws

Every few years a kerfuffle occurs in government causing partisans from both parties to make loud proclamations about transparency. But they never seem to get around to amending the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). FOIA allows most residents of Michigan to access documents in the files of local and state governments within cer-



Roxanne Frith for City Pulse

Emily Dievendorf of Lansing won a surprise primary victory and went on to win a House seat. It’s her first elective office.

tain constraints. Michigan’s FOIA does not apply to the Legislature or the Governor’s Office. It does apply to the Secretary of State’s Office, the Office of the Attorney General and all the government departments under the governor.

Dievendorf said she favors removing the “double standard in the Legislature and the Governor’s Office” by eliminating their exemptions from the law “as people’s personal information can be protected.”

“It’s sunshine,” Brixie said. “Sunshine is always good in transparency.”

On the way out of power in 2022, Republicans did move legislation to expand FOIA, but their bill would only add the Governor’s Office while continuing to exempt the Legislature. It died.

Investigate Chatfield irregularities

Simmering under the debate about expanding FOIA to the Legislature is the slow-boiling campaign finance scandal of former Republican House Speaker Lee Chatfield, who has been accused of pilfering dollars for lavish parties in Detroit and purchasing controlled substances for lobbyists. The allegations grew out of a police complaint filed by Chatfield’s sister-in-law Rebekkah Chatfield, who accused him of sexually assaulting her while she was a teenager.

Dievendorf said the incoming freshman class of lawmakers is driven by a “wave of discontent with politics as usual.”

“If we do not function more ethically, more transparently and really hone in” on their priorities, “then we’re out of there. That includes being open with what is happening at the Capitol.”

Brixie said she too supports an investigation to determine how and why Chatfield could have committed so many alleged violations of campaign finance and officeholder accounts.

“I would certainly like to see the emails from former Speaker Chatfield’s office,” Brixie said. All of the lawmakers agreed that expanding the law to cover both the governor and the Legislature was necessary.

Each of the lawmakers also indicated it was important to “revisit” state campaign finance laws, as Tsernoglou said, in light of the Chatfield scandal. Each also understands such revisions will require an in-depth understanding of how Chatfield allegedly got away with all the cash issues that the media has reported.

Bipartisanship?

All the lawmakers agreed that the razor-thin majorities that Democrats gained



Roxanne Frith for City Pulse

Former Ingham County Commissioner Penelope Tsernoglou of East Lansing is a newly elected House member.



Roxanne Frith for City Pulse

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer takes the oath of office for the second time as her two daughters look on.

in November will make governance difficult. One need only look at the first two years of the administration of President Joe Biden. Despite having a slim majority in the House and a 50-50 split in the Senate, with Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris holding the tie-breaking vote, Biden’s agenda found itself hung up over and over by the machinations of just two U.S. senators.

That’s why Singh and other lawmakers are cautioning their colleagues to move with care as the session gets rolling. There will be holdouts in the Democratic caucus in both chambers. That will require Democrats to look across the aisles for partners to pass laws.

“It’s not going to be easy,” Hope said of building bridges of cooperation with Republicans.

She noted that while she has served in the House for four years, “it seems like it’s harder to negotiate with someone who doesn’t believe you are a human being, or a peer, or their equal. Maybe you can’t build a bridge with that person.”

But it’s not all doom and gloom, Hope said. She points to the fact that the ballot initiatives all passed with significant majorities. That, Hope opined, means the majority of Michigan residents agree on what is right, and it’s the Legislature’s job to do what the majority of residents want and agree with.

“A minority has done well and been served well by the Republicans for the last 10 years,” Hope said. “What the minority wants — and by that I mean the rich — and what the majority of Michiganders

want are not necessarily the same thing.”

“This is the first Legislature after the independent redistricting commission,” Hope said. “I think this is a chance to show people that democracy really does work.”

Given the slim majorities in both chambers, getting things done will likely mean getting support from mid-Michigan GOP legislators, such as Graham Filler, who represents northern Clinton County, including Dewitt, in the House. Singh said he’d “love to see” the bipartisan Capitol Caucus, which comprised nine area legislators last term, continue, including Republicans. He said a meeting is likely next month.

The delegation’s two newcomers see the need for bipartisanship.

“In many ways, most things are going to get done in a bipartisan effort,” Tsernoglou said.

Said Dievendorf: “We can’t count on having this majority in two years. The issue we are facing right now is that we really do have a very, very, very small majority. Which means that either we keep all of our folks together, on the Democratic side in solidarity; or we need to ensure we are building relationships with Republicans on the other side. And ensuring that we are creating a cultural shift.”

To create the shift in culture is a heavy lift, Dievendorf said — but vital.

“If Republicans ever took control without those cultural shifts, they could flip those right back the opposite way again. That’s happened time and time again.”

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In with the new, out with the mold

By LUCAS HENKEL

If you live in Michigan, I'm sure you have an idea of what a wet basement smells like: a mix of wet dog, dirt and overall gross dankness. This can be a telltale sign of mold and other potentially harmful issues. Moldy weed poses a health risk for all that are exposed to it, not just smokers. Reactions can be similar to allergies: coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, stuffy nose, itchy eyes and fever. Long-term mold exposure can also cause lethargy and memory loss and can be deadly for those who have a compromised immune system.

Moldy weed can appear in multiple forms. The most common is powdered mildew, which gives buds a dusty appearance. Powdered mildew shows up first on the large fan leaves of the cannabis plant and evolves into white, fuzzy spots that halt the plant's growth. Full-blown cases crest a thick, white mildew that covers the entirety of the plant. To combat this, some folks use potassium bicarbonate, similar to baking soda, as a contact fungicide to quickly kill off spots.

Botrytis, otherwise known as "bud rot," is a less smelly form of mold that wilts the cannabis bud. To me, weed buds that have been infected with botrytis look like the inside of a rotten ap-



Courtesy of Amsterdam Genetics

Bud rot causes cannabis buds to become brown and slightly squishy, eventually rendering them moldy and unusable.

ple: brown and slightly squishy. These brown spots eventually turn into dry, white, cotton ball-looking patches that render the bud unusable. One natural way to prevent bud rot is to drop essential oils with antifungal properties, like

lemongrass, eucalyptus or peppermint, into a spray bottle with water and lightly spray the plant.

Wilted leaves could also be the sign of the third most common type of cannabis mold, fusarium, which starts in the soil



and rots the plant's roots, disrupting the absorption of nutrients to the rest of the plant. Roots become red and the stem may swell, break open, wilt and collapse. Unfortunately, once root rot sets in, there aren't many fixes beyond trashing the plant to prevent an outbreak.

Mold can wipe out an entire cannabis crop if not addressed quickly, but there are ways to minimize, or even prevent, mold growth. Growers should regularly monitor the humidity levels of their grow rooms throughout the plant's life cycle. The humidity should start around 70% to 80% during the plant's seedling phase and decline as the plant reaches adulthood. Proper air circulation is also crucial to help each plant dry out properly after harvest. Airflow can be improved by defoliating, or removing, the large fan leaves off the cannabis plant after harvest. Although steps can be taken to prevent mold in the growing stages, sometimes it may slip through. If

See Mold, Page 15

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Element Premium 1g Concentrates (THCA)

\$60 or 2/\$100
Element Premium 3.5g Concentrates (Cured)

Other

3/\$30
Fluresh 10x20mg Gummies (200mg)

2/\$22
Northern Lights Chocolate Bars (Love, Classic, Daytime, Focus, Relax)

20% Off
All Tinctures

pureoptions.com

Warning: Use by pregnant or breastfeeding women, or by women planning to become pregnant, may result in fetal injury, pre-term birth, low birth weight, or developmental problems for the child.

FOR REGISTERED QUALIFYING PATIENTS ONLY OR FOR USE BY INDIVIDUALS 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER FOR ADULT USE. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. IT IS ILLEGAL TO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA. ACTUAL VALUE OF THC AND CBD MAY VARY FROM REPORTED VALUE BY 10%.

NATIONAL POISON CONTROL CENTER 1-800-222-1222

Créma-torium Café & Cinéclub brings art-house films to Lansing

By LIZY FERGUSON

As the creator and curator of Créma-torium Café & Cinéclub, Mason resident Jake Mervyn may have finally found his calling.

“I’m one of those ‘has had 20 jobs’ people,” he said. “I’ve dabbled in entrepreneurship several times before; cassette labels, wedding videos, furniture making and home renovations. Every silly millennial occupation that you can think of has certainly been filled by me at some point.”

His latest venture is a monthly event series that features curated films and specialty coffee and tea. The club hosted its third showing last week at The Robin Theatre in REO Town, screening the delightfully campy, absurdist teen drama “Nowhere” (1997).

“Japan-uary” screening: “Kamikaze Girls”

Jan. 25
7 p.m. “coffee and snack chill hour”
8 p.m. movie
The Robin Theatre
1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

For Mervyn, it is a long-held aspiration realized. “I grew up in movie theaters because both my parents managed them my entire childhood. Then I worked at one myself for five years, and I’m rooted in deep nostalgia for that,” he explained. “Since my mid-20s, I’ve dreamed of opening a small indie theater, but it wasn’t until I got into specialty coffee with my job at Strange Matter that I came up with the idea to mix movies and coffee.”

The passion Mervyn brings to this project is evident in every aspect. Each event has a theme (this month was

“queer sci-fi”), and Mervyn curates not just the month’s film, but the trailers shown beforehand, an accompanying essay on the club’s website and collage



Lizy Ferguson/City Pulse

Mason resident Jake Mervyn recently began hosting Créma-torium Café & Cinéclub at The Robin Theatre in REO Town, a monthly screening of art-house films with coffee, tea and snacks.



Courtesy of Jake Mervyn

Mervyn creates a collage advertisement for each Créma-torium event, like this one, used to promote the club’s screening of the queer, science-fiction film “Nowhere.”

art used to promote the event. This do-it-yourself ethos permeates the proceedings, with pay-what-you-can pricing, conscientious content warnings for the audience and the genuinely accepting and warm atmosphere you always find at The Robin.

This sense of inclusion and community was one of Mervyn’s main inspirations for Créma-torium.

“I was at a bit of a crossroads in my life, and I felt like I really had no place to go to and relate to people. The modern world is super lacking in its ‘third spaces,’ and I thought it would be great to have a place where people could come and chill, have coffee and watch a movie and discuss,” he said.

It is clear Créma-torium is the realization of something others want more of in their lives as well, as the last screening’s very healthy turnout suggests. The event was sponsored by Jake’s employer, Strange Matter Coffee, and complimentary scones, coffee and tea were available, along with a seriously excellent candy spread (Swedish Fish AND Reese’s Pieces). In the bizarre, time-warp week between Christmas and New Year’s, it was the perfect way to get out of the house.

Mervyn is thrilled to be doing what he loves and, with this goal accomplished, is setting his sights on the next.

“I would eventually love to see this project in its own space, as a late-night, non-alcoholic bar with comedy-club-styled seating and a few screens. I’m always on the hunt for some dirty space to renovate and make that happen,” he said. Créma-torium Café & Cinéclub’s “Japan-uary” event will be a screening of “Kamikaze Girls.” Follow on Instagram for more information or visit crema-torium-cineclub.square.site.

Mold

from page 14

caught early enough, you can save your crop by isolating the infected plant and removing the gross stuff. Just make sure to properly sterilize your tools afterward to avoid spreading mold spores.

If you are new to growing cannabis, it may help to seek out specific strains that are known to be more mold-resistant. Landrace strains like Durban Poison, Afghan Kush, and Strawberry Cough are indigenous to cer-

tain regions of the world with harsher climates. By adapting to those conditions, the weed becomes more hardy and resistant to mold. Neem oil, a natural pesticide used to kill a variety of insects and fungal diseases, can also be used during the growing stages to help prevent any surprises (or, should I say, spore-rises?). You can acquire neem oil at just about any plant store, but I recommend checking out some of Lansing’s locally owned grow stores like GrowGeneration.

Whether you grow it yourself or buy it in bulk, how you store

your weed is also important. Keep cannabis in a cool, dry place. This is where “stash jars,” airtight containers that assure your weed stays properly dry, come into play. You can also purchase disposable humidity packs for your jars if you want complete peace of mind. Boveda, a popular brand, can be found on Amazon, in grow stores and even in some dispensaries. If you purchase prepacked flower and come across a moldy bud, put it back in the container and contact the dispensary you purchased it from. Some will allow you to exchange it or offer a credit.



Mold can wipe out an entire cannabis crop if not treated quickly, but monitoring humidity levels in your grow room, ensuring proper air circulation and using natural pesticides like neem oil helps prevent spore growth.

Courtesy of Easy Waste Management

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"The Best of 2022"
-- another year, another look back.

by Matt Jones

© 2023 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Course average
- 4. "Riptide" singer ____ Joy
- 9. Approximately, in dates
- 14. Argentina's daily sports newspaper
- 15. Colgate competitor
- 16. Central Florida city
- 17. Guillermo Del Toro remake of 2022 that got a 97% on Rotten Tomatoes
- 19. Ancient Mesopotamian civilization
- 20. "CSI" sample
- 21. Reading material, for short
- 23. "The Serpent and the Rope" novelist Raja
- 24. Revelation from seven-year-old Tariq in a meme-worthy 2022 interview (and earworm song)
- 30. Jodie Foster title role
- 31. "Go Green!" newsletter org.
- 32. Bob Marley album with "Three Little Birds"
- 33. Game that uses chalk
- 36. Sugar amt.
- 37. Jeremy Allen White show that's very Chicago-centric (and topped many 2022 Best of TV lists)
- 39. Rink fakeout
- 42. Contemptuous, in a way
- 47. "The Barber of Seville" barber
- 49. Prickly plant part that sticks to clothing
- 50. Pasta that looks like rice
- 51. Jennette McCurdy memoir that was a 2022 #1 New York Times Bestseller
- 54. Play scenery

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15					16				
17			18					19				
	20					21	22		23			
24	25			26	27	28			29			
30			31				32					
33			34				35	36				
			37				38					
	39	40	41		42				43	44	45	46
47				48		49			50			
51						52			53			
54			55					56				
57			58			59	60	61	62		63	64
65						66				67		
68						69				70		

- 55. Golfer's support
 - 56. Charged particle
 - 57. Breed popularized by Queen Elizabeth II
 - 59. Game of the Year winner at The Game Awards 2022
 - 65. 1836 Texas battle site
 - 66. Armless sculpture, e.g.
 - 67. Keg opening
 - 68. Macbeth's invitation to Macduff
 - 69. Use some language
 - 70. "That's right"
- DOWN
- 1. Work on some bubble wrap?
 - 2. "Always Be My Maybe" actress Wong
 - 3. Mystery novelist Ruth
 - 4. Outspoken
 - 5. Story path
 - 6. "Don't believe so"
 - 7. 151 in Rome
 - 8. "Christ Stopped at ____" (Carlo Levi book)
 - 9. Add to the price, like
- additional features
 - 10. "ER" venue
 - 11. Musketeers' accessories
 - 12. Become less cloudy
 - 13. Spelling and Sorkin
 - 18. Crawling ____ fours
 - 22. Barinholtz involved in the upcoming series "History of the World, Part II"
 - 24. Bach's "Mass ____ 53-Down"
 - 25. Big name in outdoor equipment
 - 26. "People Puzzler" host Remini
 - 27. Belgian battle site of WWI
 - 28. Social media personality whose recent charity single broke the Beatles' record for most consecutive U.K. Christmas #1s
 - 29. Item seen in the 24-Across video
 - 34. Repeated step
 - 35. Vaccine fluid
 - 38. Prefix meaning "height"
 - 39. Jazz guitarist Al with the 1991 album "Kiss My Axe"
 - 40. Refrigerator feature with rounded, recessed holders
 - 41. Actor Penn of "American Horror Story: NYC"
 - 43. "Thomas the Tank Engine" island
 - 44. Ireland's most prestigious university
 - 45. Suffix for Vulcan or Mesmer
 - 46. Chip shop fish
 - 47. Kind of year or policy
 - 48. Lionizing poem
 - 52. Bumps into
 - 53. Bach's "Mass 24-Down ____"
 - 58. Food-labeling concern
 - 60. Box fan setting
 - 61. Dr. with several Grammys
 - 62. Conductor ____ Pekka Salonen
 - 63. Edinburgh denial
 - 64. Navigational tool, for short

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Answers on page 20

SUDOKU

Beginner

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

Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsny

January 4-10, 2023

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Nigerian author Wole Soyinka reworked the ancient Greek play "The Bacchae." In one passage, the god Dionysus criticizes King Pentheus, who is supposedly all-powerful. "You are a man of chains," Dionysus tells him. "You love chains. You breathe chains, talk chains, eat chains, dream chains, think chains. Your world is bound in manacles." The bad news, Aries, is that many of us have some resemblances to Pentheus. The good news is that the coming months will be a favorable time to shed at least some of your chains. Have fun liberating yourself! Try to help a few others wriggle free from their chains, too. Doing so will aid your own emancipation.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The coming weeks will be a great time to fill your journal with more intense ruminations than you have for many moons. If you don't have a journal, think about starting one. Reveal yourself to yourself, Taurus! Make conscious that which has been vague, unnamed or hiding. Here are assignments to help launch your flood of intimate self-talk. 1. Write passionately about an experience you've always wanted to try but have never done. 2. Conduct imaginary interviews with people who rouse strong feelings in you. 3. Describe what deity, superhero or animal you are and how your special intelligence works. 4. Visualize a dream in which you appear as a bolder, more confident version of yourself. 5. Talk about a time you felt rousingly alive and how you plan to feel that way again.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A stranger approached me at Wild Birds Unlimited, a store that sells bird food and accessories. "You write the horoscopes, right?" she asked. "I'm a Gemini, and I want to thank you for helping me tone down my relentless fidgeting. You made me realize I have been secretly proud of tapping my fingers on the table while talking with people and constantly darting my eyes around the room to check out the ever-changing views. I'd unconsciously believed that stuff was a sign of my incredible vitality. But you've been a steadying influence. You've shown me ways to settle down and focus my energy better. I can see how restlessness sometimes saps my energy." I told the woman, "You're welcome!" and let her know that 2023 will be a favorable time to do much more of this good work. Homework: Meditate on channeling your incredible vitality into being grounded and centered.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): According to Cancerian author Ronald Sukenick, the writer's work is "to destroy restrictive viewpoints, notice the unnoticed, speak the unspeakable, shake stale habits, ward off evil, give vent to sorrow, pulverize doctrine, attack and uphold tradition as needed and make life worth living." I believe 2023 will be an excellent time for you to carry out those actions, even if you're not a writer. You will have abundant power to bless and heal through creative rebellion and disruption. You will thrive as you seek out interesting novelty.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Psychotherapist Ryan Howes has wisdom you'll benefit from heeding in the coming weeks. "We need to accept our age," he writes. "We need to accept illnesses and addictions. We need to accept the past. We need to accept others as they are." He goes on to say that this doesn't mean we must like all these situations. And we can certainly try to make the best of them. But when we don't struggle in vain to change what's beyond our control to change, we have more energy for things that we can actually affect.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Here's testimony from musician Pharell Williams: "If someone asks me what inspires me, I always say, 'That which is missing.'" Yes! This is an apt message for you, Virgo. The best way for you to generate motivation and excitement in the coming weeks will be to explore what is lacking, what is invisible, what's lost or incomplete. Check in with your deep intuition right now. Do you feel a stirring in

your gut? It may tell you where to find important and intriguing things that are missing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Every animal knows far more than you do," declares a proverb of the Nimlipuu people, also known as the Nez Perce. Author Russell Banks provides further testimony to convince us we should be humble about our powers of awareness. "There is a wonderful intelligence to the unconscious," he says. "It's always smarter than we are." These are good pointers for you to heed in the coming weeks, Libra. You will have a special power to enhance your understanding of the world by calling on the savvy of animals and your unconscious mind. They will be especially rich sources of wisdom. Seek out their educational input!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Psychologist Carl Jung said that the whole point of Jesus Christ's story was not that he should become exactly like him. Rather, we should aspire to be our best and highest selves in the same way that he fulfilled his unique mission. So, Jesus was not the great exception, but rather the great example. I bring these meditations to your attention, Scorpio, because I believe life in 2023 will conspire to make you, more than ever before, the hero of your own destiny. You will be inspired to honor only your own standards of success and reject all others'. You will clearly see that you are progressing at your own natural and righteous pace, which is why it makes no sense to compare your evolution to anyone else's.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A reader named Mary Roseberry describes her experience of being a Sagittarius: "I hate to be bored. I hate imperfections. I hate to wait. I hate sadness. I hate conflict. I hate to be wrong. I hate tension." Wow! I admire Mary's succinct understanding of what she doesn't want to be and what she doesn't like to do. I invite you to compose a similar testimony. You would benefit from getting clear about the experiences you intend to avoid in 2023. Once you have done that, write a list of the interesting feelings and situations you will seek out with intense devotion during the coming months.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): When he was 74 years old, Capricorn author Norman Maclean published his first novel, "A River Runs Through It." It became a best-seller. Capricorn film director Takeshi Kitano directed his first film at age 42. Now 75, he has since won many awards for his work in his native Japan. Capricorn activist Melchora Aquino, who was a leader in the Philippines' fight for independence from Spain, launched her career as a revolutionary when she was in her eighties. She's known as the "Mother of the Revolution." I hope these heroes inspire you, dear Capricorn. I believe that 2023 is the year you will get an upgrade in any area of your life where you have seemed to be a late bloomer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): According to my analysis of the astrological omens, you will soon be called upon to summon grace under pressure; to express magnanimity while being challenged; to prove that your devotion to your high standards is more important than the transitory agendas of your ego. The good news is that you are primed and ready to succeed at these exact assignments. I have confidence in your power to activate the necessary courage and integrity with maximum poise and composure.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "By dying daily, I have come to be," wrote poet Theodore Roethke. He didn't mean he suffered literal deaths. He was referring to the discipline of letting go of the past; shedding worn-out habits; leaving behind theories and attitudes that once served him well but no longer did; killing off parts of himself that were interfering with the arrival of the fresh future. I recommend his strategy to you, Pisces. To the degree that you agree to die daily, you will earn the right to be reborn big-time in a few weeks.

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, Jan. 4

50 over Fitness - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion (Old Farmers Market) 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600. meridian50plus.com.

"A Course of Love" with Lucille Olson - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Crack the Code - \$75. 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

LBCA Meeting - 7:30 a.m. Pine Hills Golf Course, 6603 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg.

Learn to Play Mountain Dulcimer - Learn to play melodies on a dulcimer. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr Blvd., Lansing. lamc.info.

Snowy Movie Marathon at Charlotte Community Library - Come warm up with some popcorn and hot chocolate! 5:30 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Weavers FIVE-YEAR Birthday Party - Music, food and drink. Feel free to bring something to contribute, but mostly bring yourselves! 6 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center St. #7A, Lansing. 517-974-5540. Manifestlansing.com.

William Hays Color Linocuts - View four dozen multi-color linoleum block prints. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saper Galleries and Custom Framing, 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0815. sapergalleries.com.

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Thursday, Jan. 5

"A Course in Miracles," a Group Discussion on ZOOM - 7 p.m. Meeting ID: 177 417 886 Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Capital Area Audubon Society January 2023 Meeting - Learn about bird monitoring in New York City from long-term birder Susan Elbin. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing.

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:20 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiessilverblades.org.

Potato Chip Science - \$75. 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

William Hays Color Linocuts - View four dozen multi-color linoleum block prints. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saper Galleries and Custom Framing, 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0815. sapergalleries.com.

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Friday, Jan. 6

50 over Fitness - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion (Old Farmers Market) 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600. meridian50plus.com.

Craft Club Jr - This month we will be making salt paintings! Grades 1-3. 4:15 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Dogs After Dark - You and your dog can enjoy a guided walk through the nighttime woods! Approximately three miles long. Dogs need 6-foot, non-retractable leash. 7 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866.

FinalBossFight! - 8 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

Quilt-A-Thon - Area volunteers will finish quilts from materials donated by local quilters and charities. No experience needed. 10:15 a.m.-4 p.m. Country Stitches, 2200 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2416

Water, Water, Everywhere! - \$75. 9 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

William Hays Color Linocuts - View four dozen multi-color linoleum block prints. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saper Galleries and Custom Framing, 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0815. sapergalleries.com.

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Saturday, Jan. 7

Contra and Square Dance - All dances taught - no partner needed. Come at 6:30 for a quick workshop on easy contra dance moves. Vax card and mask req. 7 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-614-5858.

Family Day: DREAM - This month, we're creating dream worlds where anything can happen! All ages welcome. 11 a.m. MSU Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Quilt-A-Thon - Area volunteers will finish quilts from materials donated by local quilters and charities. No experience needed. 10:15 a.m.-4 p.m. Country Stitches, 2200 Coolidge Road, East Lansing. 517-351-2416.

William Hays Color Linocuts - View four dozen multi-color linoleum block prints. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saper Galleries and Custom Framing, 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0815. sapergalleries.com.

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Sunday, Jan. 8

Drum Circle with Greater Lansing Area Drummers (GLAD) - 1 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

Quilt-A-Thon

Friday, Jan. 6 and Saturday, Jan. 7

10:15 a.m.-4 p.m.

Country Stitches

2200 Coolidge Road #7, East Lansing

You don't need to be an expert quilter to participate in Country Stitches' charity Quilt-A-Thon this weekend. Volunteers will tie and finish quilts that will be donated to End Violent Encounters, Loaves & Fishes Ministries, Ronald McDonald House and Gateway Community Services.

"The Quilt-A-Thon is a great way to keep the holiday spirit alive year-round," said Country Stitches owner Ann Fuller. "We are very proud of our volunteers who work very hard to help people in need."

Interested parties can call Country Stitches' East Lansing location at 517-351-2416 to sign up. Donations of 100% cotton fabric and polyester batting are welcome, but the store will also provide materials.



Helium: from an extremely weakly bound molecule to superfluidity - Recent experimental and theoretical work on the helium dimer, helium trimer and helium droplets. 1 p.m. MSU Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, 640 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-355-9671. Frib.msu.edu.

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

mikemarhanka@gmail.com.

Rescue Your Inner Child, Art Discussion with Curtis Pratt - 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

See Events, Page 19



Bridal Show January 8, 2023

Noon - 4p.m.
Eagle Eye Banquet Center
15550 Chandler Rd, East Lansing

present this coupon to receive: **\$1.00 off** One Regular Admission

Pre-register for door prizes at
www.LansingBridalShow.com

Live & Local **CityPULSE**

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Ferns are Forever Variety Show

Fri., Jan. 6, 7 p.m.

Punks With Lunch benefit show –

Dear Heretic, Pancho Villa's Skull, Former Critics, She/Her/Hers

Sat., Jan. 7, 9 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids

Jamison Livingston

Fri., Jan. 6, 7 p.m.

Deacon Earl

Sat., Jan. 7, 7 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

FinalBossFight!, Tournament, Clipboards, Corduroy Pants

Fri., Jan. 6, 8 p.m.

One North Kitchen & Bar

5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing

Darin Larner Jr.

Fri., Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m.

Keith Minaya

Sat., Jan. 7, 6:30 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing

Tony Thompson

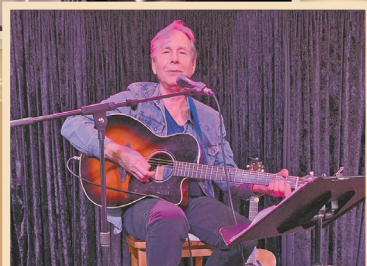
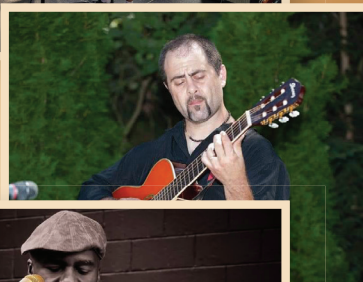
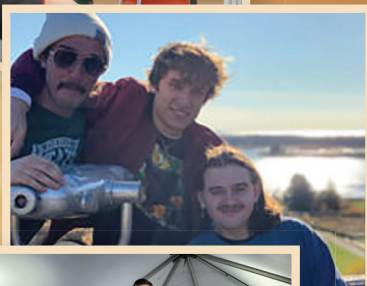
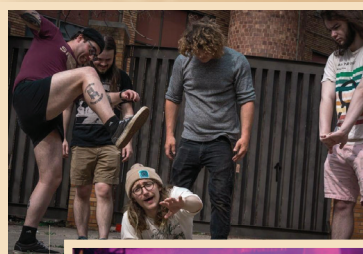
Fri., Jan. 6, 8 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner Road, Lansing

Dave Mingus

Thurs., Jan. 5, 5 p.m.



TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

PUNKS WITH LUNCH SERVES UP HOPE



Courtesy photo

Punks With Lunch Lansing, co-founded by Julia Miller and Martin Mashon, is a not-for-profit outreach organization providing food, personal care, seasonal attire and harm reduction in Lansing.



Courtesy of Hailey Lamb

She/Her/Hers is one of the bands performing at the Punks With Lunch benefit.

Benefit show features She/Her/Hers and more

The holidays might be officially over, but a benefit show for Punks With Lunch Lansing, a nonprofit guerrilla organization providing food and other necessities to locals in need, aims to keep that giving vibe going Saturday at The Avenue Café.

The event will not only raise money and donations of canned food and winter clothing; it will also feature live musical performances from Dear Heretic, Pancho Villa's Skull, Former Critics and She/Her/Hers. Beyond that, raffle tickets are available for \$5 each, with chances to win prizes donated by local artists and businesses.

For those wanting to donate, Punks With Lunch asks for pantry items, canned foods and snacks. Clothing, like winter hats, gloves, hand warmers and coats, is also recommended.

"Our goal is similar to previous fundraisers," said co-founder Julia Miller. "With it being wintertime, our supply, outreach and service needs increase. We distribute a lot of winter wear, gloves, hats and hand warmers. We have more people stopping in to warm up at the harm reduction office at The Fledge. We like to have extra warm gear on hand and sandwiches or other ready-to-eat food for people who stop by."

Aside from raising funds to pay for things like bread, peanut butter and jelly and essential clothing items, Punks With Lunch has other missions.

"We also are always promoting harm reduction," Miller said, "like getting Narcan out to the community, training people on how to use it."

Since it was co-founded in 2017 by Miller and Martin Mashon, Punks With

Lunch has steadily grown into a team of four part-time employees, thanks to a grant. The team now oversees programs like needle exchanges, donation drives, pop-ups and other events. Alongside the main employees, around 15 regular volunteers and a handful of other occasional volunteers help the cause.

"We've evolved in so many ways," Miller said. "We started as just a few people with some sandwiches and a few pairs of gloves I got at the dollar store. I'd do stuff on the weekend. Now, we are doing our weekend distros and have a harm reduction and needle exchange distro site inside The Fledge. That operates five days a week. People can pick up supplies — like harm reduction and hygiene supplies, menstrual products, snacks, sandwiches, socks and more."

The Punks With Lunch team also works with local recovery groups to assist people who use drugs to "explore recovery options" like looking into treatment and considering other potentially life-changing opportunities.

"We partner with LAAN (Lansing Area AIDS Network) to offer days to get free HIV testing," Miller said. "We work to advocate for the unhoused to help find housing options, advocate for warming stations. We get donations from Panera and Groovy Donuts and have the TARDIS Public Food Pantry that helps provide food to people daily."

"We've been able to expand our outreach efforts to other communities and help other people and programs in other counties and even states," Miller added. "We've partnered with numerous harm reduction agencies to grow, to end stigma against people who use drugs or are unhoused. We're pretty much doing something seven days a week."

Benefit show for Punks With Lunch

Saturday, Jan. 7
The Avenue Café
2021 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing
punkswithlunchlansing.org

Events

from page 17

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Monday, Jan. 9

50 over Fitness - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion (Old Farmers Market) 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600. meridian50plus.com.

Fiber Circle at Charlotte Community Library - Social gathering for knitters, crocheters and stitchers of all ages and skill levels. 6 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

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

Intro to Yoga with Suzanne - Bring a yoga mat and water. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

William Hays Color Linocuts - View four dozen multi-color linoleum block prints. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saper Galleries and Custom Framing, 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0815. sapergalleries.com.

Tuesday, Jan. 10

Foster Parent / Adoption Information Session - 9 a.m. Virtual — register at Bethany.org. For more information, contact rhennigh@bethany.org.

Michigan Agri-Business Association Winter Convention - 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-336-0223.

Minecraft Mania! - We'll have our Minecraft server set up and the laptops ready to go. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

On the Same Page Book Club - Grades 7-12. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Preschool Family Storytime - Stories and literacy-enhancing activities for ages 1-6. 11 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Sunny Wilkinson - Jazz Singer - Ron Newman on Piano, Ed Fedewa on Bass and Jeff Shoup on Drums. 7 p.m. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-485-5287. moriarty'spublansing.com.

William Hays Color Linocuts - View four dozen multi-color linoleum block prints. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saper Galleries and Custom Framing, 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0815. sapergalleries.com.

Wednesday, Jan. 11

50 over Fitness - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion (Old Farmers Market) 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600. meridian50plus.com.

"A Course of Love" with Lucille Olson - 7 p.m. Zoom ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

See Events, Page 20

Battle of the Books 2023 — Registration

Jan. 3-23

Delta Township District Library
5130 Davenport Drive, Lansing
Grand Ledge Area District Library
131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge

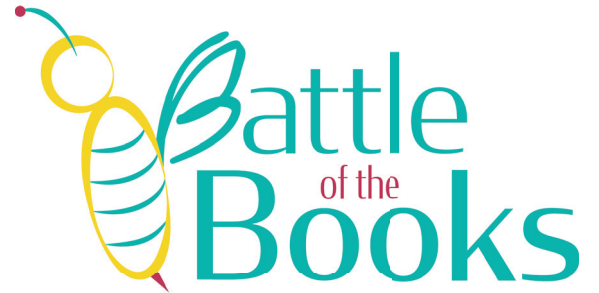
Registration is open for the 2023 Battle of the Books at Delta Township and Grand Ledge Area district libraries. Groups of three to five will read the five selected novels, then compete in a series of written trivia battles in late February and early March to determine which team has the best knowledge of the books.

Adults, teens and kids (fourth grade and up) are welcome to participate, though the township library says predominantly child-based teams should have at least one adult acting as a group leader. Families are encouraged to participate together.

This year's books are "Amari and the Night Brothers," by B.B. Alston; "The Lion of Mars," by Jennifer L. Holm; "Merci Suárez Changes Gears," by Meg Medina; "We Dream of Space," by Erin Entrada Kelly and "Wilderlore: The Accidental Apprentice," by Amanda Foody.

Additional events include team spirit nights on Feb. 1 and 15 and a virtual visit with one of the book's authors on Feb. 7.

All participants will receive a prize, with the winning teams earning Barnes & Noble gift cards. Space is limited, so make sure to visit either the township library Youth Services desk or Grand Ledge circulation desk as soon as possible to register and pick up a kickoff kit, which includes copies of the books, activity guides and more.



Delta Township District Library
Grand Ledge Area District Library

What a fast-moving adventure 2022 was. We at The Plant Professionals have been blessed with lots of work, challenging creative projects, and opportunities for growth. Floral design and plant rental for weddings and corporate events have been bustling. Holiday decorating is back to pre-pandemic levels.

Interior landscaping, outdoor color planting and landscape design and build all grew this year. Moss Walls and Green Walls are in demand. We are grateful.

THANK YOU! Our heartfelt appreciation to all the people who made the decision to hire, challenge and entrust us with your projects and service needs. Since 1979, we have been learning, growing, and thriving in Greater Lansing. Our growth is possible because the business, governmental, institutional and residential communities have grown and supported our services as well. Nothing we do is possible without our wonderful team! There are 30 committed people who research, propose, edit, order plants and materials, design and create, install plants, provide care services, lead and train, support and evaluate. Our process has been honed over time and continues to evolve. Each new offering comes into being because a team member or client makes a request or shares an idea. Let us know how we can serve you.

Thank You For Allowing Us To Grow With You

The Plant Professionals Inc
(517) 327-1059
16886 Turner Street
www.theplantprofessionals.com

FLORIST

FinalBossFight!

Friday, Jan. 6
8 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

On Friday evening, Flint emo/pop-punk band FinalBossFight! will headline a high-energy show at the newly renovated Mac's Bar alongside Lansing's Tournament and Corduroy Pants and East Lansing's Clipboards. If you enjoy twinkly guitar riffs and screamy-but-passionate vocals, this concert is a must-see.

"While we're technically a Flint band, we've made so many fantastic friendships and connections within the do-it-yourself emo scene over the last year," the band said. "We've heard a lot about Mac's Bar and how it was a staple in the Lansing music community. We're very excited to play there for the first time and we're excited to be accompanied by so many talented local musicians and friends."

"Moshing is mandatory," Clipboards said on Twitter, so come prepared to dance and get up close and personal with fellow attendees.

Tickets are available at the door for \$5.



Events

from page 19

Career Night Open House - Learn more about the exciting industry of real estate and the unique opportunity through EXIT to generate residual income that lasts! EXIT Realty at Home, 1427 W. Saginaw St #110, East Lansing. 5:30 p.m. 517-489-2550.

MAC - Group Dance Class - Beginning West Coast Swing - Wear smooth-soled shoes and casual clothing. 7-week class. Registration req. 7 p.m. 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888.

Meditation in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition - All are welcome to join our weekly practice! 7-9 p.m. Van Hanh Temple, 3015 S. MLK Jr Blvd., Lansing. lamc.info.

Michigan Agri-Business Association Winter Convention - 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-336-0223.

Plant Based Eating 101 - Presentation on the health benefits of plant-based eating by Dr. Daniel Dubay and Dr. Kristin Regan. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. glad.org.

William Hays Color Linocuts - View four dozen multi-color linoleum block prints. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saper Galleries and Custom Framing, 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0815. sapergalleries.com.

Working Hands | Jessica Considine, Angela Larson, & Kelly O'Neill - 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square #100, Lansing. (517) 574-4521. Lansingartgallery.org.

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Thursday, Jan. 12

"A Course in Miracles," a Group Discussion on ZOOM - 7 p.m. Meeting ID: 177 417 886 Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

BUDDHAHAND - 8 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

Ladies Silver Blades Skating Club - Join other adult women for fun, exercise, friendship and skating practice. 9:30-11:20 a.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. ladiesilverblades.org.

William Hays Color Linocuts - View four dozen multi-color linoleum block prints. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saper Galleries and Custom Framing, 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0815.

sapergalleries.com.

Working Hands | Jessica Considine, Angela Larson, & Kelly O'Neill - 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square #100, Lansing. (517) 574-4521. Lansingartgallery.org.

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Friday, Jan. 13

50 over Fitness - The Meridian 50 Plus Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Township Central Park Pavilion (Old Farmers Market) 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. 517-853-4600. meridian50plus.com.

Darin Larner Jr. - 9:30 p.m. The Exchange, 314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-319-4500. lansingexchange.com.

Freaky Fridays - Full bar & open kitchen. Sounds by DJ Freaky Freckz. 10 p.m. Tatse Restaurant and Alobosa Bar, 221 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 260-246-7692. tatserestaurants.com.

Michigan State Spartans vs. Penn State Nittany Lions Men's Hockey - Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing.

Nakamatsu Plays Brahms - 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

PROHIBITION ENDS!!! A Roaring Steak Night Celebration - 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner Road, Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Sewers Salute Quilts of Valor Meeting - Patriotic quilts for service members/veterans touched by war. Bring your project, sewing machine and supplies. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Towar Hart Baptist Church, 6157 Towar Ave., East Lansing. 517-337-0727.

TGIF Dinner & Dance - 7 p.m.- midnight. Hawk Hollow Banquet Center, 15101 Chandler Road, Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com/calendar.

Tina Gorter, piano DMA - 6 p.m. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. music.msu.edu.

William Hays Color Linocuts - View four dozen multi-color linoleum block prints. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saper Galleries and Custom Framing, 433 Albert Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0815. sapergalleries.com.

Working Hands | Jessica Considine, Angela Larson, & Kelly O'Neill - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square #100, Lansing. (517) 574-4521. Lansingartgallery.org.

Zaha Hadid Design: Untold - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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From Pg. 16

P	A	R	V	A	N	C	E	C	I	R	C	A
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 16

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7	1	9	4	5	8	6	2	3

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Find sandwich satisfaction at hidden gem José's

By LIZY FERGUSON

There were a few days after Christmas where I mostly wanted green, fibrous foods to cleanse my overwrought digestive system of the holiday's rich, deeply enjoyed meals. After just one shift back at work, though, I found myself ready to eat bread and cheese again. I also wanted something cheap and quick with at least a few vegetables or legumes to provide some still-necessary balance. Enter an old standby of mine, the Cuban-style sandwich combo from the gas station sandwich savants at José's Cuban Sandwich & Deli.

In my experience, food operations that run out of other businesses are always good, and this opinion was formed, in no small part, by all of my experiences with José's over the years. The establishment offers entrée items, salads, burritos and wraps, but the sandwiches are where it's at. Moreover, its sandwich combo is one of the best meal deals in town. There are 14 to choose from (including the classic medianoche with roasted pork, ham and pickles) and your choice of sides, which range from rice and Cuban black beans to chips and cookies, all for \$10.95. The combo also comes with a delicious, skinny, atomic-green pickle

that you'll find hidden beneath the deli paper, swaddling your sandwich.

I have always oscillated between the Aurora (grilled turkey, jalapenos, bacon, guac) and the El Carribean (grilled chicken, Swiss, guac). Both are delicious, but something within me, probably still withdrawing from my holiday cheese high, opted this time for my outlier: the artichoke chicken. I haven't had this one in ages, and after tasting it again, I can only conclude that its omission from the regular rotation must have been based in some since-demoted-in-prior-

ity ideas about caloric content. Wow, what a sandwich!

The bread is the star of the show. Somewhere between a sub bun and a baguette, it is loaded with ingredients and pressed, panini-style, on a grill, where it transforms into a perfectly toasty, crispy and crunchy canvas for the contents within. And what contents! There is grilled chicken, pickled jalapeños, grilled onions and melted cheddar cheese, which alone would make a delicious

sandwich on bread such as this. But these are not the reason one orders this sandwich. The aforementioned base elements are covered in a luxurious ar-



Lizy Ferguson/City Pulse

Try one of 14 Cuban-style sandwiches with the combo deal at José's Cuban Sandwich & Deli. The artichoke chicken sandwich, pictured above, includes grilled chicken, pickled jalapenos, grilled onions and melted cheddar cheese with a six-cheese spinach-artichoke dip.

tichoke-spinach dip composed of Jarlsberg, Swiss, Asiago, mozzarella, Parmesan and cream cheese (and artichoke and spinach), the richness of which is balanced out by the spicy, acidic jalapenos and the caramelized onions. Yes, I did just name six types of cheese in the last paragraph. Sure, you could maybe lose one or two. But why would you

want to risk dimming the dimensions of this masterpiece?

The black beans are subtly smoky and perfect for sandwich dipping, and the salad, though it is made with iceberg lettuce, is fresh and tasty. As mentioned before, you can also get the more classic pairing of rice with your beans, but especially with this sandwich, it's in the spirit of the season to throw your stomach something green and leafy.



Artichoke chicken sandwich combo \$10.95

José's Cuban Sandwich & Deli
401 S. Pennsylvania Ave.,
Lansing
517-374-6832
joscubansandwich.com

Appetizers

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Make plov, not war

By **ARI LEVAUX**

Plov is a hearty and meaty rice-based meal from Central Asia. The dish is widely considered the progenitor of rice pilaf and a cousin to paella. Native to present-day Uzbekistan, plov has spread throughout the former Soviet republic, where it varies by region. Some renditions include chickpeas. Azerbaijani plov contains dried fruit. Ukrainian plov is often made with chicken. But every version includes carrots, onions, garlic and some kind of meat. It's traditionally prepared in a large, shallow pan called a kazan. A heavy wok, large frying pan or Dutch oven is probably the closest approximation that most of us have in the kitchen.

Legend has it that Alexander the Great commissioned the world's first batch of plov as a way to feed his soldiers once in the morning, keeping them nourished and strong all day. Like many myths, it contains elements of truth. The dish does fill you up and keep you satisfied, and it can be made in batches large enough to feed an army. But I believe it has potential for peacemaking instead.

I first learned how to make plov at a dinner party hosted by a group of Uzbek businessmen who were visiting my hometown. They drank tea and murmured peacefully in the kitchen as they slowly prepared their dish, filling the house with the aroma of cumin, coriander, bay leaves, garlic and meat. It was a beautiful scene, but it was sullied by the sexism attached to the dish. The plov makers made it clear that



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Plov, a hearty, rice-based dish from Central Asia, is full of fragrant spices, flavorful aromatics and tender, fatty meat.

its preparation is man's work. I asked why women can't make it.

"If a woman wants to eat plov," one of them explained patiently, "she must order her husband or her brother to make it. That way, she can eat with pleasure. If you want to eat something that is prepared perfectly, you must have the master prepare it. Man is the master of plov."

The party was full of nationals from many former Soviet countries with names ending in -stan, like Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan. These folks had strong opinions on the dish. One guest from Tajikistan told me she thought women wouldn't add enough meat if they were in charge of the plov.



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If we are going to mess around with gender stereotypes, it's worth pointing out that most wars are planned and orchestrated by men. Given that reality, getting the menfolk to drink tea and make plov, rather than war, might not be the worst idea. If only Russian and Ukrainian diplomats could hang out together around a simmering kazan, talking quietly as the rice, meat and spices work their way toward a balance, maybe they could find a way toward a peaceful end to their conflict. If men can make plov together, they can make peace together.

Serves 6

1 to 2 pounds of lamb, as fatty as possible, diced

3 tablespoons olive oil (unless the lamb is really, really fatty)

2 cups long-grain rice, preferably jasmine or basmati

1 tablespoon crushed or powdered cumin

1 tablespoon crushed or powdered coriander

2 teaspoons black pepper

2 teaspoons salt; more to taste

3 large carrots, cut into chunks

1 large onion, halved and sliced

2 heads garlic, left whole with the tops sliced off

4 bay leaves

1 cup red wine

Brown the lamb in the olive oil in a wok, Dutch oven or large frying pan. While the meat browns, wash the rice in a bowl by filling it with water, stirring and dumping the water. Rinse

Plov

This recipe makes a basic plov. Consider it a point of departure for the creation of your own personal version. Feel free to im-plov-ise.

Lamb and mutton are the traditional meats of choice, because their strong flavors can stand up to the cumin, coriander and other spices. For this reason, I often use deer meat, which is similarly flavorful. Beef and chicken can make decent plovs, but the flavors of these renditions are less bold.

and repeat until the water runs clear.

When the meat has browned, mix in the cumin, coriander, black pepper and salt. Add the carrots, onions, garlic heads, bay leaves and wine and stir it together. Sauté slowly, stirring occasionally, until the onions are translucent and the carrots are soft. Add the rice and mix it all together. Add about two cups of water, until there is about a half-inch or so covering the rice.

Cover the plov and simmer over medium heat until the rice is soft. Be ready to add more water if the pan dries out before the rice is fully cooked.

Let the dish rest for about 30 minutes with the lid on before serving. This lets the flavors settle and come to balance with one another and allows for the moisture to distribute itself evenly. As you serve it, break apart the garlic heads and distribute the soft cloves so every serving includes a couple.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2022 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

TOP 5 BAGELS

1. Flour Child Bakery

Family-owned, made-from-scratch bakery
323 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
517-622-4772
flourchildbakeryandcafe.com
6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday
6 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

2. Big Apple Bagels

Fresh, made-from-scratch bagels, sandwiches and cream cheese
248 E. Saginaw St., East Lansing

517-324-4400

bigapplebagels.com

6 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday

7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday-Sunday

3. GoodFellas Bagel Deli (Lansing)

Mob-themed bagel joint with affordable food and fast service

625 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

517-580-8611

goodfellasbageldeli.com

7 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday

7 a.m.-3 p.m. & 10 p.m.-3 a.m.

Thursday-Saturday

4. Bruegger's Bagels

Bagel chain with tasty sandwiches
505 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
517-332-9940
brueggers.com

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

5. Social Sloth | Café & Bakery

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301 S. Washington Square #100, Lansing

517-253-0240

socialslotchcafe.com

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday

9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday

Closed Sunday



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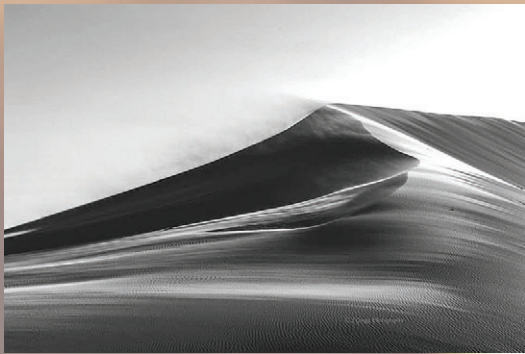
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