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See Page 11

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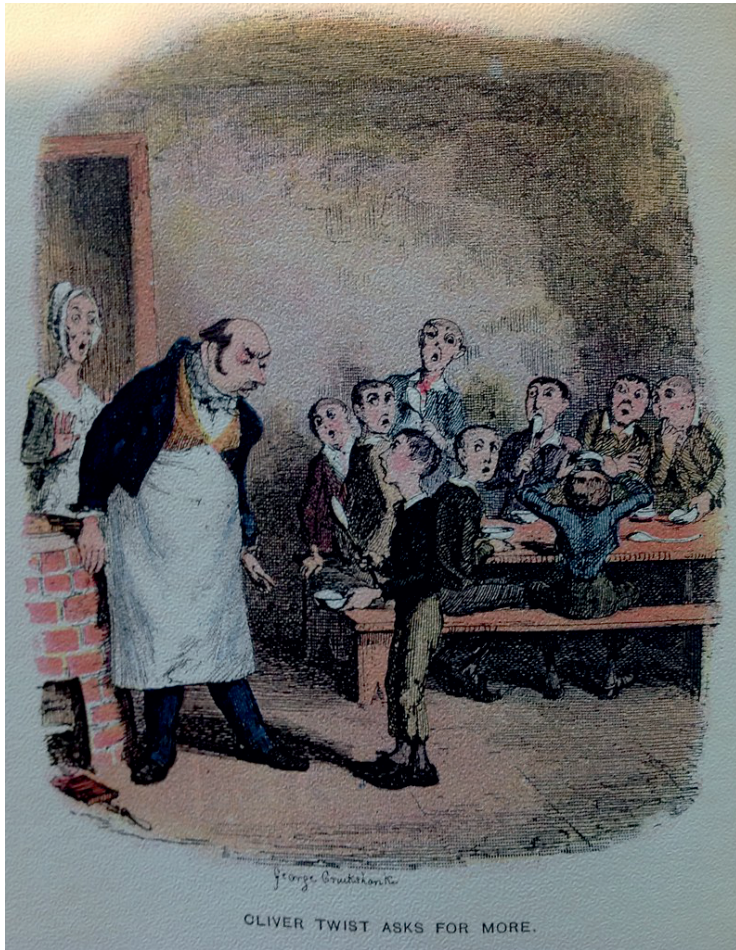
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PULSE NEWS & OPINION

Lansing State Journal's desperate race to a digital future

BY BOB SILLICK

Consistency is typically considered a positive attribute for individuals and companies to achieve their goals. The Lansing State Journal, however, is experiencing an unwelcomed type of consistency: continued loss of daily and Sunday circulation and likely advertising revenue.

The paper's circulation started declining in 2005 and hasn't stopped. As of September 2022, the average Monday-Saturday circulation was 8,994, including both print (6,631) and the digital replica edition (2,363), according to the Alliance for Audited Media, an independent nonprofit organization upon which many newspapers and other media have relied for decades for accurate reporting of circulation. A spokesperson said those numbers have not yet been audited.

That's an 18.2% decrease from September 2021. Subscribers can only read the replica edition on Saturdays after the LSJ eliminated its print edition last year.

Sunday circulation declined 16.1% from a year ago to a total of 14,675 (print 12,646 and digital replica 2,029).

Two decades ago, the daily and Saturday papers circulated close to 80,000 copies and nearly 100,000 of the Sunday edition.

"Whatever the reason for the downsizing of the Lansing State Journal, it leaves me sad because I remember our robust coverage of Lansing City Hall as well as East Lansing City Hall. We reported important stories from the township suburbs," said Mark Nixon, former editorial page editor at the Journal from 1993 to 2006.

"We were a presence in the wider community, but that presence is disappearing. I fear for the Lansing community and people's ability to obtain important news. Many signs point to an increasing decline. I'm afraid the Journal will disappear."

The circulation numbers tell the basic story, but the causes are varied and complicated. The most obvious source of the Lansing State Journal and other

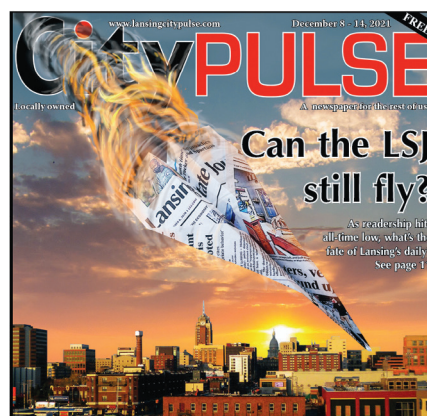
newspapers' circulation problem is they are owned by Gannett, the largest newspaper publisher in the United States. It has experienced financial and operational difficulties since its acquisition by GateHouse Media in August 2019. Those difficulties have also been negatively consistent since then. The company reported a total loss of \$54 million during its fiscal second quarter of 2022 against \$749 million in total revenues. Print circulation and advertising and digital advertising didn't generate expected revenues and labor costs and operational expenses increased significantly, including a 31% increase in the cost of newsprint within a year.

Gannett's strategy, which applies to all its newspaper properties, including the Lansing State Journal, is to accelerate a transition from printed and delivered newspapers to digital news platforms. This is certainly the strategy of almost all newspaper companies of all sizes; however, few of them carry a comparative amount of Gannett's reported \$1.3 billion in debt (as of fall 2022).

Pursuing that strategy while servicing such a large debt load is an especially challenging situation for Gannett. It has all the hallmarks of a classic Catch-22 situation. As newspaper subscriptions and ad revenues decrease, it's more difficult to service the debt — and Gannett is trying to transition from a print to a digital model, which requires large investments.

"Cutting employees and costs at the same time Gannett is trying to grow digital subscriptions and digital revenue is a challenging combination," said Tim Franklin, senior associate dean, professor and John M. Mutz Chair in Local News at Northwestern University/Medill and head of the Medill Local News Initiative.

"You're trying to convince news consumers to plunk down their credit card every month to pay for a digital subscription for unique, original, local content. If Gannett cuts too much too fast in its newsrooms, although they are trying to preserve them, and don't



Cover illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker

The cover of City Pulse 13 months ago. Since then, Lansing State Journal print circulation has declined more than 16%.

transition efficiently from print to digital, then the risk is people will stop subscribing or not subscribe because they don't see the value for them."

For Gannett's smaller properties, such as the Lansing State Journal, the Catch-22 has an even tighter grip. Undoubtedly, its professional, dedicated journalists are covering local news every day, but they are subject to Gannett's corporate decisions, which are mostly based on the bottom line and stockholders' interests. (Stephanie Angel, executive editor of the Lansing State Journal declined to comment for this article.)

"With fewer resources and increasing costs, it's a challenge for papers to sustain a print edition while they're also simultaneously tasked with completely reinventing their business and content distribution models," said Erica Beshears Perel, director of the Center for Innovation and Sustainability in Local Media at the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media.

"Converting from a print to a digital mindset isn't as easy as it might appear. You must think about content in a new way, especially for younger generations who consume information entirely differently."

The Lansing State Journal is not alone in facing the enormous challenge Gannett has presented to the compa-

ny's journalists, editors and other employees.

- During spring 2022, Gannett close two of the 12 weeklies in the Lansing area, the Towne Courier in East Lansing and the Lansing News.

- After eliminating approximately 400 jobs in its U.S. media division in August 2022, another 200 were presented with pink slips in late November, equivalent to 6% of the approximately 3,400 people working in the media division. It's unclear if anyone in the newsroom was laid off at the Journal, but one reporter, Jared Weber, left about that time. Another, engagement editor Matt Hund, posted on Facebook that he left for the good of the company after Gannett asked for volunteers to move on. The Journal has been hard hit with layoffs over the last decade or more, so it may have escaped the latest round of pink slips.

- Gannett ceased operations of two of the four presses at its Indianapolis facility and 56 of the 145 employees will lose their jobs.

- During January 2023, eight employees of the Detroit Free Press, another Gannett property, voluntarily quit, saving the 14 jobs of their co-workers who were about to be laid off. Editor Peter Bhatia was one of the eight, and many of the others are top reporters and editors.

Despite the current crisis at the Lansing State Journal and all of Gannett's media division, Perel shared an optimistic vision.

"The news industry will have a future with legacy newspapers, which will still be doing important watchdog work and should be commended for that work. We will have student media, alt-weeklies, new digital platforms and news entrepreneurs filling the gaps," explained Perel.

"This future will provide many more opportunities for diverse voices to be heard that have been excluded. Different types of storytelling will arise and more experimentation to report and distribute news. The benefits of the evolving news ecosystem are exciting."

CityPULSE

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Lansing-made film documents jazz drummer's success story

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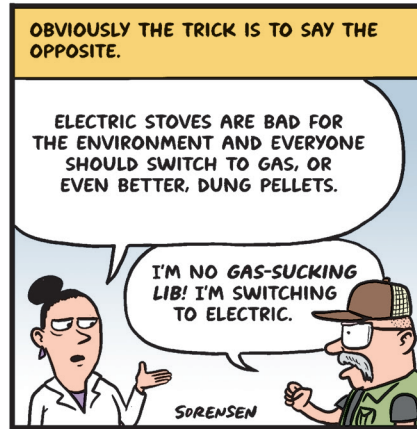
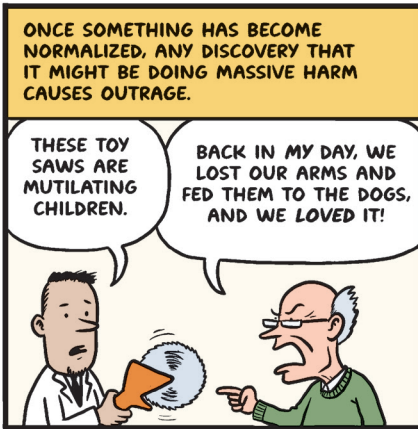
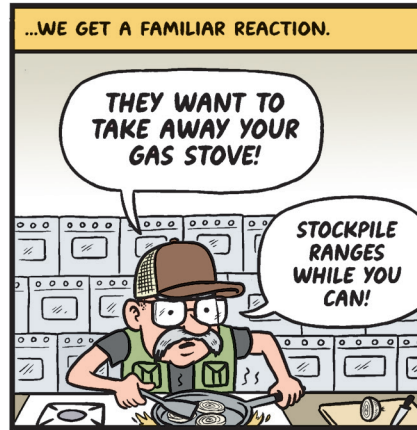
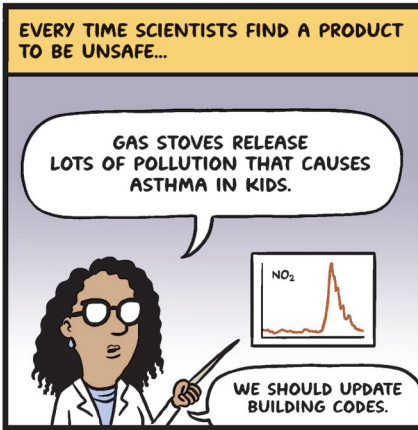
New book memorializes iconic Detroit department store



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Tannin is back and better than ever

Cover photo by Ron Stratton



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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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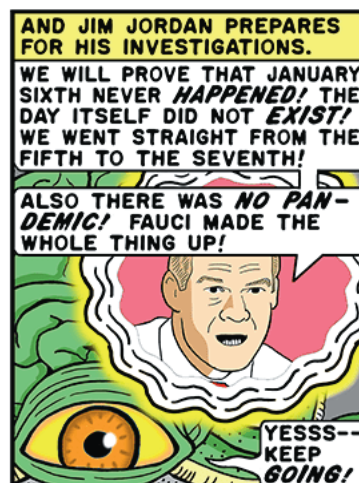
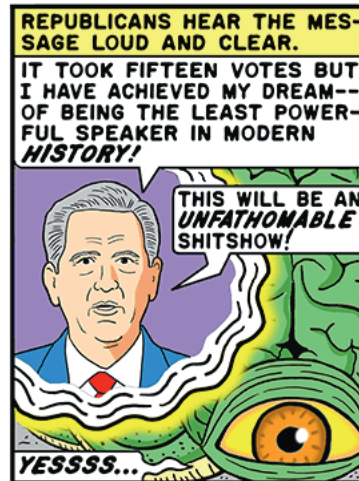
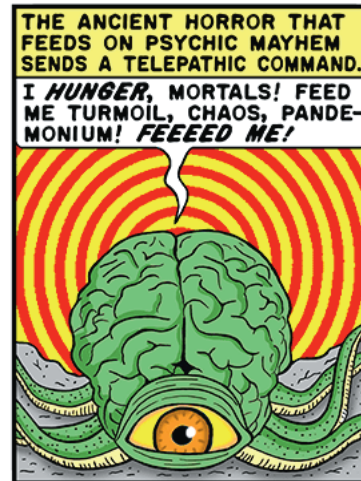
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City Council elections: Spitzley retiring; Washington running at-large

Lansing City Council member Patricia Spitzley will not seek reelection this year, which means two at-large seats will on the ballot.

In line to fill one of them: former 1st Ward member Jody Washington.

“I think two terms are enough,” said Spitzley by phone this morning. “I only committed myself to two terms.”

She joins six-term veteran At-large member Carol Wood in hanging up their political careers. Wood, who was first elected in 1999, will have served on the Council for 24 years when a new Council member is sworn in on Jan. 1. Wood said in 2020 she planned not to seek another term.

Both Wood and Spitzley have attempted to challenge incumbent mayors, and both lost. Wood ran against Virg Bernero in 2009. Spitzley lost in the primary in 2021, coming in third to Andy Schor and former City Council member Kathy Dunbar. Schor was re-elected in the fall.

Washington represented the east and north sides and REO Town for two terms before losing in 2019 to Brandon Betz, who has since resigned.

“I have a holistic vision for Lansing,” Washington said Tuesday. I think that at this point it’s not that we are heading in the wrong direction — we’re heading in no direction. We need folks who understand we have more than one area to work on. We need to find a way to work on prospering our city without leaving the most vulnerable behind.”

Washington has filed to run. The filing deadline is not till April 25.

Also filing for the at-large race are Lansing resident Nicklas Zande, who ran unsuccessfully for the 2nd Ward seat in the 2021 primary, and Lansing political newcomer Kalette Willis. However, since filing last May, she has relocated to East Lansing and is disqualified, said City Clerk Chris Swope.

Claretta Duckett-Freeman, who ran



Patricia Spitzley



Jody Washington

in the at-large race two years ago, has also filed. In 2021, She joined forces with Dunbar and 2nd Ward Candidate Oprah Revish to present a progressive slate of women. All three lost.

In addition to two vacant at-large seats, voters in the 1st and 3rd wards will go to the polls.

Ryan Kost, whom voters selected in a special election in November to complete Betz’ term, has filed for a full term. Kost narrowly beat incumbent Brian Daniels, whom the Council had appointed to replace Betz initially. After his defeat, Daniels said he planned to run this year, but he didn’t respond Tuesday to a request for comment.

Third Ward Councilman Adam Hussain — Washington’s son — said he was “absolutely” seeking reelection. His ward represents southwest Lansing. He was first elected in 2015, and voters returned him to the seat in

2019. He did not face a challenger in his second run.

“We’ve done good work in Southwest Lansing,” he said on Facebook Messenger, “but there’s much more left to do.”

- TODD HEYWOOD


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Every generation is gifted with certain individuals who somehow manage to stand out and rise above the status quo. In our generation, John Pollard was that person. John’s zeal for improving everything and everyone, along with his passion for justice and equality, made him unforgettable. In some people, John’s message and manner incited volatile reactions, but for others, he ignited a flame of determination in their own lives.

On behalf of all who loved and respected him, those of us who cherish his memory, we honor John Langston Pollard, “The Peacemaker”.

RFP/23/020 PARKING STUDY as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed proposals electronically online at www.mitn.info or at the City Of Lansing Purchasing Office, at 124 W. Michigan Ave 3RD Flr, Lansing, MI 48933 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on MARCH 2, 2023 at which time proposals will be opened. Complete specifications and forms required to submit proposals are available by contacting Stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages proposals from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.
CP#23-023




CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: Variance Request 23-02
1236 Jolly Road
WEDNESDAY, February 15, 2023

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Variance Request 23-02
1236 Jolly Road
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Elizabeth Seagull. The applicant is proposing to construct a boardwalk in the natural vegetation strip at 1236 Jolly Road. The subject site is zoned RR (Rural Residential).
Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development (phone 517-853-4560), 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to chapman@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk **CP#23-017**

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: Variance Request 23-01
6206 Columbia Street
WEDNESDAY, February 15, 2023

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Variance Request 23-01
6206 Columbia Street
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Nikolaj & Carol Oryszczak. The applicant is proposing to create two lots from one existing lot. The proposed lots do not meet the minimum lot width requirement. The subject site is zoned RB (Single Family, High Density) and Lake Lansing Residential Overlay District.
Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development (phone 517-853-4560), 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to chapman@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk **CP#23-018**

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**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
FY2023, 7/1/2023 – 6/30/24
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Lansing Planning Board will hold a public hearing to solicit public input on the proposed funding allocations for the City of Lansing’s FY 2023 Annual Action Plan which covers the time period July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

TO: ALL LANSING CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS
FROM LANSING PLANNING BOARD
SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
PLACE: Neighborhood Empowerment Center
600 W. Maple Street
Lansing, MI 48906
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
DATE: Tuesday, February 7, 2023

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE CITIZENS THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE AND COMMENT ON PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, GOALS AND PROJECTED USE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT, HOME AND EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT PROGRAMS, TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CITY’S ANNUAL ACTION PLAN SUBMISSION FOR FY 2023 (7/1/2023- 6/30/2024)

For additional information, please contact Doris M. Witherspoon, Senior Planner at doris.witherspoon@lansingmi.gov

PLEASE NOTE – Entitlement Grant Awards for FY 2023 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024) have not been announced by HUD as of the date of this publication. Amounts proposed herein for FY 2023 CDBG, HOME and ESG activities are based on prior year entitlement awards. If the grant amounts HUD actually awards to the City of Lansing for CDBG, HOME and ESG are different from the amounts shown above, pro-rata adjustments will be made to the budget amounts proposed for each activity

**FUNDING ALLOCATIONS
PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND USE OF FUNDS
ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2023 (7/1/23– 6/30/24)
CITY OF LANSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES**

The primary objective of Lansing’s Housing and Community Development Program is the development of a viable community which will provide standard housing in a suitable living environment, principally to benefit low- and moderate-income persons, preserve and expand existing businesses and industries, and create an atmosphere conducive to stability in neighborhoods.

- a. Provide standard housing in a suitable living environment through rehabilitation, new construction, and improvement of the housing stock primarily in CDBG eligible neighborhoods and in specifically designated housing target areas.
- b. Provide housing counseling and assistance that will benefit low and moderate-income households.
- c. Promote home ownership for low and moderate-income households and promote deconcentrating poverty.
- d. Maintain at current levels the number of public and assisted housing units available to low and moderate-income households.
- e. Provide homeless prevention assistance, emergency shelter, street outreach and supportive human services for people with special needs, people who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.
- f. Provide assistance for permanent supportive housing and human services for low- and moderate-income households with a history of chronic homelessness, including those with special needs.
- g. Promote economic opportunity for low and moderate-income individuals by facilitating economic development, providing employment opportunity, sponsoring job training, supporting business development, micro-enterprise lending and business or financial educational programs and initiatives.
- h. Promote economic development to provide jobs, business services and shopping opportunities for residents located in CDBG eligible areas.
- i. Provide community and neighborhood services, recreational opportunities and public facilities and promote neighborhood social cohesion to improve the quality of life in CDBG eligible neighborhoods.
- j. Increase security and safety in neighborhoods by supporting public safety and crime prevention initiatives, public educational programs, and citizens’ awareness in CDBG eligible areas.
- k. Improve the city’s transportation, public facilities, and infrastructure systems in CDBG eligible areas.
- l. Protect and improve the city’s physical environment, including preventing or eliminating blight, removing lead or other safety hazards, preserving historic resources, mitigating flood hazards, promoting healthy housing, and improving energy fitness in housing occupied by low and moderate-income households.
- m. Promote fair housing objectives.
- n. Provide affordable housing and economic development that benefits low- and moderate-income people in the context of mixed-use development along transit corridors.

CP#23-019

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Homeowner Housing Rehabilitation

Loans and grants for rehabilitation and Emergency Repair of owner-occupied housing units through city sponsored programs, and rehabilitation in conjunction with affordable housing efforts sponsored by nonprofit housing corporations, public and private developers, and other state and federal agencies, as

well as lead hazard reduction, emergency housing rehabilitation, technical assistance to nonprofit housing corporations, ADA ramps, and hazard remediation.

Proposed funding amount: \$867,026

Rental Unit Rehabilitation

Includes loans and grants for rehabilitation of rental housing units through city sponsored programs. Includes funds to meet healthy housing standards and/or lead hazard reduction regulations in rehabilitated structures.

Proposed funding amount: \$425,974

Blight Removal

Includes acquisition, maintenance and security of properties acquired through programs, and activities related to acquisition, disposition, relocation, and clearance of dilapidated and blighted structures. Funds may also be used to acquire and clear properties in the flood plain. Includes staff time associated with this activity.

Proposed funding amount: \$20,000

Public Services (limited to 15%)

Includes services for low- and moderate-income individuals such as: education, youth and senior programs, neighborhood clean-ups, community gardens, home repair classes. Services are for low- and moderate-income individuals and/or those in CDBG-eligible areas located within the Lansing city limits.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 309,923 (15% of CDBG)

Economic Development and Business Technical Assistance

Loans, technical assistance, and training to low- and moderate-income owners of and persons developing micro-enterprises within or planning to locate within the Lansing city limits. Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, and façade improvement loans/grants. Creation of jobs to benefit low and moderate-income city of Lansing residents.

Technical assistance to individuals and for-profit businesses including workshops, technology assistance, façade improvement loans/grants, market analysis, business promotion, referrals for the attraction of new business and expansion of existing business within CDBG-eligible areas of Lansing.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 30,000

CDBG General Administration (limited to 20%)

Includes staff and other costs associated with preparation of required Consolidated Planning documents, environmental clearances, fair housing activities and citizen participation activities associated with the delivery of CDBG, HOME and other state and federal programs. Includes planning and general administration costs associated with delivery of CDBG and other state and federal programs. Includes indirect administrative costs and building rent paid to the city.

Proposed funding amount: \$413,231

TOTAL CDBG = \$2,066,154

HOME

Down Payment Assistance

Funds provided to homebuyers for down payment and closing costs for purchase of a single-family home located within the Lansing city limits. Up to \$10,000 will be available as a 0% interest second mortgage for homebuyers with income at or below 80% of median income. Assistance limited to first-time homebuyers. May include staff time and/or homeownership counseling fees associated with this activity.

Proposed funding amount: \$100,000

Homeowner Housing Construction and Rehabilitation (ADR)

Includes funds for loans and grants for housing construction and rehabilitation with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs.

HOME funds allocated for housing developed in partnership with the city, including Supportive Housing Program (SHP) and Acquisition, Development and Resale (ADR) activities. Projects may include new construction and rehabilitation activities with non-profit and for-profit developers, including CHDOs. Funds may be used for staff time associated with these activities.

Proposed funding amount: \$608,808

CHDO Set-aside (15% minimum required)

Reserved for housing developed, sponsored, or owned by CHDOs in partnership with the city.

Proposed funding amount: \$ 125,529

Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Operating (limited to 5%)

Funds reserved at option of the City to provide operating funds to CHDO’s utilizing the City’s HOME funds to produce affordable housing in the community.

Proposed funding amount: \$41,843

HOME General Administration (limited to 10%)

Includes staff and general administration costs to deliver the HOME program.

Proposed funding amount: \$83,686

TOTAL HOME = \$836,866

Egg prices skyrocket as avian flu strikes in Ingham County

Egg prices have more than doubled in the last year, and relief from the skyrocketing costs is nowhere to be seen, some industry experts say.

In December 2021, a dozen eggs cost \$1.78 on average nationally. In December 2022, the cost was \$4.25.

While there are several reasons for the increase, a significant factor is avian influenza.

In February 2022, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development announced that it had detected the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, or HPAI, in a flock of chickens in Kalamazoo County, the first flock in the state found with the disease.

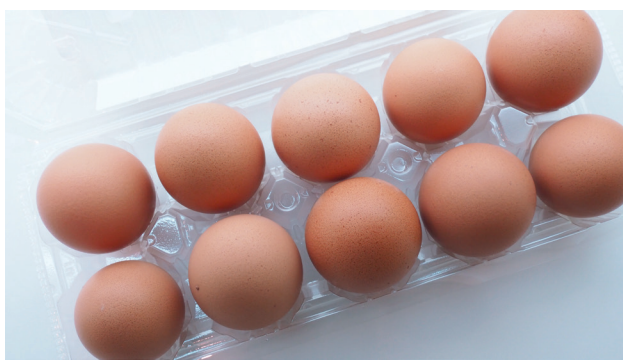
Commonly called bird flu, the disease has been found in 13 more counties since then: Macomb, Menomonee, Livingston, Washtenaw, Saginaw, Wexford, Branch, Oakland, Ingham, Tuscola, Lapeer, Genesee and Sanilac.

Throughout the United States, avian flu has killed over 50 million birds, including millions of chickens.

The sudden decrease in laying hens has led to a shortage of eggs.

Grocery stores are selling them for higher prices because they are paying farmers more for them, said Andrea Bitely, the vice president for communications and marketing at the Michigan Retailers Association.

"There is a high demand, or maybe a normal demand, for eggs, but there is a low supply because those laying hens,



A dozen eggs hit \$4.25 nationally in December, nearly a 140% increase since a year before.

who normally lay millions and millions of eggs, died as a result of the avian flu," Bitely said. Thus, farmers "are not able to produce eggs at the same volume as before this illness impacted these flocks."

David Ortega, a Michigan State University food economist and associate professor, said he hopes the U.S. has seen the height of the avian flu outbreak and that prices will drop as the higher demand around the holiday season eases, but he said a lot of uncertainty remains.

"It's hard to say what's in store for this year," Ortega said. "But on the wholesale side, things seem to be cooling off. But it's going to take some time for this to make its way down to the retail level."

And Bitely said she thinks that any decrease in price is still a while away.

Because it takes several months to bring laying hens to maturity so they can lay eggs, Bitely said it will take a while before farmers return to normal

egg production levels.

Ortega said the sharp increase in prices is something the United States has not experienced since the 1980s.

Avian flu is not the only trouble the industry has run into, Ortega said.

It also faces higher cost of feed for the hens, a factor he blames on the Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022.

Ortega said the conflict has led to a disruption in global grain markets, as well as markets for food like wheat, both of which are ingredients in chicken feed. Feed costs make up over 50% of the cost of poultry for egg laying, meaning when feed costs go up, so does the price of eggs.

The cost of eggs increased by over \$1 in the final three months of 2022, according to economic data from the St. Louis Federal Reserve.

The increases have led to a slight reduction in demand, Ortega said, but demand continues to rise compared to last year's levels.

Eggs are a vital part of the diet for food-insecure people because of their usual inexpensiveness.

Harvard University public health nutritionist Cindy Leung said the price hike will lead food-insecure people to buy more processed alternatives.

Food-insecure families may turn to breakfast cereals to help stretch their

budget, for example, said Leung, who formerly worked at the University of Michigan.

Because eggs are an important source of protein for food-insecure people, Leung said those families may turn to hot dogs or red meat, which are linked to higher risks of diabetes and forms of cancer.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which provides food assistance to low-income families and individuals was expanded at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic as many wage earners lost their jobs.

Leung said those expanded benefits are set to expire.

"Fewer SNAP benefits, combined with rising inflation and food prices, will have significant implications for the health and nutrition of low-income Americans," Leung said.

Other products with eggs as an ingredient, such as mayonnaise, have seen price hikes too. Baked goods prices, Ortega said, rose 16% in the past year, although he attributes part of the increase to high prices of wheat flour in addition to eggs.

Bitely, of the retailers' organization, said that most grocery stores are unable to do anything about the cost to consumers because of low profit margins in the industry.

Most often, the prices consumers pay are only slightly higher than the wholesale price the grocery store pays the supplier or farmer, she said.

— DAN NETTER
Capital News Service

B/23/078 DEMO OF 1 PROPERTY LOWCROFT AVE as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically online at www.mitn.info or at the City Of Lansing Purchasing Office, at 124 W. Michigan Ave 3RD Flr, Lansing, MI 48933 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on FEB. 7, 2023 at which time bids will be opened and read. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or Stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#23-020

B/23/080 DEMO OF 1 PROPERTY REGENT ST as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically online at www.mitn.info or at the City Of Lansing Purchasing Office, at 124 W. Michigan Ave 3RD Flr, Lansing, MI 48933 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on FEB. 7, 2023 at which time bids will be opened and read. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or Stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#23-022

B/23/076 MDOT MOWING INSIDE LANSING as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site (www.Mitn.Info) until 2PM local time in effect on FEB 2, 2023. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Marilyn Chick at (517) 483-4282, or Marilyn.chick@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.

CP#23-021



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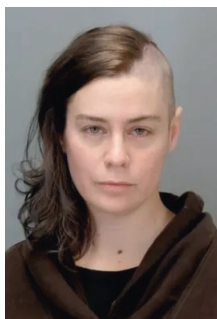
REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY NICOLE NOECHEL



Six people were arrested on misdemeanor charges after the vandalism of the Bank of America in the Frandor Shopping Center. About 30 people threw glass candles through the bank's windows, and "stop cop city" was spray painted on the building's exterior. Police said they were aware of national protests regarding a police shooting in Atlanta but didn't expect anything to happen locally. John Cichy, 29; Sarah Karloyi, 29; Leah Fitch, 40; Aliza Ghaffari, 32; and Erin Paskus, 26, were all charged with hindering and opposing police. Fitch and Ghaffari were also charged with being in a park after dark, and Kelley Smith, 33, was charged with resisting an officer.



off-duty Meridian Township firefighter heard her cries for help and called 911. First responders pulled the pair out of the water, and they were taken to Sparrow Hospital. The child was pronounced dead shortly after. The boy was not wearing a life jacket, and first responders couldn't find one anywhere near the scene. According to Lansing State Journal, the arrest warrant cited a "willful and wanton disregard" for her son's safety. A hearing is set for Feb. 14; Powers could face a maximum of life in prison if convicted.

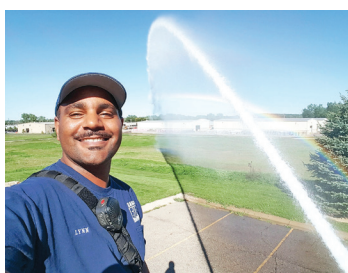
Michigan State University found "significant improvements" in relationship violence and sexual misconduct on campus for the 2021-'22 school year. More than 11,500 students, staff and faculty responded to the school's latest Know More @ MSU survey. The data indicates that since its 2019 survey, there has been a decrease in sexual assaults, sexual harassment and workplace incivility. There has also been "an improvement in most measures of climate and culture." However, more than 72% of undergraduate transgender and nonbinary students and more than 21% of transgender and nonbinary faculty and staff reported experiencing sexual harassment. "Over the next semester, it will be our goal to focus on building specialized resources and prevention methods centering these identities," said Carrie Moylan, associate professor in the College of Social Sciences and Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct Workgroup member.



East Lansing City Council voted unanimously to end its contract with former City Manager George Lahanas, naming retired Fire Chief Randy Talifarro his interim replacement. Lahanas' severance package includes a lump sum of \$172,896, equivalent to one year's wages; \$46,035 for unused paid time off; and dental, health and life insurance coverage for him and his family through Feb. 2024. The city will also

provide health insurance for the family for five years after Lahanas' 60th birthday until he is eligible for Medicare. Mayor Ron Bacon said there was nothing "disparaging" or scandalous about the decision; the city simply wanted to move in a new direction.

An arbitrator upheld Michael Lynn Jr.'s termination from the Lansing Fire Department, according to Lansing State Journal. Lynn was fired by the city in 2021 for posting former Lansing Police Chief Daryl Green's cell phone number in a Facebook comment after the department made a post in remembrance of a police dog killed in a 1999 shootout but didn't name Aldric McKinstry Jr., a young Black man who was also killed. Lynn filed a grievance shortly after his termination for "contract violations on progressive discipline, lack of notice about the investigation and the denial of a 'reasonable accommodation' request for the disciplinary hearing" since he was out of state at the time, the Journal said. The city requested the arbitration hearing in response. Scott Batey, Lynn's attorney, said he's looking into starting a case that could end up in federal or state courts.



Four men have been arrested in Delta Township as part of a joint Genesee Human Oppression Strike Team operation by the sheriff's offices of Eaton and Genesee counties. On Nov. 17 and Dec. 8, the men separately tried to meet an underage individual to engage in sexual activity. One was carrying a loaded 9-mm., semi-automatic pistol. "This proactive operation prevents child sexual predators from harming our children as well as their recruitment of human trafficking victims," said Eaton County Sheriff Tom Reich.



The East Lansing Police Department addressed concerns about a man who has been walking around the city wearing a black plastic mask and carrying a hammer and scissors. In a Facebook post, the department said officers have been in communication with the man over the past couple of weeks. They met with him and his family to discuss his behavior, and both parties explained to him the



1423 Ada St., Lansing

Peeling paint and graffiti-covered plywood are just the first impression. Located in the Baker Donora neighborhood in south Lansing, this eyesore sits next door to another red-tagged property. On the front porch are trash and construction debris. An Ingham County treasurer's notice flaps in the wind.

This 1913, two-story home with 1,204 square feet of living space was likely an eye candy in its heyday. But since 2014 it has been a blight. Numerous citations for trash times and failing to register the property as a rental were issued. In 2019, the city red-tagged the building.

City records show the Ingham County treasurer seized the property in a tax foreclosure in 2021. It was then sold to OLC Investments LLC of Muskegon for \$8,000.

A search of the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs database of businesses did not provide a match for either name in city records or the address associated with that name. City records also reveal the property taxes for 2022 have not been paid.

— TODD HEYWOOD

"Eyesore of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call in a nomination to (517) 999-6704.

consequential fear in the community. Department staff, its Neighborhood Resource Teams and its Crisis Intervention Team are monitoring the man for any law violations.



The blood alcohol content of Douglas Chapman, an off-duty road patrol sergeant of the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Office, was at least 0.20% on Oct. 9, 2018, when he was found passed out at the wheel of his car, which was blocking an entrance to Interstate 69. In his car, on the front seat, were two loaded pistols.

Yet the subject of his subsequent arrest and conviction never came up in the decision-making process of the committee that appointed him Shiawassee County sheriff last month. At least not publicly. One member, county Clerk Caroline Wilson, claims not to have even known about the incident. The other two are not talking. That's not surprising, given that it defies belief that they didn't know of Chapman's arrest and conviction. One is the county prosecutor, Scott Koerner, who was an assistant prosecutor at the time. The other is Probate Judge Thomas Dignan, who was not only in office but also the cousin of one of the district judges who recused themselves from hearing the case. Koerner and Dignan were in positions to know such things.

Curiously, Dignan sought to recuse himself from voting on the done-deal appointment, which was made without so much as interviewing Chapman and the other two candidates. Wilson told City Pulse she did not know why the judge sought not to vote. His effort was overruled by chair Koerner — something the minutes do not reflect, which is an apparent violation of the state Open Meetings Act. Could it be that the judge knew a coverup was in progress?

We are not saying Chapman was the wrong choice. We are saying the selection committee failed to grapple with an important issue. Certainly, Chapman had a drinking problem before his arrest — you don't consume that quantity of alcohol without one. The public has every right to know if he still does and what he is doing about it. And now the public deserves to know why the committee avoided letting them in on Chapman's drunk-driving arrest and conviction, which did not come to light until three weeks ago, when City Pulse reported it.

Moreover, the committee announced a plan that was to include interviews. Perhaps they would have been a formality, given that Chapman's 30 years of experience, including being licensed and certified by the state, in the Sheriff's Department far overshadowed the law enforcement backgrounds of the other two candidates. But the committee broke faith with the public by truncating the process — and perhaps violated the state Open Meetings Law, as an executive with the Michigan Press Association has suggested. We hope someone with standing in Shiawassee County will challenge the committee's failure to follow through with interviews and document all decisions made in a public meeting.

This sham of a process was clearly an ethical failure; a court needs to determine if it also violated the law. And the Legislature should look at the silence of the state statute on the appointment process pertaining to interviews. These candidates are, after all, seeking to fill in for elected officials, sometimes for as long as two years until the next General Election, as is the case with Sheriff Chapman.

The committee's abuse of public trust is only part of this sorry affair, though, and

not even the worst of it.

Chapman was essentially a lethal weapon. His actions that morning could have turned him into a high-speed missile had he not passed out at the wheel of his truck before getting on the highway. Every 45 minutes, someone in the United States dies in an alcohol-related auto accident, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. But from the outset, he received special treatment.

Michigan State Police troopers found him at about 1 a.m. Chapman asserted his right to decline a field sobriety test on the roadside — those are the tests where someone is asked to walk a straight line or touch their nose — so he was arrested and escorted to the MSP post in Flint. Then came his first break: a two-hour wait before he was tested. In those two hours, experts say, the amount of alcohol in his blood undoubtedly declined from at least .20. When he was finally tested, the results were .19 and then three minutes later .17. That latter happens to be the minimum to

charge him as "super drunk," which carries a higher penalty. Yet, the state police chose the lesser charge of driving while intoxicated and one charge instead of two for being in possession of two firearms while intoxicated. The fellow cop received three breaks

before he even had a hangover.

From there, Chapman's trail of special treatment leads to Lansing because of recusals in Shiawassee County. The Ingham County Prosecutor's Office granted two breaks in one: a plea deal that reduced the charge to driving while impaired and dropped the remaining charge of possession of a firearm while

intoxicated. From there, 54-A District Judge Louise Alderson, who has since retired, sentenced Chapman to nine months' probation and a fine of \$150 — \$550 below the maximum for the already minimized charge he was facing. And after just six months, the court agreed he had fulfilled his probation.

Contrast that with the similar first-offense drunk-driving case in Shiawassee County two years ago in which a then-assistant prosecutor showed up legally drunk at work but inebriated below the super drunk level. He was convicted on the same lesser charge of driving while impaired, but the gun charge stuck and his fine was \$1,500.

Our county prosecutor at the time, Carol Siemon, said she doesn't recall the Chapman case, which we find surprising. After all, how many cases involving law enforcement officers passed through her office? Asked for comment by City Pulse, Ingham County Circuit Judge Rosemarie Aquilina labeled it a "sweetheart deal," with which we agree. Siemon's successor, John Dewane, who handled such referral cases for Siemon, said the outcome was "consistent" with Siemon's charging and sentencing policies. City Pulse plans to look into the outcome of other similar drunk-driving cases during the same period and see if that is true.

Whatever the outcome, we are left with one of two conclusions, neither palatable: either Chapman received special treatment or we are not taking seriously enough the danger that drunk driving poses in our community.

Chapmangate

The CP Edit

Opinion

Democratic legislators flexing their muscles early

Being in the majority has its privileges.

After 40 years in the minority, Michigan Democrats are figuring out that being in the majority comes with power.

Republicans are figuring out that without power, there's political currency in being the loyal opposition at the expense of getting things done.

Let's start in the Michigan House of Representatives.

For 50 years, the etiquette has been

that the minority party supports the majority party's choice for speaker. For one brief moment at the beginning of a session, everyone presents the illusion that Republicans and Democrats will work together for a common goal.

This year, the Democrats got behind Rep. Joe Tate — a former Marine, son of a fallen firefighter and one-time Michigan State University offensive lineman. The soft-spoken but physically imposing, 6-foot-5 Tate has earned a reputation as someone who listens more than he speaks, a rare but valued trait in Lansing.

He's a Democrat, but not a political

ideologue, which is a difference. Considering some of the other progressive options in the Democratic caucus, Republicans should be breathing a sigh of relief that Tate was their choice.

Still, our sharpening political divide compelled eight Republicans, several of whom associate with the Freedom Caucus, to vote against Tate. A ninth voted against Rep. Laurie Pohutsky as the new speaker pro tem.

The next day, the Democratic majority released a committee list that showed every Republican member who voted against Tate and Pohutsky received one or zero committee assignments. Those who received none

ended up getting a solitary slot on a newly created subcommittee.

Every other House Republican member averaged three.

For a representative hoping to make a difference in public policy negotiations, this would be a major setback.

But in today's political environment, these nine Republicans are being heralded by their base of supporters as heroes who should be revered for standing up for principles.

Former congressional candidate Mike Detmer, who may end up being the Michigan Republican Party's next



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS

Opinion

from page 9

7th Congressional District chair, issued a Facebook post calling Reps. Ann Bollin and Robert Bezotte — Republicans who voted for Tate — “weak, spineless, feckless phonies who wanted to make sure they weren’t deprived of their coveted committee assignments.”

He challenged both of them to have the “guts” to “stand before” him at the upcoming county and state conventions so he can “remind each and every one of them to their faces WHO it is they actually work for!”

Meanwhile, in the state Senate, the 20-member majority has inflated their membership margins on committees to the point where each Democrat is sitting on an average of eight legislative panels. One member is sitting on 11 and several more are sitting on 10.

The average Republican is sitting on four.

By comparison, the last time the Senate had a 20-18 split in 1987, the majority members averaged four committees and the minority members sat on three.

This committee inflation has been going on for several sessions. It gives those in the majority more access to donors with keen interests in specific committees. It also protects certain members from “bad votes” out of committee on controversial topics.

It also shows who has the power in Lansing. If Republicans don’t like being outnumbered 2:1 on a committee despite only being in a 20-18 minority, they can pound sand, as far as the Democrats are concerned.

What can the Republicans do if they don’t like it? Issue a press release? Make a Facebook post? Or swallow the Democrats’ sign of strength whole and be embraced as martyrs by their passionate conservative base?

In the Senate, the Republicans could always block a bill from taking immediate effect, which delays the action until 90 days after the chamber adjourns for the year.

But the Democrat Legislature could always adjourn in June and ask Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to call them back into a second session.

That particular tactic hasn’t been used since the 1960s ... but neither has voting against a majority party’s choice for House speaker.

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

Writer James Baldwin: A surging name in Black history

BY DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER

Every semester, I faced new classes of writing students. With rare exceptions, I didn’t know any of them. Reading names from the class list was like trying to pin paper dolls with their clothes. Sometimes nothing stuck. By the second or third class, if I was still stumbling, my students laughed at me.

I protested. Look, there is just one of me looking at all of you, while all of you are looking at one of me. Give me a break.

As the author of “Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, a Colored Man’s Widow,” I hoped book events would bring new readers, new faces, new names. I am happy to inscribe their names. Still, it can sometimes be stressful getting the spelling correct.

One time I watched author James Baldwin deal with new face after new face.

Yes, I am saying I met James Baldwin.

It happened in 1977 Detroit. All the Black people in the city, it seemed, including my brother, who was a law student, flooded into Wayne State University’s Community Arts auditorium to see Baldwin. He was with us, but the skinny was that the great author was really in town to visit his new lover, dancer Clifford Fears.

I was a new Wayne State graduate, on assignment for the Black weekly newspaper The Michigan Chronicle. The event organizers sat me in the middle of the first row.

By this time, I admired him. Thoroughly. I had studied his work in college. I had written about it. I had read all his novels: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (1953), “Giovanni’s Room” (1956), “Another Country” (1962), “Tell Me How Long This Train’s Been Gone” (1968), “If Beale Street Could Talk” (1974).

I was square in his line of sight each time he looked out at the sea of new faces. He didn’t know my name, but he knew my teeth. Grinning and skinning, they sometimes call the look I wore. He smiled and winked at me. It was so obvious that we were admiring each other that my brother commented later that he thought

Baldwin would maybe change from guys to gals.

That didn’t happen, but it definitely could have, according to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History Culture: “Baldwin firmly believed sexuality was fluid and should not be divided into strict categories”

I got to first base when he invited me to sit with him at his author’s table while he signed books.

He was drunk. Drunk. I couldn’t smell alcohol — maybe he drank vodka — but I knew: his words were a little slurred. His signature a bit blurred. And his book dedications? All the same. “Thank you, James Baldwin.”

He did not look up, smile or ask his admirer’s name or how to spell it correctly. Any admirer who wished for that was SOL.

All of us wanted a piece of him. Maybe that’s why Baldwin was drunk. I was just lucky I had the status to claim a teeny tiny bit of him while he signed books for each drop-let in the human sea crashing upon his shore.

We were wild for what he was saying about our lives. We were urban people. Like him, creatures of a northern city. The same crowded spaces, cold winters and hot, gritty summers dancing in the streets, but needing to be home before the streetlights came on. He was our mirror, our reflecting pool. His clear vision of our lives carved out with wonderful, Mt. Rushmore-size writing skills.

Born in 1924 and dead at the young age of 63 in 1987, he was a child evangelist in Harlem. But Baldwin was gay, and that caused major problems with his preacher stepfather.

Black preachers are the legends of Black American history. The South had a champion in Martin Luther King Jr., and we celebrate him. But, up south in Michigan, our conditions were different, tighter, more explosive.

Instead of rooting in the pulpit, Baldwin wrote. He illuminated grim-but-hopeful urban stories, many of which have come to the screen. Netflix first broadcast the film version of “If Beale Street Could Talk” in 2018. It is a story of a young couple whose love is sabotaged by life in America.

He flourished in the arena of ideas. He was part of the intelligentsia. His



Opinion



James Baldwin

nonfiction was blunt in the pursuit of identity.

This February, in his native New York City, a dramatic staging of the conversation between him and lesbian poet Audre Lorde about race and sexuality will be staged at the Performance Space’s Keith Haring Theatre.

On PBS, in 2016, the fierce documentary “I Am Not your Negro” was developed from his essay “Remember This Place.” “Nobody Knows My Name: More Notes of a Native Son” (1961) and “No Name in the Street” (1972) continued his writerly quest to show and explain the power of language identity.

I quote his essay “If Black English Isn’t a Language, Then Tell Me, What Is?” in my book about working mothers:

“It goes without saying, then, that language is also a political instrument, means and proof of power. It is the most vivid and crucial key to identify: It reveals the private identity, and connects one with, or divorces one from, the larger, public or communal identity.”

Historically, and right now, Baldwin connects our community. He is Black History. Prime February fodder.

(Dedria Humphries Barker, a Lansing resident, is the author of “Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, A Colored Man’s Widow.” Her column appears on the last Wednesday of the month.)

MUSIC OF THE 80S

Lansing Symphony Orchestra ★ February 11

'Right person at the right time' to be Ingham County health officer



Ron Stratton for City Pulse

After nine years leading the Ingham County Health Department, Linda Vail (left) will retire Feb. 17 so she can spend more time with her partner, musician Mike Eyia (right).

As she prepares to retire, here's how Linda Vail's journey prepared her to fight COVID

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Standing at a window in her well-appointed condo in Bath Township, Linda Vail expresses her discomfort to the photographer.

"I can't just put on a smile," she said. "Not like some people. Give me something to laugh at."

But Vail soldiers on, delivering a performance for the City Pulse photographer. She's ever stoic, laser-focused.

It's an ironic comment from the 61-year-old. She has deliberately put herself out to the media as the face of the Ingham County Health Department. The photo session may be one of her last media appearances. Next month, she's retiring from the county after nine years running the department under the unassuming title of health officer.

Those who have worked with Vail know that behind her analytical, no-nonsense demeanor is a woman

who built a space for herself as a leader in public health and life. They credit her performance during the pandemic as nothing less than life-saving.

"I know Ingham County would have had a lot more deaths had she not been here," said Ingham County Commissioner Todd Tennis, who has worked closely with her as the chair of the committee that oversees the Health Department. "She saved lives. She was the right person at the right time."

"She has the unique combination of bench skills and people skills," said Renée Canady, whom Vail succeeded in 2014 to run the Ingham County Health Department.

There, she oversaw more than 400 employees, a budget of more than \$50 million a year and a network of health centers — a big enough challenge even before COVID arrived in March 2020.

See Vail, Page 12



Ron Stratton for City Pulse

Vail at her home office online with her replacement, Dr. Adnike Shoyinka, the county's medical director. The two worked side by side during the pandemic.

Vail

from page 11

Building up to it

Vail reflected that the COVID pandemic took much more out of her than she recognized or perhaps cared to admit to herself. With death threats and middle-of-the-night phone calls to record COVID deaths to hammering state lawmakers into following public health orders, Vail was the face of fighting the virus in Mid-Michigan. But her work during the pandemic is just the surface of an extraordinary professional life that sprang from a childhood interest in science.

She recalls having a chemistry set, a rock tumbler and a rock collection. Before graduating from high school, she built and launched a weather balloon.

“You know, this job and this work and science, in particular, is just baked into who I am, which makes it hard for me to separate my work from who I am,” she said. “Because I just truly love it. I love the work, but I don’t love the work because of the work; I love the work because of the content.”

Her love of science was something her father, Tom Vail, nurtured.

The two loved spending time on logic puzzles, she said.

“We both enjoyed them. It’s like, ‘Oh look, a good, juicy logic problem.’ So, he definitely had a sense for logic and science and math,” she said. “He was just brilliant. I mean, he could convert miles to kilometers, grams to ounces — things an instant in his brain. That was my dad in a nutshell.”

Tom ran a construction business, mostly doing painting as a subcontractor with his brother, Jim. He decided to retire early, at 51. He eventually came out of retirement to do contract work helping to design interiors for large box stores.

The dad she recalls most fondly was also a man who taught his daughters to play card games.

“One of the things we played was pinocle. It’s a complicated game.” She said the two were so merged during the game that they could read nonverbal cues, predict each other’s moves. They were in sync. “If you left my dad and I as partners for the entire evening, we would destroy you.”

After graduating from high school in suburban Atlanta, Vail earned a bachelor’s degree in microbiology from the University of Georgia in 1982. Four years later, she landed in Kalamazoo as a researcher for the pharmaceutical giant Upjohn.

Vail realized at Upjohn that she was isolated. The lab work she did was, by its nature, singular. The scientist would stand at the lab bench and repeat tests, altering the molecular structure of a drug ever so slightly each time, waiting to see what happened to the cells.

With just a bachelor’s degree, she knew she had risen “about as far as I could go” without getting another degree. In 1996, she earned a master’s in public health administration at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

She saw an advertisement for an emergency preparedness position in Kalamazoo County’s Health Department. She applied for the position and

was hired.

She was developing and implementing emergency plans for every imaginable disaster, including a novel respiratory outbreak like COVID. She was soon promoted to deputy health officer in Kalamazoo and then in 2006 to the role of health officer.

While she had been strategizing and roleplaying widespread crises, in July 2010, she had to deal with one firsthand. Over a million gallons of thick tar sands oil had been pumped into the Kalamazoo River, creating a 37-mile-long disaster zone. A dam in Kalamazoo was the only hope to prevent the oil from reaching Lake Michigan. Had the oil flowed over the dam, Vail said, it would have mixed with EPA superfund sites, creating unknown ecological and health problems. Fortunately, that didn’t occur.

Looming pandemic

During a conversation with City Pulse at the one-year anniversary of COVID-19’s arrival in Michigan, Vail talked about how she and Dr. Adnike Shoyinka, the Health Department’s medical director — who will succeed her as health officer — were in Washington when their phones began to blow with notifications heralding the arrival of the virus.

“This is it — what we have been worrying about,” Vail said.

The two were in D.C. to participate in a conference focused on another epidemic of concern to Vail, the opioid crisis. The conference was about medically assisted treatment for opioid addiction. That’s an intervention where a doctor oversees the slow reduction of opioids to wean a person off the medication and prevent overwhelming withdrawal symptoms.

While groups like Punks With Lunch are successfully operating syringe exchange and Narcan distributions, it was Vail, in partnership with the Ingham Community Health Center’s board, that drove a rewrite of Lansing’s drug paraphernalia law to bring it in line with state law. That move cleared the way for Vail to greenlight syringe programs as necessary to stop infectious diseases.

“I faced questions about this. People who would come up to me and say syringe access was encouraging addiction,” she said. “That’s not what the science says. It says that when people have access to clean needles, they don’t get a disease like hepatitis and HIV. We keep them alive.”

Tennis said Vail has the unique ability to center public health on people.

“She just sees people as people,” he said. “She’s them as people first.”

As Vail shifted her focus to the pandemic, stress started to take its toll. She, like most Michiganders, found her routines disrupted, often obliterated.



Photo courtesy of Fran Dwight

Linda Vail and her dad, Tom Vail, whom she credits with nurturing her interest in science. As she dealt publicly with COVID, she struggled privately with his death.

While she could still run — a hobby she began when she was 30 — she couldn’t do the weightlifting work in the gym. That was another exercise regimen she picked up at 35, and it had the bonus of helping her run in marathons.

With a microbiology degree, Vail understood the science of COVID better than most. That helped her to direct the emergency responses to the virus and reflected her fusion of people skills and science skills.

Compounding the pressure of leading Mid-Michigan’s fight against COVID, she also had to cope with having lost her father.

In 2019, he was planning to travel by car to Michigan from his home in Weslaco, Texas. Vail said while he was 83, she had no concerns about his driving up for a visit. It was not uncommon for him to make this trip. The two planned to text and call each other as he traveled the route to Michigan.

“I started texting him to figure out where he was, and he didn’t answer,” Vail said. She was trying to determine if he had been in an accident or had some emergency in a hotel room. But she she thought someone would have contacted her had that been the case.

“I finally sent the police to do a wellness check on him at his home in Texas, and that’s where they found him,” Linda said. “He actually never left — had just died. I still don’t know really what caused that.”

As the first anniversary of his death loomed, Vail was battling with locals in East Lansing over an outbreak of COVID-19 linked to Harper’s, a popular nightlife location. Ultimately, 185 cases of the disease statewide were linked epidemiologically to the bar.

As she was hammering away at the science, doing interviews with local, state and national news outlets, she was also struck with grief over her father’s passing.

“I guess I didn’t expect that the one-year anniversary of his death was going to hit me like it did,” Vail said, noting it was one of the few times

she became emotional during the crisis. “The only thing I can think is that it was really traumatic, you know? So, it was like reliving a trauma, in a way, because I had no clue I was about to lose my father.”

Racial inequity

In Kalamazoo, she was keenly aware that racial disparities in health outcomes were everywhere the department touched. Maternal and infant health issues, preventable disease like heart disease and diabetes were far more prevalent among African Americans.

“She saw it right away because she had already been doing the work to understand white privilege,” Canady said about Vail’s preparedness to inherit a health department with a robust social justice program. “She was ready for it.”

Early on, Vail encouraged county commissioners to adopt a “health in all policies” policy, which required departments to evaluate their proposals and spending through the prism of health and health equity.

“That, at first, meant the departments coming to the Health Department to do a health impact evaluation,” she said. “Eventually, I had to say, ‘No, you need to do this.’”

It worked. Departments now do this work as part of their normal routines.

In spring and summer 2020, the streets filled with protesters furious over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The Black man was shown on video suffocating to death as police officers stood by and allowed another to kneel on his neck.

Working with department heads and elected officials, Vail supported those who advocated for a declaration that racism was a public health crisis.

“If you start digging into a problem and you keep coming back to systems that have been created to be unequal from the beginning, you have to come to a point where you’re not saying politely, ‘There is racial inequity here. Or

See Vail, Page 13



Ron Stratton for City Pulse

Like many others, Vail had to give up workouts at the gym during the pandemic. But, a marathoner, she kept up her running.

A weird trip: The art of Gilbert Shelton

By LUCAS HENKEL

My wife and I have spent many Saturday afternoons hopping from thrift store to thrift store, searching through someone else's old treasures. A few weeks ago, we went to one of our favorite spots, the St. Vincent de Paul Society. My wife appreciates its selection of vintage clothing, and I'm obsessed with its vintage board games.

On this outing, a game called Mid-Life Crisis caught my eye. The box described it as "a game that will test your ability to survive your middle years without cracking up or going broke. Presented are real-life crises, broken psyches and marriages and financial woes." It was made in 1982, so I wasn't sure how relevant the "real-life crises" still were, but I thought it would make for a good laugh at my next game night with my buddies. (Plus, it was like \$3. How could I pass it up?)

When I got home and opened the box, I discovered an absolute treasure. On top of the actual game was a folded-up piece of paper with rules for a separate game. I was amazed by the hand-drawn board that looked like it

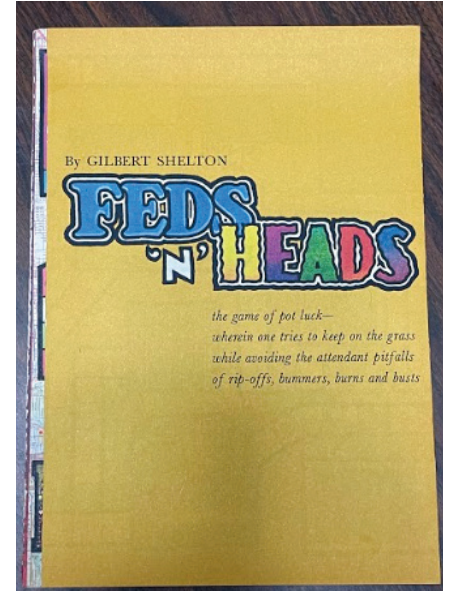


Lucas Henkel/City Pulse

Gilbert Shelton's *Feds 'N' Heads* board game, based on his comic by the same name, takes players on a journey to pick up "lids" (large bags of marijuana) while avoiding "Burns, Busts, Bummers & Rip-Offs" and "Weird Trip" cards.

was created after someone smoked several joints back-to-back. It was called *Feds 'N' Heads*, inspired by the work of American cartoonist and cannabis

lover Gilbert Shelton. I felt like this find was sent by the weed gods, so I had to research everything I could find online about the game and the artist behind it.



Lucas Henkel/City Pulse

Shelton was born in Houston on May 31, 1940. He graduated from the University of Texas in 1961 with a bachelor's

See Shelton, Page 15

Vail

from page 12

a racial disparity? No. The right thing to do is the courageous thing to do, and that is to state the facts. Racism is the problem."

The Board of Commissioners adopted the resolution on June 11, 2020. The pandemic, at that moment, seemed to be receding.

Canady, Vail's predecessor, said her advocacy for the declaration took "courage."

The future

Vail will officially retire Feb. 17.

"My partner is a little bit older than I am," she said. "I want time to do things with him."

She never saw herself retiring at 61. She always thought she would retire later in her 60s. But COVID, while not entirely the driving force, played a role in her hanging up her team meetings and county emails for the tranquility of retirement.

"I was working 18-hour days with constant pressures; the constant need to problem solve; the constant need to make high-level decisions. The pressure of a politicized virus, a politicized vaccine — a politicized everything — was intense. It was incredibly intense."

She and her partner Mike Eyia, 73, a musician who leads the band Orquestra Ritmo, will likely travel. The two were in Morocco in the autumn. Vail's Facebook feed is filled with photographs of the country and the people. Vail also wants to spend more time with her two granddaughters in Kalamazoo, where she has a daughter. She also has a son in Las Vegas.

Vail and Eyia boarded a plane for Belize on Monday. A friend had offered them the use of his home there, Eyia said while watching Vail get her picture taken.

While she won't be a health officer, she'll remain involved, she told City Pulse in an interview in August after she informed the county that she would retire in six months.

"My brain is engaged in thinking about everything — infectious disease, how they spread, equity, justice. I don't anticipate my brain shutting down around those things."

Michigan must rebuild local public health before next pandemic

By NORM HESS AND JIMENA LOVELUCK
Bridge Magazine

(Norm Hess is the executive director of the Michigan Association for Public Health. Jimena Loveluck is Washtenaw County health officer and association president.)

For three years, we've measured the COVID-19 pandemic by its impact in our communities — case rates, deaths and vaccinations — even our economics.

We've lost 15 veteran local health officers over the last three years, often taking substantial institutional memory with them. We've lost countless staff. Nurses, epidemiologists, sanitarians and more, leaving the local sector for other pastures. Replacing them has been a massive challenge.

Local public health needs full funding going forward. But with that funding, what we really need is a stronger understanding of the role we serve, the results we deliver and the challenges we are facing. We need support, from the Lansing level down to the local community level.

Everyone would like to think we've got 100 years to plan for the next pandemic, but most experts don't think it will be that long at all. And, sadly, it won't take another pandemic to reveal the gaps in our infrastructure.

Local public health infrastructure is like any other kind of infrastructure. As long as it continues to work, most of us don't think much about it. But we certainly notice it when it is strained beyond capacity. Just

as the pandemic highlighted where our communities are more vulnerable because of pre-existing poor health, poverty and racial discrimination, it also highlighted the need for a solid, stable public health infrastructure and workforce that is fully prepared to respond to new challenges.

Michigan's public health code was signed into law 42 years ago. It contained specific language about the state legislature's commitment to funding 50 percent of the cost of local public health's eight essential services. For the last 30 years, however, the Legislature has passed the state

budget, year in and year out, without fully meeting that obligation. This has been unacceptable, and it should be unfathomable now.

Local health departments have found ways to cobble budgets consisting of federal program dollars and local grants and allocations. They make it work, and they do the best they can with the resources they have.

But fully funding local public health is the question on the table for the new Legislature. A big lesson of the past three years is that, when confronting a major public health crisis, nobody wants a team of committed professionals stuck with doing the best they can with what they have.

In the new Legislature, there likely will be three key initiatives affecting every resident of this state: revamping the public health code, the state's food code and creation of a unified sanitary code.

The food code covers how we keep safe the foods we eat, wheth-

er from restaurants or grocery stores or local food carts.

The sanitary code addresses sewers and septic tanks. An estimated 1.3 million Michigan homes have an individual septic system, and an estimated 20 percent of those are failing. This huge expense falls to homeowners who often have no awareness they have a problem, insufficient money to deal with it, and no legal obligation to protect the environment from their household waste.

Our public health code has not been updated in decades. Another lesson of the pandemic is that laws protecting public health need to be strong, clear and allow professionals to make real-time decisions that protect communities.

Over the past 99 years, the life expectancy of humans has increased by 30 years in Michigan. A large part of that jump has to do with public health programs that cover every aspect of our lives. We want to ensure that all Michiganders have equal opportunity to live long, healthy lives by addressing the root causes of health inequities in our state. This is not possible without investments in public health infrastructure.

We will be active and visible in 2023, educating the Legislature, as well as our local constituents and community leaders about the work we do and why it is critically important. But ultimately, our leaders will be the ones who decide what local public health looks like for the next 99 years.

If it is funded appropriately and supported in its work, we can expect our sector — and Michigan residents of all ages — to thrive as well.



Norm Hess (left) Jimena Loveluck (right)

Opinion



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Untangled at last

Lansing filmmaker chronicles life of Detroit drummer Spider Webb

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

A talented, self-taught kid from the east side of Detroit falls in love with music, cobbles together a drum kit, scrambles out of a life of poverty and physical abuse and becomes a top session drummer on both coasts, working with icons like Harry Belafonte and Aretha Franklin.

If it sounds like a movie, it is — finally.

Lansing recording engineer and filmmaker John Palmer spent six years painstakingly assembling “Spider Webb Untangled: The Life and Times of Legendary Drummer Kenneth Rice,” released Tuesday (Jan. 24) on DVD and the streaming platform Vimeo.

Palmer had a minuscule budget and no crew — just himself and Spider. (We’ll call Rice “Spider,” because that’s what everyone calls him, and “Mr. Webb” seems a bit formal.)

Yet the film stands proudly in the tradition of “Standing in the Shadows of Motown,” the 2002 Paul Justman documentary on the Funk Brothers, the uncredited musicians who created the immortal drum licks, irresistible bass lines and indelible grooves that fueled dozens of Motown hits.

Spider, 78, was a Funk Brother himself for a while, but that was only a part of his career.

You can hear his drumming on the Temptations’ hits “Cloud Nine” and “Runaway Child, Running Wild,” Etta James’ “(You Can) Leave Your Hat On,” Eddie Kendricks’ “Keep on Truckin’,” Grover Washington Jr.’s “Feels so Good” and Freda Payne’s 1970 megahit “Band of Gold.”

As a first-call session and touring drummer, Spider played with the Commodores, Roberta Flack, Robert Palmer and many others.

Part of the fun of the shoestring-budget saga is rooting for the spirit of Detroit as Spider storms the international music world.

“I was raised three blocks from Motown,” Spider said. “We had bands, the



Courtesy photo

Detroit-born drummer Spider Webb (far right) plays with Motown legends the Funk Brothers in a scene from “Spider Webb Untangled,” by Lansing filmmaker and engineer John Palmer, now on DVD and streaming on Vimeo.

guys on the corner singing doo-wop. If you wanted to hang out with the guys in my neighborhood, you had to play a musical instrument.”

But it took talent, perseverance and luck to make the unlikely journey from a shockingly brutal childhood to a head-spinning round of gigs and recording sessions in New York and California.

Spider never took music classes, but he played in his high school drum and bugle corps and in a group with the unlikely name Samson and Delilah and the Soul Detergents.

“I found myself in situations I never thought I would be in at a very young age,” Spider said. “I was working a lot of the clubs around Detroit before I graduated from high school.”

Faced with physical abuse at home, he struck out boldly to make his fortune in New York. He quickly built a reputation as a drummer who combined lightness with substance and a musician who listened carefully, picking up instantly on whatever the leader or vocalist was laying down.

“I gave you what you were giving me,” he said with a mischievous smile. “You had to like it!”

In the early 1970s, a tour with calypso icon (and civil rights leader) Harry Belafonte rocketed him into the top echelon.

“That’s where I learned everything,” Spider said. “And the guys in the band, we’re still friends.”

He called it the “school of Belafonte.”

“There were people in that organization from all around the world — Africa, Brazil, Puerto Rico,” he said. “It

was like a small United Nations. I take my hat off to Harry because we were so young at the time, and he saw the potential we had. He just let us grow. I couldn’t ask for anything better.”

Palmer, an Ann Arbor-born audio geek who moved to Lansing and became a recording engineer and musician, was intrigued by Spider’s 2009 autobiography. To his surprise, a relatively small but elite corps of top-notch musicians kept popping up on one 1970s and 1980s hit after another.

“I was kind of naïve, thinking every singer had their own group,” he said. “A lot of the same musicians were flying back and forth, playing on the East and West coasts and in between, running into each other over and over. To have a group of people who could play at a high level, without a lot of takes, was the most important thing.”

Making the film was a labor of love for Palmer. He couldn’t afford the glitzy musical numbers that punctuated “Standing in the Shadows of Motown” or even pay for the rights to entire songs. To his disappointment, there was no studio footage available, and concert or broadcast footage was extremely limited.

“So, instead of a performance film, it became more about his life story,” Palmer said.

Most of his tiny budget was spent on music rights, and even then, he only had enough money to pay for snippets of most songs.

But Spider’s remarkable life journey was too compelling for Palmer to leave untold. One musician after another, from keyboardist Lyman Woodard to bassist Marion Hayden, testifies to Spider’s skill and exuberant presence

on the bandstand, and Spider talks frankly about the ups and downs of his musical and personal life.

“I’m not considering filmmaking a career but a means of telling a story,” Palmer said. “We look forward to people rediscovering Spider, finding some of the recordings he played and appreciating the diversity of his work.”

“Everybody knows Aretha Franklin, Roberta Flack, the Temptations, the Supremes,” Spider said. “But you never know who is helping to make it all go.”

Spider said his life “has been a wonderful ride,” but decades of bending over a drum kit left him with three herniated discs and a bout of debilitating back pain.

“I was young and thought I was invincible,” he said. “I was trying to be cool, bending all over those drums. Nobody told me I was not sitting up straight, not stretching before I play, all these things drummers need to do.”

Massage, adjustment and therapy have straightened him out, and he’s ready to get back to work.

“I’m not finished by any means,” he said. “When a lot is taken out of you, it takes a lot to put it back.”

With nothing left to prove, he hopes to train to the point that he can pick and choose session work and live gigs that turn him on musically. He’s also doing drum clinics and teaching stints.

“Music is a learning thing,” he said. “Once you’re satisfied, you cease to be creative. Once you say, ‘I got it,’ I’m going to say you don’t have it!”



Courtesy photo

Spider Webb reminisces on his days of playing in his high school drum and bugle corps, his first introduction to drumming.

“Spider Webb Untangled: The Life and Times of Legendary Drummer Kenneth Rice”

Available on DVD and streaming on Vimeo

Meet and greet

Lansing filmmaker John Palmer and Spider Webb

Wed., Jan. 25
3-7 p.m.

Motown Museum Shop
580 Monroe St., Detroit

Caribbean barbecue lands in Lansing

By **NICOLE NOEHEL**

When Lansing Shuffle — a food, drink and entertainment space with a seasonal shuffleboard pavilion — opens tomorrow (Jan. 26) in the old Lansing City Market, chef Max Hardy's Caribbean cooking will arrive in the capital city. Taking what he's learned from years in the industry and running two restaurants in Detroit, he hopes Irie Smoke Shack, offering traditional barbecue bites with a Caribbean flair, will keep hungry foodies coming back for more.

Irie Smoke Shack

Inside Lansing Shuffle (opening Thursday, Jan. 26)
325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Tuesday–Sunday: 11 a.m.–10 p.m.
lansingshuffle.com

“I’ve always wanted to do a barbecue spot. I was trying to figure out what would be kind of different and what would be in my wheelhouse. One of the things I love to eat and enjoy in my downtime is barbecue,” Hardy said. “My background is Caribbean, my mom’s Bahamian, so living in Florida, being around Haitians and Dominicans and Cubans, it’s always inspiring that Caribbean side of me. I was like, ‘Let’s do some Caribbean barbecue, versus what you would usually see, like Korean barbecue.’”

Hardy became interested in cooking while attending high school in Florida. After suffering an injury playing basketball, he was looking for something to fill his time.

“During the time I was hurt, I took up home economics, which became culinary arts, and I fell in love with it,” he said. “Then I got a scholarship to go to Johnson & Wales (North Miami) for cooking and basketball, and that’s kind of how it started.”

He has traveled all over the world, working at restaurants and as a personal chef. He also founded One Chef Can 86 Hunger, a nonprofit that works to educate people about the hunger crisis in the U.S. and offers culinary arts programs in schools and community centers. He just moved back to Detroit from New York, where he cooked for New York Knicks player Amar’e Stoudemire from 2009 to 2014 and served on the Food Bank for New York City’s culinary council.

“I’ve had a good run of being able to travel around and use my culinary skills to help the community and do some cool things,” he said.

When the owners of Detroit Shipping Co., who also created Lansing Shuffle,



Chef Max Hardy (center) works with Irie Smoke Shack staff to get the kitchen ready for its opening tomorrow (Jan. 26).

Courtesy of Lansing Shuffle

asked Hardy to join them in the capital city, he willingly agreed.

“Looking at the Lansing market, I thought bringing some Caribbean flair and Caribbean barbecue to Lansing would be kind of cool,” he said. “I’m always trying to expand and do some cool things in the community that people really don’t get to see in restaurants every day.”

Irie’s menu includes jerk-rubbed ribs, jerk chicken, smoked wings with house barbecue sauce, harissa-smoked turkey breast, curry-glazed salmon and the chef’s special apple-infused smoked sausage. For sides, it will offer Caribbean baked beans with pineapple, Caribbean corn, collard greens and jalapeno mac and cheese.

Hardy says he’s “playing with traditional barbecue stuff but jazzing it up with a lot of Caribbean flavors.”

“I want it to be one of the best restaurants in Lansing,” he said, laughing. “I want to create jobs as well, to get some people back in the industry. We’re just coming out of COVID, and I know a lot of people came out of the industry and are doing different things, so I just wanted to see if we can bring some of those folks back to the industry and have some fun and make some money while we’re at it.”

Lansing Shuffle will also host Yeti Kitchen, offering Nepali street food; Osteria Vegana, a vegan Italian restaurant; Browndog at the Shuffle, serving traditional American comfort food like burgers and chicken sandwiches; and Kin Thai, which will feature Thai food and bubble tea. The grand opening is tomorrow (Jan. 26) from 5-11 p.m.

Shelton

from page 13

degree in social sciences. His earliest cartoons were published while working for Texas Ranger, an underground, student-run humor magazine. After graduation, he became the editor and further developed his ideas into characters he would use for future comics. The first, “Wonder Wart-Hog,” was a slapstick comedy parodying McCarthyism and far-right violence. The title character was a pig with a Superman-like backstory and superpowers. It was a success, and it led him to other writing and art opportunities throughout the mid-1960s in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and his home state.

After “Wonder Wart-Hog,” Shelton self-published a 28-page, one-shot

comic called “Feds ‘N’ Heads” in 1968. It featured Wonder Wart-Hog’s alter ego, Philbert Desanex, going to San Francisco during the Summer of Love to cover the Human Be-In, eventually facing off against the diabolical supervillain Chameleon. It also featured a variety of whimsical strips about hippies, freaks and, above all, recreational drugs — and introduced the trio that would become Shelton’s most famous creation, “The Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers.”

In 1969, Shelton co-founded Rip Off Press alongside fellow Texans Fred Todd, Dave Moriarty and Jack Jackson. One of Rip Off’s most popular comics was “The Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers,” which featured a trio of stoner characters that enjoyed recreational drugs, critiquing the establishment and satirizing the counter-culture scene. The “brothers,” actually just a group of close friends, included

Freewheelin’ Franklin Freek, the oldest and most street smart; Phineas T. Phreak, a master chemist committed to social change and environmental issues and Fat Freddy Freekowski, known for having the munchies and his witty, “Garfield”-esque cat (who eventually got his own spinoff comic strip, “Fat Freddy’s Cat,” in 1975). The comics were featured in numerous magazines, most notably Playboy and High Times, and had hundreds of thousands of printings. In 1979, Universal Studios paid Shelton and Rip Off \$250,000 to make a live-action “Freak Brothers” movie. It never made it to production, but that didn’t stop Shelton from taking his earnings and settling down in France after multiple European excursions.

Shelton eventually released a board game based on “Feds ‘N’ Heads,” featuring characters and references from “The Freak Brothers.” It was pub-

lished as a foldout in Playboy’s September 1971 issue. It’s a fairly basic “roll and move” game with a play style similar to Monopoly. Old-school pot-heads will appreciate having to collect “lids” (large bags of weed) by landing on specific locations across the trippy, sprawling board while avoiding unfortunate “Burns, Busts, Bummers & Rip-Offs” or “Weird Trip” cards. The winner is the player who manages to score 35 lids (equivalent to a kilogram of weed) and bring it back to their stash.

Folks interested in reading Shelton’s work should check out local booksellers or libraries. For streamers, Tubi based a 2021 animated series called “The Freak Brothers” on Shelton’s comic. Pete Davidson, Blake Anderson, Woody Harrelson, Tiffany Haddish and John Goodman are amongst the cast that voice these zany characters.

Delve into the history of Hudson's

BY BILL CASTANIER

A new, 547-page book on Hudson's, the venerable downtown Detroit department store, drips with nostalgia. For Detroiters, the store's name is in league with other iconic brands like Faygo, Vernors, Sanders confections and Better Made.

In "Hudson's: Detroit's World-Famous Department Store," author Bruce Allen Kopytek explains the history of the store and its founder, J.L. Hudson, as well as how "Hudson's was intertwined with the history of Detroit and its people."

He describes how in the '40s, '50s and '60s, the store was so ingrained in Southeast Michigan's shopping experience that the phrase "I got it at Hudson's" was a cliché that began appearing in the company's advertising.

Kopytek, an architect, has a passion for the megalith shopping experience of independent department stores and has written four books on their history. He also maintains a website, thedepartmentstoremuseum.org.

He said when it came to writing this book, "I just couldn't stop myself."

When he puts on his architect cap, his passion soars. He certainly makes readers pine for the past as he describes the store's bank of 51 elevators that guided shoppers to 17 floors where they could buy everything from lawnmowers to designer cocktail dresses. He describes the scene as a "great vista of elevator doors as far as the eye can see."

In today's world of strung-out, stand-

alone shopping centers, it's difficult to explain Hudson's, but if you took a suburban shopping mall and stood it on its end, you still wouldn't replicate what you could find in the store in its heyday.

Hudson's boasted 2.1 million square feet, occupying an entire square block on Woodward Avenue in Detroit. Kopytek describes it as "a monstrous brute of a store." It soared 25 stories, with the top floors used for support staff and operations.

Hudson's was more than a shopping experience, according to Kopytek: "It was a gathering place for generations of Detroiters."

In a chapter on special events, he tells how Hudson's sponsored gatherings that brought shoppers into the store while echoing the company's desire to be good corporate citizens.

Its creation of the "world's largest flag" in 1923 is one of the best examples of the company's corporate largesse. When it first raised the flag, masses of Detroiters gathered to take in the heady experience. It was ultimately replaced and donated to the Smithsonian Institution, which sent it to the American Flag Foundation in Houston, but lack of preservation led to its destruction in 1990.

Kopytek said he was amazed when he discovered the history of the visionary J.L. Hudson, who founded the precursor to what became the world's third-largest department store in 1881.

"His story is an incredible rags-to-riches tale. He had a ragtag existence

pushing a cart. He grew up eating bread without butter but rose to the pinnacle of the department store business," Kopytek said. "He was also a philanthropist, not only giving his money but his time to the city."

Kopytek laments, "It's too bad he didn't get to see what he created." Hudson's would flourish after J.L. Hudson's death under the leadership of four nephews who took the company in new directions.

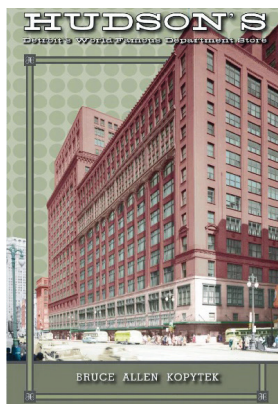
As an architect, Kopytek writes eloquently about the corporation's move to the suburbs — especially its new location at Northland Center in Southfield, which opened in 1954.

"Hudson's provided the road map for the suburban shopping centers that were soon to come. It was a precursor to the mall. It brought everything under one roof, including the excitement of special events and lots of parking," he said.

Hudson's also brought art to its stores. One of its best-known efforts, "Michigan on Canvas," involved hiring 10 artists to depict the state in 100 paintings. In 1948, the pieces were hung in a gallery at the flagship before touring the state. At the end of the project, the company donated the original art to museums, galleries and libraries.

The cover of the accompanying catalog sold for 75 cents and displayed a portrait of Michigan's Capitol, executed by Michigan State University art professor John de Martelly.

"Hudson's always wanted to be the tastemaker," Kopytek said.



Courtesy of The Department Store Museum

In its heyday, Hudson's department store on Detroit's Woodward Avenue boasted 2.1 million square feet, spread over 25 floors.

The company's biggest legacy is arguably the Detroit Thanksgiving Parade, which it founded and sponsored from 1924 to 1979.

In combination with the parade, the store's 12th floor was turned into a Christmas wonderland and toy shop each year, featuring a merry-go-round, a small Ferris wheel, a "magic forest" and, of course, Santa Claus.

Hudson's would close its downtown location in 1983, and, after years of rumors that there were plans to save the building, it was imploded in 1998.

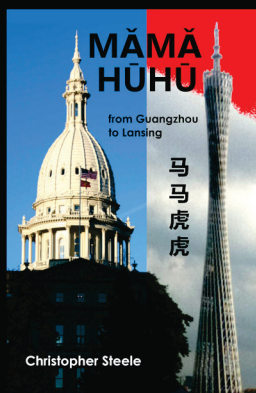
"The book is an epitaph — Hudson's lies in its grave," Kopytek said.

The first printing of the book is sold out, so it's worth the effort to reserve a copy either online, at a local bookstore or from the author's website. Like the store, it has some heft and comes with a \$60 price tag.

Happy Rabbit Year!

新年快乐

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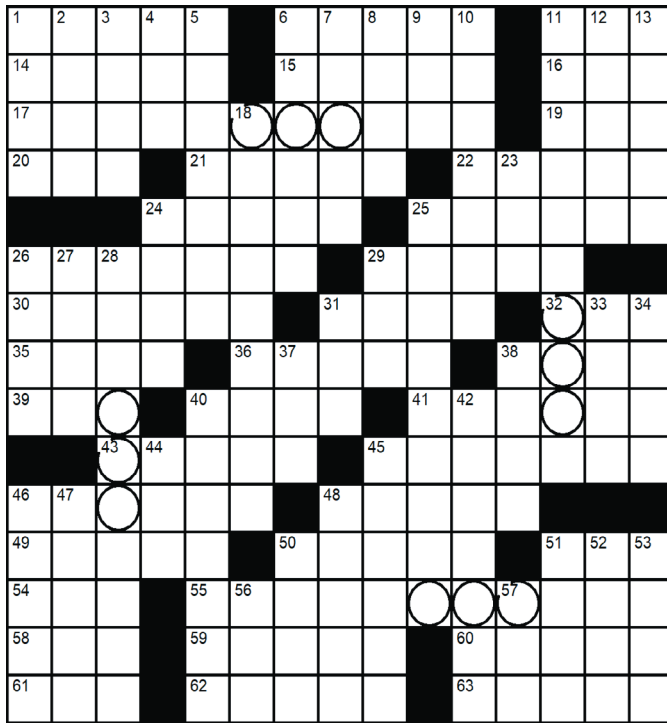
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Give it a Go" -- it's been a long time.
by Matt Jones
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ACROSS

- 1. Strong poker hand
- 6. Fruit-flavored Coca-Cola brand
- 11. Bitingly ironic
- 14. Alvin of the American Dance Theater
- 15. Creator of a logical "razor"
- 16. "Ni ____, Kai-Lan" (2010s Nickelodeon cartoon)
- 17. Migratory honker
- 19. "Jeopardy!" ques., actually
- 20. "It's the end of an ___!"
- 21. First "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" host
- 22. "Of course!", for short
- 24. "Rainy Days and Mondays" singer Carpenter
- 25. Korea's national dish
- 26. School cleaner
- 29. Quilt piece
- 30. Napoleon Bonaparte et al.
- 31. "Ratatouille" rodent
- 32. ___ Technica (tech blog)
- 35. Minor damage
- 36. It comes in slices
- 38. Honor for Viola Davis if she wins her 2023 Grammy nomination
- 39. Ore-___ (Tater Tots maker)
- 40. Letter between Oscar and Quebec
- 41. Painter's movement
- 43. ___-Roman wrestling
- 45. Kind of leap or physics
- 46. Larry, for one
- 48. "You'd think ..." follow-up
- 49. About the year of
- 50. "The Imitation Game"



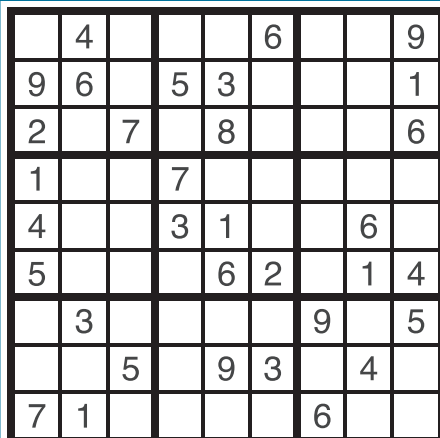
- actress Knightley
- 7. Flip ___ (choose by chance)
- Bobby Digital
- 51. Catchall abbr.
- 8. Some mil. academy grads
- 33. Streaming device since 2008
- 54. ___ Faithful (Yellowstone geyser)
- 9. Some proctors, for short
- 34. Cherry attachment
- 55. "Only Murders in the Building" actress who's less than half the age of her co-stars
- 10. Hotel pool, e.g.
- 37. Big Wall St. news
- 58. Actor Kier of "Dancer in the Dark"
- 11. Question of possession?
- 38. Cube master Rubik
- 59. "In ___" (1993 Nirvana album)
- 12. Chicken nugget dip option
- 40. Mythical creature with four legs and two wings
- 60. "Buenos Aires" musical
- 13. Mario Kart character
- 42. Scarlet songbird
- 61. "X" is gonna give it to ya
- 18. Lockheed Martin's field
- 44. "Arabian Nights" flyer
- 62. "Bye!"
- 23. "Better Call Saul" network
- 45. Grainy salad ingredient
- 63. Person evaluating something
- 24. Highland Games attire
- 46. Talent hunter
- DOWN
- 25. Ancient Sanskrit guide to life (and I'm sure nothing else)
- 47. Mark in Spanish and Portuguese
- 1. Go up against
- 26. "Star Wars" warrior
- 48. Resembling lager
- 2. Unreliable informant
- 27. Involuntarily let go
- 50. Bauhaus painter Paul
- 3. Forearm bone
- 28. Veruca Salt co-founder who left to go solo in 1998 (then rejoined in 2013)
- 51. Cast out
- 4. ___ of Tranquility
- 29. Brick-shaped candy
- 52. Place for un beret
- 5. Get some water
- 31. Rapper with the alias
- 53. Old Russian ruler
- 6. Insecticide device
- 32. Rapper with the alias
- 56. Hot season for a Parisian
- 57. Anatomical eggs

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Answers on page 23

SUDOKU

Beginner



Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

January 25-31, 2023

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Theoretically, you could offer to help a person who doesn't like you. You could bring a gourmet vegan meal to a meat eater or pay a compliment to a bigot. I suppose you could even sing beautiful love songs to annoyed passersby or recite passages from great literature to an eight-year-old immersed in his video game. But there are better ways to express your talents and dispense your gifts — especially now, when it's crucial for your long-term mental health that you offer your blessings to recipients who will use them best and appreciate them most.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In esoteric astrology, Taurus rules the third eye. Poetically speaking, this is a subtle organ of perception, a sixth sense that sees through mere appearances and discerns the secret or hidden nature of things. Some people are surprised to learn about this theory. Doesn't traditional astrology say that you Bulls are sober and well-grounded? Here's the bigger view: The penetrating vision of an evolved Taurus is potent because it peels away superficial truths and uncovers deeper truths. Would you like to tap into more of this potential superpower? The coming weeks will be a good time to do so.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The ingredient you would need to fulfill the next stage of a fun dream is behind door #1. Behind door #2 is a vision of a creative twist you could do but haven't managed yet. Behind door #3 is a clue that might help you achieve more disciplined freedom than you've known before. Do you think I'm exaggerating? I'm not. Here's the catch: You may be able to open only one door before the magic spell wears off — unless you enlist the services of a consultant, ally, witch or guardian angel to help you bargain with fate, to provide even more of the luck that may be available.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): I trust you are mostly ready for the educational adventures and experiments that are possible. The uncertainties that accompany them, whether real or imagined, will bring out the best in you. For optimal results, you should apply your nighttime thinking to daytime activities, and vice versa. Wiggle free of responsibilities unless they teach you noble truths. Finally, summon the intuitive powers that will sustain you and guide you through the brilliant shadow initiations. (PS: Take the wildest rides you dare as long as they are safe.)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Fate has decreed, "Leos must be wanderers for a while." You are under no obligation to obey this mandate, of course. Theoretically, you could resist it. But, if you do indeed rebel, be sure your willpower is very strong. You will get away with outsmarting or revising fate only if your discipline is fierce and your determination is intense. OK? So, let's imagine that you will indeed bend fate's decree to suit your needs. What would that look like? Here's one possibility: The "wandering" you undertake can be done in the name of focused exploration rather than aimless meandering.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I wish I could help you understand and manage a situation that has confused you. I'd love to bolster your strength to deal with substitutes that have been dissipating your commitment to the Real Things. In a perfect world, I could emancipate you from yearnings that are out of sync with your highest good. And maybe I'd be able to teach you to dissolve a habit that has weakened your willpower. Why can't I be of full service to you in these ways? Because, according to my assessment, you have not completely acknowledged your need for this help. So, neither I nor anyone else can provide it. But now that you've read this horoscope, I'm hoping you will make yourself more receptive to the necessary support and favors and relief.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): I can't definitively predict you will receive an influx of cash in the next three weeks. It's possible, though. And I'm not able to guarantee you'll be the beneficiary of free

lunches and unexpected gifts. But who knows? They could very well appear. Torrents of praise and appreciation may flow, too, though trickles are more likely. And there is a small chance of solicitous gestures coming your way from sexy angels and cute maestros. What I can promise you for sure, however, are fresh eruptions of savvy in your brain and sagacity in your heart. Here's your keynote, as expressed by the Queen of Sheba 700 years ago: "Wisdom is sweeter than honey, brings more joy than wine, illumines more than the sun, is more precious than jewels."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your assignment, Scorpio, is to cultivate a closer relationship with the cells that comprise your body. They are alive! Speak to them as you would to a beloved child or animal. In your meditations and fantasies, bless them with tender wishes. Let them know how grateful you are for the grand collaboration you have going and affectionately urge them to do what's best for all concerned. For you Scorpios, February is Love and Care for Your Inner Creatures Month.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Revamped and refurbished things are coming back for another look. Retreads and redemption-seekers are headed in your direction. I think you should consider giving them an audience. They are likely to be more fun or interesting or useful during their second time around. Dear Sagittarius, I suspect that the imminent future may also invite you to consider the possibility of accepting stand-ins and substitutes and imitators. They may turn out to be better than the so-called real things they replace. In conclusion, be receptive to Plan Bs, second choices and alternate routes. They could lead you to the exact opportunities you didn't know you needed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Author Neil Gaiman declared, "I've never known anyone who was what he or she seemed." While that may be generally accurate, it will be far less true about you Capricorns in the coming weeks. By my astrological reckoning, you will be very close to what you seem to be. The harmony between your deep inner self and your outer persona will be at record-breaking levels. No one will have to wonder if they must be wary of hidden agendas lurking below your surface. Everyone can be confident that what they see in you is what they will get from you. This is an amazing accomplishment! Congrats!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "I want to raise up the magic world all round me and live strongly and quietly there," wrote Aquarian author Virginia Woolf in her diary. What do you think she meant by "raise up the magic world all round me"? More importantly, how would you raise up the magic world around you? Meditate fiercely and generously on that tantalizing project. The coming weeks will be an ideal time to attend to such a wondrous possibility. You now have extra power to conjure up healing, protection, inspiration and mojo for yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Before going to sleep, I asked my subconscious mind to bring a dream that would be helpful for you. Here's what it gave me: In my dream, I was reading a comic book titled "Zoe Stardust Quells Her Demon." On the first page, Zoe was facing a purple monster whose body was beastly but whose face looked a bit like hers. On page two, the monster chased Zoe down the street, but Zoe escaped. In the third scene, the monster was alone, licking its fur. In the fourth scene, Zoe sneaked up behind the monster and shot it with a blow dart that delivered a sedative, knocking it unconscious. In the final panel, Zoe had arranged for the monster to be transported to a lush, uninhabited island where it could enjoy its life without bothering her. Now here's my dream interpretation, Pisces: Don't directly confront your inner foe or nagging demon. Approach stealthily and render it inert. Then banish it from your sphere, preferably forever.

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. 25

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

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market.

Cluttered Lives: Understanding & Treating Hoarding Disorder - Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Fitness Over 50 - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian-50plus.com.

Hour of Code: Mario - Build your own 3D Mario game while learning the basics of programming! No coding experience necessary. Grades 4-8. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradi.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.

Wheel of the Year: Imbolc and the Great Work - Join us online or in person. 6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, 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. saper galleries.com.

Working Hands | Jessica Considine, Angela Larson, & Kelly O'Neill - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 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. 26

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

Alisa Weilerstein - Hear three of Bach's beloved Cello Suites — Nos. 1, 3, and 5. 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Foster Parent / Adoption Information Session - 5-7 p.m. Virtual. For more information, contact Christina Redmond at 517-775-2693 or redmondc2@michigan.gov.

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.

Succulent Snow Globes - Intended for adults 18+. Registration req. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradi.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. saper galleries.com.

Wine about Winter - 4:30-6:30 p.m. American Fifth Spirits Tasting Room, 112 N. Larch St., Lansing. 517-487-3322. downtownlansing.org.

Winter Science - 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Working Hands | Jessica Considine, Angela Larson, & Kelly O'Neill - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org.

'Working Hands' Opening Reception - 5 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 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. 27

Craft Club - This month we will be making mini piñatas! Grades 4 to 12. Registration req. 4 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Damn Tall Buildings - 7:30 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East

City of Lansing tree-planting program

Through Feb. 28

Apply at lansingmi.gov/trees or scan QR code

The City of Lansing is holding a free tree-planting program for residents and community groups within city limits that want to freshen up outdoor spaces on their property or throughout their neighborhood.

Interested parties will be asked to sign a pledge to ensure they will properly maintain the tree. After that, the Forestry Division will help them select the best size to fit their property. Small trees are less than 20 feet tall, medium trees are less than 40 feet tall and large trees are greater than 40 feet tall at maturity.



To keep a good variety, the city will select the type of tree provided.

Applications are due by Feb. 28 and can be found at lansingmi.gov/trees. Completed applications can be emailed to parks@lansingmi.gov or submitted in person at the Parks and Recreation Department's main office, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing.



Lansing. 517-337-7744. tenpoundfiddle.org.

DJ John Beltran - 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner Road, Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Ensemble Decipher - Modular, experimental music group that performs with vintage, contemporary and emerging technologies. 8 p.m. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Fitness Over 50 - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian-50plus.com.

North of Five at The Peanut Barrel - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. peanutbarrel.com.

The Pairs - 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner Road, Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

TGIF Dinner & Dance - 7 p.m.- midnight. Eagle Eye Golf Club & Banquet Center, 15500 Chandler Road, Bath. 734-604-5095. tgifdance.com/calendar.

Travelogue - Israel, Jordan & Egypt with Bill Skiba - See and hear about lands that make the Bible come to life. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center room 213, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4233.

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.

Winter Science - 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Working Hands | Jessica Considine, Angela Larson, & Kelly O'Neill - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 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.

Saturday, Jan. 28

2023 Imbolc Ritual - Join us in person or on Zoom as we set our intentions and goals for 2022. Plan ahead, write your goals down and bring them to the ritual. 4 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

Bath Community Conversation Validation Session - Providing a complete picture of services, activities, programs and facilities needed in the future to make Bath more vibrant, fulfilling and engaging for our seniors. Coffee and donuts provided. 10:30 a.m. Bath Senior Center, 14480 Webster Road, Bath. 517-641-6728.

Board Game Saturdays - Free fun for the whole family! 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradi.org.

Celebrating our Sweet 16
2022-2023 Season



Jan. 26 - Feb. 26, 2023

A Michigan Premiere!



by Allison Gregory

One woman's memory journey takes on the pathos and hubris of teenage years amidst the struggle for identity and independence.

Starring Suzi Regan.

(Contains adult content/language)

Williamston Theatre
122 S Putnam Street ~ Williamston MI 48895
517-655-SHOW (7469)
www.williamstontheatre.org

Live & Local **CityPULSE**

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Moscow Mexico, Jenn's Apartment, As Your Attorney
 Fri., Jan. 27, 9 p.m.

A Night at the Soul Lounge with MikeyyAustin & The Soucial Club, DJ Kaely Kellz, DJ Ruckus
 Sat., Jan. 28, 9 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Keegan Jacko
 Thurs., Jan. 26, 7 p.m.

Matthew Adkins
 Fri., Jan. 27, 7 p.m.

Copper Johnson
 Sat., Jan. 28, 7 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Mix Pack
 Fri., Jan. 27, 8:30 p.m.

ICY/DICEY
 Sat., Jan. 28, 8:30 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
Shelby & Jake
 Sat., Jan. 28, 7 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Desmond Jones, Sam Corey Quintet
 Sat., Jan. 28, 8 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
North of Five
 Fri., Jan. 27, 8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Ben Turner Trio with John Webber and Keith Hall
 Sun., Jan. 29, 6 p.m.

University United Methodist Church

1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
Damn Tall Buildings
 Fri., Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner Road, Lansing
Absolute Music Chamber Series – Eric Zuber
 Thurs., Jan. 26, 7 p.m.

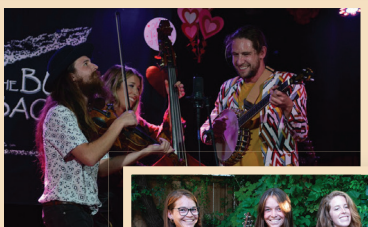
The Pairs
 Fri., Jan. 27, 7 p.m.

DJ John Beltran
 Fri., Jan. 27, 8 p.m.

Minor Element, Anthony Taylor Trio
 Sat., Jan. 28, 8:30 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse
 3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston

Aces High
 Sat., Jan. 28, 7 p.m.

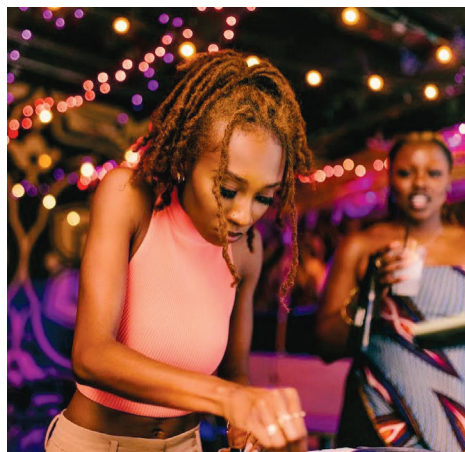


TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

A SOULFUL EVENING



Courtesy photos

DJ Kaely Kellz (left) and musician (and host) MikeyyAustin are just two of the attractions set for A Night at the Soul Lounge, happening Saturday at The Avenue Café.

Erykah Badu inspires night of hip-hop and R&B

Hip-hop isn't exclusive to the art of rhyming, so it's no surprise that A Night at the Soul Lounge, a monthly event at The Avenue Café, offers a diverse blend of the culture — and doses of tried-and-true R&B.

The evening will feature emcees, heart-felt soul music with live instrumentation, DJs, dance parties and more. The event series launched in 2019 and returns from its hiatus Saturday with performances from MikeyyAustin & The Soucial Club, DJ Ruckus (Lansing) and DJ Kaely Kellz (Detroit). Beyond that, there'll be an Erykah Badu Dance Party, with a prize going to the person with the "best Badu outfit."

Aside from top-shelf music, Saturday's event will showcase mid-Michigan underground streetwear brands and small-owned businesses as vendors. Attendees can also play pinball while ordering up some Ruckus Ramen and event-themed cocktails and mocktails.

The series, hosted by Ourspace (517) and Black Eden, was created by local musician and Ourspace (517) founder Michael Austin (aka MikeyyAustin). It's an idea he's kicked around for years in his head.

"A lot of people have mixed feelings about this comedian, but Dave Chappelle is someone I grew up watching," said Austin, who also co-hosts 517 Juneteenth Weekend in REO Town. "Not necessarily his 'Chappelle's Show,' but the events he would curate."

He specifically referred to the 2005 film "Dave Chappelle's Block Party," which documented an outdoor neighborhood concert. He said it's "always been something that resonated" with him, especially one tidbit from Chappelle.

"In the documentary, he mentioned a bar in NYC where, in the '90s and early 2000s, you could go and see some of the most popular hip-hop and soul artists of that era randomly performing live," Austin

said. "Some nights it'd be Erykah Badu. On other nights you'd find the Roots. Sometimes it'd be A Tribe Called Quest or D'Angelo."

"I've always wanted to curate a space reminiscent of this New York bar — while fusing hip-hop, neo-soul, jazz and more," he added.

Austin's version of this concept took shape at a now-closed local venue, which shuttered following the COVID-19 lockdown.

"A Night at the Soul Lounge first hit Lansing's downtown corridor in 2019," he recalled. "The idea was to fuse hip-hop, neo-soul and R&B. To combine live instrumentation, DJs and local and regional artists for a night unlike most shows. The first Soul Lounge event packed out The Loft (defunct Lansing venue), and the second event was held in Detroit."

"Our goal was to continually activate Lansing corridors and promote diversity and culture through the curation of free and accessible events," he said.

"All these things pointed clearly to bringing back the Soul Lounge as a residency."

In addition to fantastic turnouts for the first two events, Austin said his recent projects encouraged him to curate a series of soirees and make each one unique and unforgettable.

"At this past Juneteenth Weekend, we brought out over 3,000 attendees to the REO Town corridor," he said. "After reflecting on the incredible event, I realized, 'I'm going to have to wait an entire year to feel like this again.' That thought sparked the idea of creating Ourspace (517), an arts, culture and community development organization — and curating special events throughout the year."

While this month is Erykah Badu-themed, A Night at the Soul Lounge returns Feb. 24 with a tribute to "Soul Train," the long-running dance and variety television show. From there, it'll happen on the last weekend of the month through May.

A Night at the Soul Lounge

Saturday, Jan. 28
 9 p.m.
 The Avenue Café
 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
 FREE/name your price
ourspace517.com

Events

from page 18

Desmond Jones and Sam Corey Quintet - 8 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

Fight For The Fledge – Music & Art Extraganza - Ticket sales will go toward helping The Fledge expand its facilities and continue to help the community. 7 p.m. 1300 Eureka St., Lansing. 517-230-7679. thefledge.com.

Glen Erin Pipe Band presents its 50th Robert Burns Birthday Celebration - 5 p.m. Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. glenerinpipeband.com.

McLaren Greater Lansing Foundation Annual Gala - Celebrate the new McLaren Greater Lansing Health Care Campus with a little '80s flare. Dinner, cocktails, live entertainment and the chance to win prizes. 6 p.m. University Club of MSU, 3435 Forest Road, Lansing. 517-975-7100.

Minor Element - 10:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Snowshoeing for Beginners - Dress for outdoor activity. Snowshoe rentals available, must be reserved. Class dependent on snow cover. Registration req. 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866.

Starlight Snowshoe - Self-guided snowshoe walk on the trails. Bring your own snowshoes or register ahead to rent a pair. Dependent on snow coverage. 7 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866.

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. sapersgalleries.com.

Working Hands | Jessica Considine, Angela Larson, & Kelly O'Neill - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansingartgallery.org

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The City Pulse Fund, a 501(c)3, needs an accountant with experience working with nonprofits. Call Berl Schwartz at (517) 999-5061 or email him at publisher@lansingcitypulse.com if you are interested.

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. 29

2023 Running Start Live Pitch Competition - See student entrepreneurs in action as they pitch innovative projects and music business ideas to a live audience and panel of judges. 1 p.m. MSU College of Music, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Curator Tour - Join assistant curator Rachel Winter for a special walkthrough of the exhibition "Zaha Hadid Design: Untold." Registration req. 1 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

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.

"On Being" with Rex Montague-Bauer - 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

String Quartet - 3 p.m. First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, 510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing. 517-482-0668. lansingfirstpres.com.

Sunday Jazz – Ben Turner Trio with John Webber and Keith Hall - 6-9 p.m. Red Cedar Spirits, 2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing. 517-908-9950.

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. 30

Downtown Development Authority Meeting - 6 p.m. Laingsburg City Hall, 114 S. Woodhull Road, Laingsburg.

Department of Public Works Meeting - 5:30 p.m. Laingsburg City Hall, 114 S. Woodhull Road, Laingsburg.

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.

Fitness Over 50 - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Happy Birthday, Mozart! West Circle Series - Exploring Mozart's music and welcoming patrons for birthday cookies after the concert! 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Hot Cocoa Bombs and Gift Bag - Make one to keep and one to give for Valentine's Day! Best for tweens & teens, not suitable for individuals with nut allergies. Registration req. 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. sapersgalleries.com.

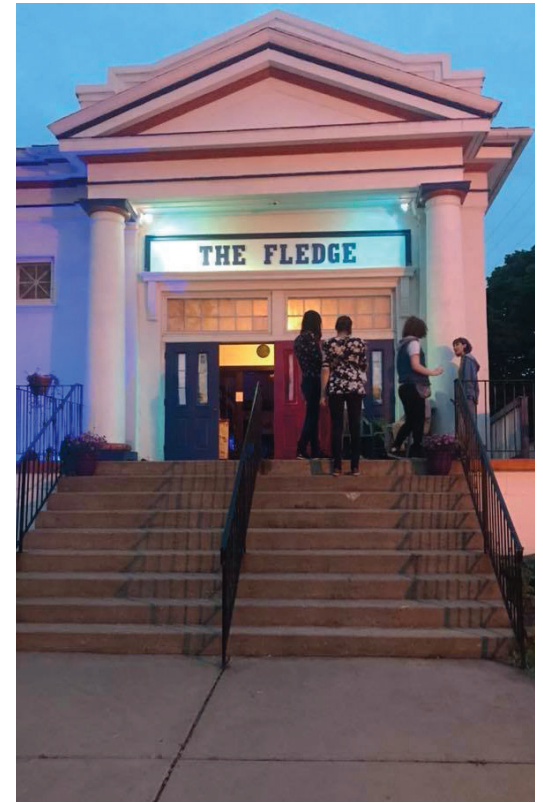
Fight for The Fledge

Saturday, Jan. 28
7 p.m.
The Fledge
1300 Eureka St.,
Lansing

The Fledge, a community center that hosts various events, provides aid for people in need and offers space and funding for budding businesses and entrepreneurs, is holding a fundraiser Saturday to help "expand its facilities and continue to help the community."

The event will include a variety of DJs, rappers and musicians. Vendors and artists will be selling wares, so make sure to bring extra cash. There will also be opportunities for hands-on painting.

Tickets start at \$10 — you can name your price depending on how much you would like to donate. Get yours at aurathebrave.ticketleap.com/fightforthefledge.



Tuesday, Jan. 31

Jagged Little Pill - 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Orchestra Lecture Recital: Lutoslawski's Concerto for Orchestra - 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

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.

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. sapersgalleries.com.

Wednesday, Feb. 1

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

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Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. 517-999-3911. allenneighborhoodcenter.org/market.

Fitness Over 50 - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

I Probably Wrote This While Crying - Featuring special guest Melissa Carter. 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 989-878-1810. therobintheatre.com.

See Events, Page 23

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Quality ingredients and perfectly priced portions

By LIZY FERGUSON

After being closed for a little under a year, Tannin became another love-to-see-it comeback story when it reopened in December. *The* eastside spot for pasta and wine, I celebrated its return last week with a romantic friend date. We sat at the bar, sipped wine, ate a tasty meal and caught up, and I felt (in my own townie way) almost cosmopolitan doing all this within walking distance of my house — like a Lansing version of “Sex and the City.” Yes, I probably need to get out more.

But I digress. Tannin’s menu offers a variety of Italian-inspired appetizers and main courses as well as an option I wish would take hold in other restaurants: half portions of entrées for extremely reasonable prices. Yes, leftovers are great,

but as a (cheap) person who will keep picking at a plate until it’s removed from my line of vision, I love paying less for the exact amount I want and need to eat. In addition to the delicious complimentary bread, that is precisely what my order of chicken Parmesan amounted to. My companion is a bird-like eater, so the half portion was a no-brainer for her as well. If we hadn’t ordered wine, our bill would have been under \$25 before the tip.

Something I always want to order but never do, this dish was highly satisfying. The marinara sauce was bright and fresh tasting, not the heavy, homogenous sauce one might expect, and the penne was nicely cooked. Both reached their full po-



Tannin’s crispy-yet-juicy chicken Parmesan sits atop a bed of penne dressed with bright, fresh-tasting marinara sauce, all topped with fragrant basil.

ness that, when breaded and fried, resulted in a delicious, crispy-yet-juicy bite. I especially appreciated the quality of the Parmesan melted atop, along with a sprinkling of fresh basil.

Our server was very knowledgeable and helpful regarding the extensive wine list, and this, coupled with the very apparent quality of the ingredients and the generosity of the price-to-portion ratio, gave a sense of being well cared for that is an oft-forgotten but very endearing aspect of dining out. Maybe it was because I was ensconced in my own neighborhood, but I would call the experience almost cozy, which is saying something for a restaurant housed in what was once a Kentucky Fried Chicken.

I should add that my dietetically demure date ended up forfeiting her leftovers to me, so I can confirm that the fettuccine alfredo is also quite good, even when eaten cold for breakfast the following day. Just like on “Sex and the City.”



Chicken Parmesan (half portion)
\$12
Tannin
1620 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing
Tuesday-Saturday: 4-9 p.m.
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tannineatery.com

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FOOD LIQUOR

The triple nature of garlic

By **ARI LEVAUX**

I still have a lot of garlic from last year's harvest. To make sure I get through it all before the new crop comes in, I've increased my consumption. Thanks to this project, I've been cooking garlic as if it's a vegetable, rather than a spice.

Given that garlic is a plant but not a fruit or a nut, it's not wrong to call it a vegetable. It's also an herb, believe it or not. We normally think of herbs as leafy and green, but garlic grows underground with no exposure to sunlight, so its cells do not make chlorophyll. However, the white, fleshy part that we eat is a modified leaf, while the plant's root and stem are confined to the scabby thing on the bottom of the clove. The center of that

structure is the stem, and the bulbous ring around it is a set of baby roots.

In addition to its multiple taxonomic classifications, garlic can have several personalities in a meal, depending on how much heat it absorbs. When cooked long enough, it loses its spice and develops a resinous sweetness, while the food it's cooked with gains a more-savory flavor. If you overcook it, it becomes bitter, so don't do that. When added raw, it imparts a lively spice. Thanks to all of these possible flavors, many add garlic more than once to a meal, with whole cloves or large chunks going in early for savory sweetness and

minced garlic going in at the very end for a feisty hint of pizzazz. Using it multiple ways is a technique perfectly suited to my agenda of expedited consumption.

One of my favorite ways to add garlic more than once is to pasta. Any sauce you could imagine serving over pasta — be it marinara, clam sauce or carbonara — benefits from being cooked with garlic. I also add minced raw garlic, along with olive oil and perhaps grated cheese, to the hot, freshly cooked noodles and toss it all together before I add the sauce. This is my standard procedure, even when I'm not trying to eat through my stash at an accelerated clip. It's just sound flavor management.

Another way I like to use garlic more than once is in a simple, Asian-style

rice dish. I start by cooking a pot of rice, adding some whole garlic cloves when the rice is about half cooked. The cloves steam atop the rice and get deliciously soft. When the rice is done, I toss it with freshly pressed or minced raw garlic and equal parts soy sauce and sesame oil. The hot rice cooks the raw garlic enough to blunt its edge, similar to what happens with the hot pasta, but it still retains plenty of firepower. Just remember when adding raw garlic that it will linger on your breath a lot longer than if it were cooked, so check your calendar and use your judgment.

Another recipe in my enhanced garlic routine is oven-poached cloves in olive oil with potatoes and meat. I use deer meat, but it's a recipe that I've adapted from one for olive oil-poached fish. You can use the protein of your choice.





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TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 BAKERIES

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

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. Sweet Encounter Bakery & Cafe

Scrumptious gluten-free, peanut-free and
vegan desserts

300 S. Washington Square, Lansing
517-730-5005
sweetencounterbakery.com
8 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, Saturday
8 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday

3. Bake N' Cakes

Custom cakes for all occasions, plus other
delicious confections
3003 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
517-337-2253
bakencakes.com
7 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday
8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday

4. Mitten Raised

Hand-crafted, gourmet baked goods
1331 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
517-490-3918
mittenraised.com
8 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday

5. Blumchen Bakery

One-woman operation designing and
baking cakes with love
1841 Nemoke Court, Apt. 5, Haslett
517-755-7906
facebook.com/blumchen.bakery
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Sunday

Oven-poached garlic with choice of protein

You can also use fish for this recipe. If doing so, reduce the heat to 275 degrees before adding the fish and cook until it's flaky (about 25 minutes).

Serves two

- 1 cup olive oil
- 3 medium-sized potatoes, sliced to a ½-inch thickness
- 1 sprig of fresh thyme (or a tablespoon dried)
- 2 bay leaves
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 12 large cloves of garlic
- ½ pound of tender red meat, sliced to a ½-inch thickness

Set the oven to 350 degrees and pour the oil into a 12-inch cast-iron skillet. Lay the potato slices in the oil; their bulk should raise the oil level above them. If not, add more oil to cover them. Add the thyme, bay leaves and salt, and put the skillet in the oven.

When the potatoes start to soften (about 20 minutes), add the whole garlic cloves. If you add them too soon, they'll turn bitter. As soon as you add the garlic, the air will fill with an irresistible aroma. After about 15 minutes of this olfactory torture, add the meat.

The meat should take about 15 minutes to cook. You can track progress with a meat thermometer or by cutting it with a knife and checking the color. When it's done, remove the contents with a slotted spoon, holding it above the pan so the excess oil can drip back in. Serve the garlic-infused, oil-poached meal on a plate next to a slice of buttered bread. As you eat, smear the soft, sweet cloves of garlic onto the bread.

Events

from page 20

Jagged Little Pill - 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

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

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.

Working Hands | Jessica Considine, Angela Larson, & Kelly O'Neill - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 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, Feb. 2

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

Curious Chemists - 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Jagged Little Pill - 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.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. ladiessilverblades.org.

Wine about Winter - 4:30-6:30 p.m. MP Social, 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. 517-487-3322. downtownlansing.org.

Working Hands | Jessica Considine, Angela Larson, & Kelly O'Neill - 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 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, Feb. 3

19th Mid-Winter Singing Festival Community Sing - Featuring Lea Gilmore, Mark Dvorak and Joel Mabus. 7:30 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. 517-337-7744. singingfestival.com.

Blind Spot: Stephanie Syjuco Opening Reception - Meet the artist while enjoying first access to her newest exhibition. Registration req. 7 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Curious Chemists - 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Fitness Over 50 - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Mall Food Court. 9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Horrocks Beer Garden - The Swift Brothers - 5 p.m. 7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 517-323-3782. shophorrocks.com.

Jagged Little Pill - 8 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Jazz Orchestras with Bruce Forman, guitar (JAR) - 8 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-319-6957. allofusexpress.org.

Michigan State Hockey vs. Notre Dame Fighting Irish - 7 p.m. Munn Ice Arena, 509 Birch Road, East Lansing.

Repeat, No Skull, Dropped at Birth - 8 p.m. Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

Science of Sound - 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Space Adventure - 12:45 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Travelogue - Central Europe - Explore cathedrals, castles, palaces and town squares in Berlin and Dresden, Germany; Vienna and Salzburg, Austria and Prague before returning to Munich. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center room 213, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4233.

Working Hands | Jessica Considine, Angela Larson, & Kelly O'Neill - 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 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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