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Feb. 8-14 2023

CityPULSE

A newspaper for the rest of us
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MICHIGAN'S HISTORY



See Page 15

in panoramic view



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CityPULSE

**VOL. 22
ISSUE 27**

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E-COMMERCE SITES HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY BLOATED AND JUNKY.

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RODNEY WHITAKER OASIS
THE MUSIC OF DREDD HILL
Fred Stafford, Tim Warfield, Bruce Barth, Dana Hall, Roscoe Turner

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Lansing-made jazz album is a smash hit

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Spice up your sex life with a little THC

Cover collage by Design2Pro

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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BY 6AM

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We work hard to keep you informed and up to date on the issues that matter most to you.

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Valentine's Day Cards for 2023

Valentine, my love for you is a verifiable fact!

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Dearest Valentine, the way I feel about you is NO HOAX--

--unlike the Fauci flu and the so-called vaccine!

Valentine, there's NOTHING I crave more... than the approval of random right-wing Twitter trolls!

But you're definitely somewhere on the list.

If you were a book, I would never ban YOU... from my heart!

DESANTIS FOR PRESIDENT

Unless you mentioned African American history or any of that gender stuff.

I'd incite an insurrection for YOUR heart any day!

Wait, did I say insurrection, I meant a peaceful gathering of well-intentioned patriots.

Tom Tomorrow © 2023-02-06 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Red alert on red-tagged residential properties in Lansing

In the city's 1st Ward, 47 unsafe homes are occupied illegally

Behind the heavy metal screen door, the sounds of excited children could be heard. The woman who answered the door Sunday asked to get her husband. Soon, Madi Mahamat Ibrahim was sliding on white loafers across the front porch at 1135 Farrand St. on the city's northeast side.

The house is one on a list of 180 red-tagged residential properties in the 1st Ward. Red-tagged properties have been deemed by the city to be unsafe to enter or live in.

First Ward Councilman Ryan Kost, who took office in January, said he obtained the list of them from the city, then began visiting them. By Sunday evening, he had visited all the properties on the list and had identified 47 as being occupied. That means people are illegally living in 26 percent of the unsafe properties in the ward.

Kost said he identified them as inhabited based on noises, pets and lights on in the properties. He noted that, as with Ibrahim's property, from the street you would not have known the properties were red-tagged because the city stickers had been removed.

Scott Bean, a spokesperson for Mayor Andy Schor, said that while it is illegal to live in or rent out a red-tagged property, the city's hands are tied.

Code compliance officials can't remove someone from a property, he said. On top of that, even if the Lansing Police come, the residents may hide or refuse to answer the door. Lansing Police "can't force their way in," he said.

Bean noted that the city can charge a landlord or property owner \$500 for allowing a red-tagged property to be inhabited.

In order to address the ongoing housing concerns, Bean said the administration is open to a thorough review of city ordinances.

Ibrahim had been renting the 1135



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

The couple who rented 810 Beulah St. in south Lansing took their dog for a walk on Feb. 1. They returned to the red-tagged home to find it on fire.

Farrand house for \$1,200 a month for two years. In November, Mohammad Abduljaber, representing the owner Zahieh Atrash, offered to sell the two-story home to him on a land contract. The deal lowered his monthly house payment by \$400 a month. A land contract is an alternative to a conventional mortgage through a bank. Instead, under a land contract the buyer pays the seller directly until the purchase price is paid in full.

The city shows Ibrahim is paying \$68,000 for the property, which is valued for taxes at \$39,100. It's been red-tagged since 2017.

Abduljaber owned the property in 2014, but he signed it over to another property owner before heading to federal prison for convictions related to a Medicare fraud scheme with his former wife, Shannon Wiggins, then a medical doctor. In a plea deal, he served three and half years.

Both Ibrahim and Abduljaber said they were unaware the property had been red-tagged since 2017. "As soon as we knew, we went down and got the permits," Abduljaber said in a phone call Sunday with this reporter and Ibrahim.

Building Department records show electrical and mechanical permits were requested on Jan. 28 but that they had yet to be paid for. The property ought to



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Madi Ibrahim, his wife and six children have lived in this house, at 1135 Farrand St. in northeast Lansing, for two years, first as renters and now as owners through a land contract. Yet city inspectors deemed it unsafe and red-tagged it in 2017, making their occupancy illegal.

have been accumulating \$150 a month in red-tag monitoring fees since the spring of 2018. That's when the property moved into an urgent safety concern under city rules.

No fees were charged, according to city records.

The home has been boarded up by the city three times — in 2017, 2018 and again in 2019.

The issue of red-tagged housing and people living in those properties drew renewed scrutiny after a Feb. 1 fire destroyed the bungalow at 810 Beulah St. on the near south side the Fabulous Acres neighborhood. The couple who lived there and their dog were on a walk. When they returned, the home was ablaze.

"That couple was very lucky," Lansing City Council President Wood said. "That fire could have happened in the middle of the night, and we don't know if they would have made it out then."

Wood said that people living in a

red-tagged property is a "tragedy waiting to happen." Her colleagues Kost and Third Ward Councilman Adam Hussain concurred.

"The system is broken," said Kost. "This is exploiting people's lives. Carol hit the nail on the head that this is a tragedy waiting to happen. We narrowly missed that" on Feb. 1.

Hussain said the 1st Ward is representative of what is happening across the city with people moving into condemned homes. The city has 705 red-tagged residential units, Bean said.

"The question is, do we have the right tools, or is this a problem with management?" he said.

"We were told that if the building and code compliance team were

properly staffed, this would not be a problem. That proper staffing would be 11 code and building inspectors and four premise inspectors. We have that. In fact, we did better than that. We also added a corridor inspector so the other inspectors could stay in the neighborhoods."

Bean said dealing with red-tag housing is "complex." In order to address it, he said the city could clamp down on so-called NEAT (Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team) properties, whose owners have been given 90 days to obtain the city permits in order to begin bringing those properties up to code. He said the city could tighten the timeline to fewer than 90 days, create graduated fee structures so the longer a property is red-tagged, the higher the monthly fee is, increase the fine for renting a red-tagged property and require properties to all have trash service.

Wood said the Council's Public Safety

Red tag

from page 5

Committee would be pushing on what actions the city could take immediately to hold property owners accountable.

“They are absolutely endangering people’s lives,” said Hussain.

Fear of losing a life is not hyperbole. In June last year, 23-month-old Damian Shessia perished in a fatal fire in an unregistered rental property on Cavanaugh Street. The property did not have fire alarms, fire officials acknowledged.

On Monday two people were injured and one died in a fire in a two-story rental property on the city’s west side. That property was an inspected rental with a current certification.

“Just because a property is inspected and has a certification does not mean something cannot happen with it that would result in a fire,” said Hussain. “But there is a much higher potential for that to happen in a property that has been deemed unsafe by the city.”

Land contracts, Wood said, are some-

times a tool that unscrupulous investors use to skirt rental inspections. That’s why the city requires land contracts to be filed with the City Assessor’s Office or the Ingham County register of deeds.

“By using a land contract, the property owner can make money on the property without having to go through the inspections and certifications for a rental property. But if the person misses a payment, they are in a position to foreclose or evict the person. Then they do it all over again,” said Wood.

“The fact that there is no homestead exemption filed should have raised red flags,” Wood said about the Farrand Street house. The property owner is still obligated to pay 100% of property taxes, despite being eligible for an exemption as a principal residency.

Taxes had been unpaid or paid late since at least 2017 according to city tax records. The property actually shows \$3,177.23 due for summer and winter 2022 taxes. If those are not paid by March 1, they will be transferred to the county, where fees and interest will accrue.

In a phone call Tuesday morning, Ab-

duljaber admitted what he would not say when Ibrahim and this reporter spoke with him on Sunday: The family was not supposed to live in the house that is red-tagged.

“That is the law. I can’t do anything about that,” Abduljaber said. “They have to find a place somewhere. I am not responsible for this. They bought the property ‘as is.’ It is not like I cheated them. As soon as we were aware of the problem, we moved to fix it immediately.”

Wood shot back, “But they didn’t know. How are they supposed to know those were problems that were out there if it’s not being disclosed.”

Abduljaber said the red tag was really a “technicality” arising from a previous owner who did remodeling without a permit.

“Bull pucky,” decried Wood. “You

don’t know if that remodeling cut into a load-bearing support beam or plaster over wiring that needed work.”

Asked Ibrahim: “I have six children. Where am I supposed to go?”

That is an excellent question, said Hussain.

“We do not have a system in place to require landlords to pay for housing or relocation when their properties are red-tagged,” he said.

Removing people from red-tagged properties could lead to homelessness, Bean said.

Said Bean, pointing to a dilemma, “We want people out of unsafe houses, and we try to get them into shelters and alternative housing, but we don’t want to create more homeless problems.”

— TODD HEYWOOD

STATE OF MICHIGAN INGHAM COUNTY PROBATE COURT. NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Decedent’s Estate. Case No. 21-000527-DE-P33. Estate of Jacqueline Ann Anes. Date of birth: 06/03/1961. **TO ALL CREDITORS: NOTICE TO CREDITORS:** The decedent, Jacqueline Ann Anes, died 04/07/2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Elizabeth Carey, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St, Lansing MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice 02/08/2023 Elizabeth Carey 425 N. Rogers St. Mason, MI 48854

CP#23-033

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Building Board of Appeals on **Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, Conference Room A, Second Floor, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing that was tabled will resume to consider new information for the appeal from **Andrew Kraft of DTN Management Company for the property at 1547 N. Hagadorn Rd., Stone Ridge Apartments**, requesting reconsideration to a code official decision regarding making mechanical ventilation changes throughout the whole complex, that would create a financial hardship.

2006 International Property Maintenance Code

Sec. 604.1. Mechanical Appliances

Mechanical appliances. All mechanical appliances, fireplaces, solid fuel-burning appliances, cooking appliances and water heating appliances shall be properly installed and maintained in a safe working condition and shall be capable of performing the intended function.

Sec. 110.3 Examination, Identification, Installation, Use, and List-ing (Product Certification) of Equipment.

(B) Installation and Use. Listed or labeled equipment shall; be installed and used in accordance with any instructions included in the listing or labeling.

2. A public hearing will be held to consider an **appeal of Andrew Kraft of DTN Management Company for the property at 1547 N. Hagadorn Rd, Stone Ridge Apartments**, to reconsider a code official decision regarding a change to a significant amount of electrical wiring to effectively meet the code requirement regarding receptacles placed over baseboard heaters.

2006 International Property Maintenance Code

Sec. 604.3. Electrical System Hazards

Where it is found the electrical systems in a structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants or the structure by reason of inadequate service, improper fusing, insufficient receptacle and lighting outlets, improper wiring or installation, deterioration, or damage, or for similar reason, the code official shall require the defects to be corrected to eliminate the hazard.

Sec. 604.1. Mechanical Appliances

All mechanical appliances, fireplaces, solid fuel-burning appliances, cooking appliances and water heating appliances shall be properly installed and maintained in a safe working condition and shall be capable of performing the intended function.

Sec. 110.3 Examination, Identification, Installation, Use, and List-ing (Product Certification) of Equipment.

(B) Installation and Use. Listed or labeled equipment shall; be installed and used in accordance with any instructions included in the listing or labeling.

3. A public hearing will be held to consider an appeal from **Gary Dods, owner of the property at 351 Bailey St.** who is requesting a variance on the basement bedroom ceiling height to create another rental unit.

2015 Michigan Residential Code

R305.1 Minimum height. Habitable space, hallways and portions of basements containing these spaces shall have a ceiling height of not less than 7 feet (2134 mm). Bathrooms, toilet rooms and laundry rooms shall have a ceiling height of not less than 6 feet 8 inches (2032 mm).

Exceptions:

1. For rooms with sloped ceilings, the required floor area of the room shall have a ceiling height of not less than 5 feet (1524 mm) and not less than 50 percent of the required floor area shall have a ceiling height of not less than 7 feet (2134 mm).
2. The ceiling height above bathroom and toilet room fixtures shall be such that the fixture is capable of being used for its intended purpose. A shower or tub equipped with a showerhead shall have a ceiling height of not less than 6 feet 8 inches (2032 mm) above an area of not less than 30 inches (762 mm) by 30 inches (762 mm) at the showerhead.
3. Beams, girders, ducts or other obstructions in basements containing habitable space shall be permitted to project to within 6 feet 4 inches (1931 mm) of the finished floor.

R305.1.1 Basements. Portions of basements that do not contain habitable space or hallways shall have a ceiling height of not less than 6 feet 8 inches (2032 mm).

Exception: At beams, girders, ducts or other obstructions, the ceiling height shall be not less than 6 feet 4 inches (1931 mm) from the finished floor.

For more information on the request please contact Scott Weaver at (517) 319-6810 or sweaver@cityofeastlansing.com. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Building Board of Appeals, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to bba@cityofeastlansing.com.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the City Manager’s Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6920 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at nmostel@cityofeastlansing.com.

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

Jennifer Shuster
SCity Clerk

CP#23-037

Can airlines fix their antiquated accessibility procedures?

BY SAMUEL BLATCHFORD

Airline travel can be stressful. You have to deal with long lines at security, missing or damaged luggage, even a delayed flight or two.

For Laura Hall, the program director at the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition in East Lansing, air travel can be even tougher.

Hall has cerebral palsy and uses a power chair to get around. She said she hasn't had pleasant experiences while traveling by plane, and there were three instances where her chair was damaged.

Waiting for her chair at baggage claim can be panic-inducing, she said.

"It can feel like you are cut off from your lifeline" when her chair is damaged, Hall said.

Some organizations are looking at ways

to improve air travel for wheelchair users.

When a wheelchair gets damaged, airlines give out loaner chairs. These chairs do not give the same amount of support that custom chairs have.

"My chair is custom fit for my body. It's really difficult to use a loaner chair when it's not your own chair," Hall said.

Boarding the plane can also be a headache.

Hall doesn't get out of her wheelchair until she is at the jet bridge.

She's then transferred to a narrow aisle chair. Two people help her get onto the chair.

"One will grab me under the arms, one will grab me under my legs and put me into the seat," she said.

She said that the transfer can be rough.

She tends to avoid air travel when pos-

sible. She sometimes opts for a 16-hour train ride over a two-hour flight because of the difficulties of flying.

In 2021, a committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine assessed whether accommodating people seated in their own wheelchairs was technically feasible.

The nonprofit organization says it provides independent, objective advice to inform policy decisions.

There are no attachment systems now to secure a wheelchair on scheduled flights.

As for other modes of transportation such as buses and trains, they allow individuals to board in their wheelchairs,

stay seated in their wheelchairs for the whole trip and then deboard at their destination.

When it comes to commercial flights, however, this accommodation isn't available. Passengers must fly in an airplane seat.

That leads to the question: What should airlines do to accommodate wheelchair users?

The committee suggested ways to accommodate wheelchair users:

They include modifying the plane's interior to create a wheelchair attachment system at the front of the cabin and removing two successive rows of seats near the boarding door to provide room to secure wheelchairs.

That would allow enough room for wheelchairs to move in and out without infringing on the space of other passen-



Courtesy photo

Air travel can be panic-inducing for wheelchair-bound passengers, says Laura Hall, program director for the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, in East Lansing.

gers, the committee report said.

To do so, airlines would need to change their interior configurations, said Miriam Manary, a researcher at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute.

She said aircraft doors are large enough for a wheelchair but the aisles are not.

"The wheelchair station would need to be adjacent to one of the aircraft doors and also near an accessible lavatory," Manary said.

She said plane interiors are updated periodically and can be reconfigured.

Airlines usually put wheelchairs in the cargo hold, but they can be heavy and difficult for baggage handlers to maneuver.

"It is very difficult to transport" wheelchairs, and they can get damaged in the process, said Perry Flint, the head of corporate communications at the International Air Transport Association in Montreal.

Modern wheelchairs "are not designed so they can fit into a cargo hold of a narrow body aircraft," Flint said.

The association plans to improve handling of wheelchairs by introducing an electronic mobility aid tag to ensure they are properly taken care of throughout a trip.

(Samuel Blatchford is a reporter for Capital News Service.)

NOTICE

THE CITY OF LANSING BOARD OF REVIEW WILL HOLD AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023, AT 10:00AM.

THE BOARD OF REVIEW OF THE CITY OF LANSING WILL MEET IN REGULAR SESSION TO HEAR APPEALS ON:

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023, AND TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023 - 9AM TO 12 PM & 1:30 PM TO 4:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023 — 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM AND 6:00 PM TO 9:00 PM; THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023, 9AM TO 12 PM & 1:30 PM TO 4:30 PM AT

LANSING CITY HALL, 124 W MICHIGAN AVE, 3RD FLOOR.

IF YOU WISH TO APPEAL YOUR ASSESSMENT OR SIMPLY WANT MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE ASSESSING OFFICE AT 517 483-7624. APPOINTMENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED BUT STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO AVOID EXCESSIVE WAIT TIMES. TAXPAYERS MAY SUBMIT AN APPEAL IN WRITING. ALL WRITTEN APPEALS MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FORMS AND INFORMATION AT WWW.LANSINGMI.GOV

2023 Ratios and Tentative Multipliers

Clinton County

Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	47.27	1.0578
Commercial	47.06	1.0625
Industrial	45.86	1.0903
Residential	N/C	
Timber Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	

Eaton County

Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	48.9	1.0225
Industrial	50.76	0.9850
Residential	44.98	1.1116
Timber Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	

Ingham County

Property Class	Tentative Ratio	Multiplier
Agricultural	N/C	
Commercial	46.76	1.0693
Industrial	47.13	1.0609
Residential	44.81	1.1158
Timber Cutover	N/C	
Developmental	N/C	

CP#23-031



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2023

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2023

The Transportation Commission will be holding a Special Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI in the Municipal Building Town Hall room on Thursday, February 23, 2023 to discuss the Climate Sustainability Plan and Master Plan Goals and Objectives. The meeting agenda, packet and/or virtual meeting credentials will be posted on the Township webpage at www.meridian.mi.us.

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

CP#23-032

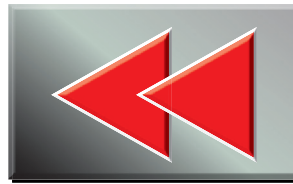
Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY NICOLE NOEHEL



The Lansing Police Department identified the victim of a shooting in the area of Osband and Lenore avenues Sunday night. Makhi Williams, 18, was found in his car and transported to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.



An unnamed victim, 17, was found with a gunshot wound on Beal Avenue and taken to a hospital in critical condition. The incidents are believed to be related. The department said it believes the shootings were not random and the public is not at risk. The investigation is ongoing, and anyone with information should call the department at 517-483-4600.



East Lansing City Clerk Jennifer Shuster (left) and Deputy City Clerk Kathryn Gardner resigned. Shuster will work for the Michigan Senate, while Gardner will work for Michigan State University. Marie Wicks, who was city clerk before Shuster for 12 years, will serve as her interim replacement. The city now has seven leadership spots to fill, including city manager; director of planning, building and development; community and economic development administrator; human resources director; and senior planner, according to the Lansing State Journal.

man resources director; and senior planner, according to the Lansing State Journal.

A house fire on the 500 block of Lansing's Rulison Street left one dead and two injured. Two people were able to escape with the help of neighbors and were transported to a hospital, but the Lansing Fire Department was unable to



rescue the third from the blaze. The cause of the fire is unknown and could take a while to determine. The rental home will likely be demolished, according to WILX. An adjacent home was also damaged, though less severely.

The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians has two weeks to resolve its \$88.8 million settlement with two development companies over failed casinos, according to the Lansing State Journal. The two promised casinos never broke ground, as the U.S. Department of the Interior did not allow the tribe to take the land into trust. The \$88.4 million will pay back "\$9 million in loans from the developers, interest and loss of potential future profits," \$60 million for the proposed casino in Huron Township and \$28.8 million for the proposed casino in Lansing. Developers originally hoped to gain back \$124 million. The tribe disagrees with the ruling because of a "non-recourse provision that only allowed for recovery if there were profits from the casino that never came to be." It has been re-issued a two-week temporary restraining order, keeping it from disposing of assets.



SOE OF THE WEEK



1419 Ada St., Lansing

Two weeks ago, the eyesore was 1423 Ada St. in Lansing. Right next door is another red-tagged and eyesore-worthy house. The property at 1419 Ada St. is boarded up. Not only is the property sporting a red tag on a window, but the plywood covering the door has a court order to vacate the premises due to a foreclosure.

The 1914, two-story home has 1,320 square feet of living space. The property also has a garage at the end of the drive it shared with 1423 Ada.

Property records show the house was foreclosed on in June 2022. Since 2020, it has received premise violations for trash, weeds and as an unsafe property. The city boarded it up in August 2022. Officials had to board the property up again in October 2022.

The Federal National Mortgage Association, known as Fannie Mae, has owned the property since the completion of a foreclosure. Officials from Fannie Mae declined to discuss the property, citing ongoing litigation.

— 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.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY

LEGAL AD NOTICE: Special Use Permit #23005

Tidal Wave Auto Spa

MONDAY, February 27, 2023

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

LEGAL NOTICE

Special Use Permit #23005

(Tidal Wave Auto Spa)

Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Township Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, to hear all persons interested in a special use permit (SUP) request. The applicant, New Potato Creek Holding, LLC requesting a special use permit to construct a drive-through car wash at 4880 Marsh Road. The project site is zoned C-3 (Commercial).

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the Planning Commission, 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#23-034



City Pulse needs a new person to write Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design.

Email publisher@lansingcitypulse.com if interested.

Michigan's children deserve the very best education, but what they have received from state government over the last couple of decades has been disappointing and lackluster. However, the energy seems to be shifting in the right direction.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer used her State of the State address to re-emphasize her commitment to improving educational opportunities. In discussing her "Lowering MI Costs" proposal, the governor tie-barred an expansion of the Great Start Readiness Program for 4-year-olds to retirement tax relief and earned income tax credits. She touted the need for universal pre-K programming that would cover approximately 110,000 kids and save families an average of \$10,000. Similarly, the governor renewed her 2021 call for "Get MI Kids Back on Track" that includes funding for tutoring and afterschool programs for students and urged immediate action "before spring break."

Of course, each of these proposals faces an uphill battle in a Legislature where the Dems hold slim majorities in both chambers. The price tags are steep too, with the tutoring/afterschool programming slated to cost around \$280 million and universal pre-K also projected to cost in the hundreds of millions range. The state is still sitting on a COVID relief dollars-fed \$9 billion surplus, and negotiations between the administration and Legislature on how to best prioritize those funds have already begun. The governor pointed to her first-term record allocation to the K-12 school aid fund, and her ability to work across the aisle to accomplish that should be commended. However, as MSU faculty have pointed out, Michigan is 50th in the country in K-12 investments since 1993, an alarming gap that requires wholesale change in the way we support our schools.

The benefits of early childhood education are clear, and those benefits of universal pre-K extend to the economy because parents are better able to work when childcare access is less of a hurdle because of the crippling cost. Or they could work less and spend more quality time with their children.

Yet, does the full proposal go far enough? Are there incentives for caring and compassionate early childhood educators to provide the type of quality support our children deserve? Many childcare centers already have waiting lists, and an expanded pre-K program would place profound stress on the educator supply that's already in urgent need of a pipeline boost. And that doesn't even include the transportation challenges.

Our children deserve more than a warm body in classrooms. In her address, the governor also gave a nod to the new stipends that student-teachers are receiving to address critical shortages in K-12 teacher labor. Far too many classrooms are staffed by non-certified staff or an already over-burdened administrator because the substitute supply is worse than the diminished certified teacher supply. Students are then supervised by adults with little to no classroom training and end up with lower-quality educational experiences. This doesn't sound like the optimized system for education that the consortium of business and education association leaders known as Launch Michigan were calling for to develop students who are the "critical, versatile, and creative thinkers

we need to sustain robust communities, fuel a vigorous economy, and live meaningful and rewarding lives." This isn't to say that Michigan's teachers aren't doing their best to teach and support our students, because they are. But they deserve better from all of us. And the state's future depends on getting it right.

To that end, do we think tutoring alone will pull our students out of the ceaseless wake of the COVID-19 pandemic? Sure, our youth need more support for their learning, and some could benefit from extra time on reading,

writing, mathematics and science. But that time shouldn't just be more drills on the rudimentary aspects of schooling. Students need opportunities to be creative and grow their passion for learning. Many students spent the better part of virtual school focused on computer screens that centered the learning on basic skills of language and computation. What those students missed greatly were the application opportunities and social interactions with classmates. Sadly, many others lacked the

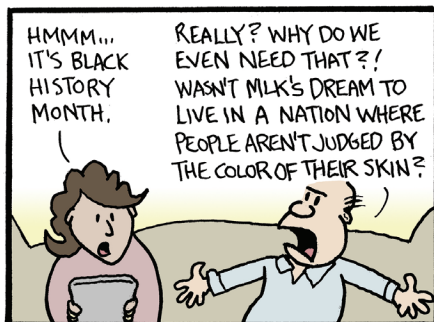
access to technology or support from adults, and they could no doubt gain from tutoring provisions and resources. Yet, nearly every student has at some point struggled mentally and socially, and more resources should be allocated to ensure access to the necessary care in both of those areas.

The adults, again, need to get this right. Focusing on whose tutoring plan (Whitmer's or the GOP's vetoed plan from 2021) the state implements is far less important than it is for the plan to provide children with the appropriate support in a timely and efficient manner. More counselors and more social workers should be paired with more experiential learning that promotes physical and emotional well-being.

Taken as stand-alone ideas, the pre-K expansion and tutoring supports are both noble ideas. Yet, the piecemeal approach has its limitations. Michigan needs something bold and comprehensive. Our children deserve it.

Our children deserve better

The CP Edit Opinion



Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages?

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1 Write a letter to the editor.

- E-mail: letters@lansingcitypulse.com
- Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
- At lansingcitypulse.com

2

Write a guest column.

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

Why Whitmer prefers a \$180 rebate over a longer-term income tax cut

I'm not sure if Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is putting her name on them, but you can thank the governor for the \$180-per-person rebate check you're getting later this spring or summer.

Michigan is sitting on \$9.2 billion thanks to an economy still buzzing from the extra money the feds printed during the height of the COVID pandemic.

The tax dollars are flowing into the Michigan Treasury so fast and so furiously that an income-tax reduction trigger that few thought would ever be tripped was set to be activated, according to early guesses from the state's bean counters.

Our 4.25% rate is slated to drop to 4.05% starting next year. The early math here is if you make \$50,000 in taxable income, that's \$100 a year ... every year until the tax rate is changed again.

And here's where the rub comes in. The governor was a legislator during the Great Recession. She remembers the lean times. College scholarships were canceled. Adult Medicaid patients saw their dental coverage canceled. Colleges and local governments all had their oxen gored.

The Democratic governor wants to fund programs for students and the financially struggling, not starve government till there's another round of forced cuts years down the line.

She doesn't want to be stuck with a lower tax rate that doesn't raise enough money to pay for all of her programs in 2025 or 2026.

So, here come the \$180 rebate checks.

State government doesn't have the money to permanently cut the income tax rate, issue rebate checks and continue the long-term programs Whitmer wants to continue long after she's gone.

Where's the legacy in creating tutor programming, for example, if the state runs out of money to pay for it in a couple of years?

Why subsidize a generic pharmaceutical company to kick out low-cost insulin only to watch it wither because there's not enough money to

pay for it?

Would you rather have the rebate checks or the tax cut? Functionally, it doesn't matter. You don't get a choice in the matter.

Looking at it more broadly, though, it does.

It's still really early in this term, but once this tax rebate check goes out, there probably isn't going to be another one from the state of Michigan.

If the Governor's Office finds a legal opinion or another trap door to get around not cutting the income tax, they're going to do it and set the precedent.

This is a defining moment not just for Whitmer, but the state legislators who are being asked to vote on it. If you don't like the decision, the lawmakers who signed off on it are just as culpable as the governor.

That's why this question matters. Would you rather have the rebate check or the tax cuts?

Politically speaking, your answer probably will stick with you long after that \$180 is spent.

If you're a small business owner who claims your business's income on your individual tax return, you want that tax cut year after year. If you're making well north of six figures, the benefit of having that tax cut is going to be well over \$180.

But if you're scraping by on a couple of minimum wage jobs, \$180 now sounds a lot better than \$180 spread out over three years. For the working people who would rather have money now than later, that check being directly deposited into your bank account come June sounds kind of nice.

Combine the \$180 with the large Earned Income Tax credit the governor and Democrats are kicking out along with the rebate check and it's pretty clear the working-class folks have an appetite for what the Dems are serving up.

If you're OK with the money now, though, you're OK with it. Whitmer is counting on you remembering that it came courtesy of the Democrats.

Just remember the check is coming instead of a permanent tax cut and you need to be OK with that, too.

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



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS

Michigan needs a graduated income tax

I read with interest the City Pulse editorial in your Feb. 1 edition titled "Tax the Rich," and I agree that changes Governor Whitmer has proposed, including expansion of the state's Earned Income Tax (which I worked on since it was first introduced in 2006), changes to the "pension tax" and universal preschool should be adopted.

However, your closing paragraph caught my attention. Your editorial makes the case for creating "a fair and equitable system of taxation that benefits low- and middle-income families and eschews public subsidies for the wealthy."

Michigan needs a graduated income tax if we're going to have a such a system.

Today, a millionaire pays the same state tax rate (4.25 percent) as a single mom making \$15,000 per year, or a married couple making \$70,000 per year. That's not right.

After payroll taxes such as FICA (Social Security and Medicare) and state and

federal taxes are deducted, the price of a loaf of bread, a carton of eggs or a pound of ground beef represent a far greater portion of the disposable income of low and middle-class workers, than the millionaire.

A graduated income tax is based on a household's ability to pay. Those who make less pay a lower rate. Those who earn more pay a higher rate.

Michigan is one of only nine states with a flat income tax and, while the flat tax is not only unfair, it is not capturing the economic growth that is occurring at the top of the income scale.

This won't be easy. Michigan's Constitution prohibits a graduated income tax. But I believe, with proper messaging and real-life examples, the time is right for this fundamental and much needed change to our tax structure.

Sharon Parks

Holt

(The writer is a former CEO of the Michigan League for Public Policy.)

Letter

CITY OF EAST LANSING, INGHAM AND CLINTON COUNTIES MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The City of East Lansing Board of Review will conduct its organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Court/Council Conference Room of City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

2023 Tentative Factors:

Commercial Real Property	1.00000
Industrial Real Property	1.00000
Residential Real Property	1.00000
Personal Property	1.00000

The Board of Review will meet for assessment appeals in the Court/Council Conference Room of City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 on the following dates:

Monday, March 13, 2023: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 14, 2023: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Written appeals must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 14, 2023. For an appointment, call Marti Townsend at 517-319-6880 by 1:00 p.m. on March 14, 2023.

CP#23-025



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY

LEGAL AD NOTICE: Special Use Permit #23004

Schultz Veterinary Clinic Addition

MONDAY, February 27, 2023

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

LEGAL NOTICE

Special Use Permit #23004

(Schultz Veterinary Clinic)

Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Township Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, to hear all persons interested in a special use permit (SUP) request. The applicant, Mayberry Homes, is requesting a special use permit to build an addition to an existing business, Schultz Veterinary Clinic, at 2770 Bennett Road. The project site is zoned RR (Rural Residential).

Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the Planning Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to shorkey@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

CP#23-035

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Topping the charts

Rodney Whitaker and Gregg Hill's 'Oasis' is a national hit

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Across the nation, people are driving to work, typing in cubicles, flirting in coffee shops and doing God knows what else to the swinging sounds of a brand-new jazz CD with origins in Greater Lansing.

World-renowned bassist and band-leader Rodney Whitaker's "Oasis" hit No. 1 on the Utah-based Roots Music Report Top 50 Album chart in jazz for the weeks of Jan. 21 and 28. "Oasis" is the third in a series of albums by Whitaker devoted to the music of another Lansing-area musician, Gregg Hill.

"It's homegrown, Lansing grown," Whitaker declared. "I'm pretty proud of our little town turning into a mecca."

Whitaker, director of jazz studies at MSU, assembled a first-rate group, fronted by trumpeter Terell Stafford and saxophonist Tim Warfield, to dive into Hill's lively, cat-in-a-bag compositions.

Hill, a former truck driver who confesses to having a "jukebox for a head," is a longtime Lansing jazz patron, a largely self-taught composer and, this month, a chart-topper, to his own surprise.

"It's a fickle world out there," he said. "You don't have any control over what people pick up on. College stations and big-city, late-night jazz stations are playing it, and it's very satisfying."

"It was a labor of love," Whitaker said. "Gregg and I put in a lot of work."

Hill and Whitaker have different takes on why their music suddenly zoomed to the top of the jazz-o-sphere. ("Oasis" also hit No. 7 on the JazzWeek Top 50 chart Jan. 30 and No. 3 on the NACC Top 30 Jazz chart Jan. 24.)

Whitaker thinks listeners are picking up on Hill's slightly off-center, fresh take on jazz.

"He writes from his heart," Whitaker said. "He's not thinking, 'Will this be radio friendly?' or anything like that. He really just thinks about creativity."

"It doesn't go where you think it's going," Hill said. "That's what makes it in-

teresting to the players. They think they know where it's going, and then I throw them a curve."

While working in the studio recently with jazz pianist Geoffrey Keezer, Hill caught Keezer staring at the score, shaking his head.

"This isn't a chord, it's a pretzel," Keezer told him.

"I took it as a high compliment," Hill said.

At the 2017 GroundUp Music Festival in Miami Beach, Hill got some advice from no less a creative soul than David Crosby, who died Jan. 18 of this year.

At a creative workshop, Hill confessed to feeling blocked as a composer. Crosby told him to forget all that, sit down at the piano and "doodle away," and something would come.

Many of Hill's tunes percolated up from his years as a regional trucker based in Holt in the 1980s and '90s. He would pop in thousands of tunes on cassette, from the World Saxophone Quartet to Duke Ellington to Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown.

"You can hear in his tunes that he spent a lot of time listening to jazz," Whitaker said. "But there's always something quirky that keeps them fresh."

Back in Lansing, Hill picked up an armful of jazz theory books from Marshall Music and made a serious study of it. Guitarist Elden Kelly spent hundreds of hours working through the tunes with him to get them on the page.

Hill didn't even think of enlisting Whitaker for a project until a Jazz Tuesdays gig at Moriarty's Pub in the fall of 2016 when Whitaker overheard him talking about putting together a recording.

"Why didn't you give me the call?"

Whitaker demanded.

Hill was taken aback.

"I thought he was way, way above me in the musical hierarchy," Hill said. "From then on, I've given him the call."

Hill's moody and episodic composition "To the Well" reminds Whitaker of the rich and evocative music of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn.

"It's a fresh take on something they would write," Whitaker said. "All of Gregg's tunes sound fresh, but they also remind me of the tradition."

The tune unfolds the way a day does, if you're treating a day right. Stafford's clarion trumpet solo illuminates a garden of mysterious beauty until Warfield's tenor sax moves into the shadows, setting the stage for vocalist Rockelle Fortin's mystical lyrics invoking the "great unknown."

"Puppets" drifts and circles like a ring of smoke as Stafford's muted trumpet and Warfield's soprano sax negotiate Hill's sneaky, shifting time signatures. Whitaker's commanding bass solo provides the center of gravity.

The melody of "Interlude" floats in the air like a classical art song, warmed by Fortin's haunting vocals. Her vibrato brushes the bottom of each note like a storm wind on a leaf, and she infuses the word "moon" with the uncanny glow of the orb itself.

She sings on four tracks for the album.

"She's picking the hardest tunes and writes these great lyrics," Hill said. "Not



Courtesy photo

"It was a labor of love," bassist Rodney Whitaker (right) said of the chart-topping jazz album "Oasis" he created with composer Gregg Hill.

many people can do that. Her voice is so versatile, she's got great range and sings with so much feeling."

The group rehearsed and performed the tunes for more than a week in the fall of 2021 and played them live at UrbanBeat in Lansing and Cliff Bell's in Detroit. Between gigs, they went to Ann Arbor to record three tracks each day for the album.

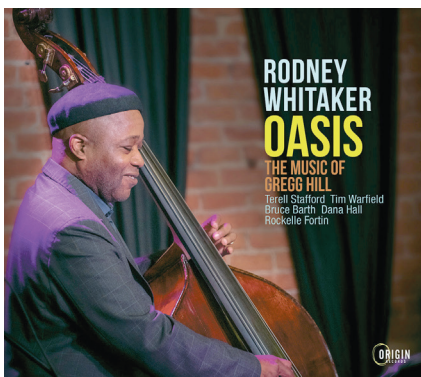
"We had a lot of prep time, a little moment to live with the songs," Whitaker said. "That's not always the case with new tunes."

Hill hasn't written anything new for more than two years. He's still grieving over the sudden death of his 41-year-old son, Matthew, in July 2022.

"I've noticed that people are usually pretty lousy at consoling people," Hill said. "But music is a healing force. It's not a cliché. It really helps you get through things."

But he doesn't want to repeat himself. "I don't want to pick over the same territory I've been in the last 145 tunes," he said. "That's always a mystery. The day arrives when you start playing again, start writing again."

"Life goes on," Whitaker said. "You've got to keep pushing, keep being creative."



The story of Cupid

From Metro Creative Connection

What would Valentine's Day be without images of a golden-tressed boy armed with a bow and arrows? The arrows represent feelings of love and desire, and they are aimed and cast at various individuals, causing them to fall deeply in love — or out of it.

In Roman mythology, the boy is known as Cupid and is the son of Venus, the goddess of love. Portrayed as a cherubic and mischievous toddler, he was purported to be the matchmaker of gods and mortals alike.

For students of Greek mytholo-

gy, Cupid represents Eros, the Greek word for desire. He was the son of Aphrodite, Venus' Hellenistic counterpart, and would play with the hearts of mortals and gods, sometimes leaving mayhem in his wake. In Greek mythology, Eros was more teenager than bubbly baby, and he capitalized on his status as a heart-throb rather than the cherubic status of Roman mythology, according to Richard Martin, a Stanford University professor. While Cupid may have been an adorable imp, some historians say Eros had a darker side, going so far as to describe him as calculating and

sinister, forcing the wrong people into lovelorn matches.

According to Museum Hack, while Cupid could make people fall in and out of love, he was also once in love himself. In this telling, Cupid is a young man when Venus learns that a mortal girl is born with such great beauty that others start to forget to worship her. Upset about the misdirected adoration toward this mortal, Venus asks Cupid to have the girl, Psyche, fall in love with a monster. Cupid agrees, but once he sees Psyche, he "accidentally" hits himself with one of his golden arrows and falls in love. The resulting match does not prove easy, and through a series of unfortunate events, Psyche must prove her

See Cupid, Page 14

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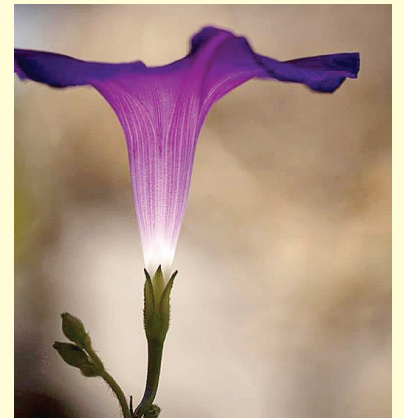
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Cupid

from page 12

love to Cupid and accomplish various tasks to win back his heart. Eventually she does and achieves goddess status.

Cupid has been portrayed both as a

young man and a child in Renaissance art and beyond. When Valentine's Day became popular in the 18th and 19th centuries, Cupid was linked to celebrations due to his matchmaking abilities. His popularity only continued in the early 20th century, when Hallmark began to manufacture Valentine's Day cards with his image.



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History by the yard



Courtesy of Richard Cohen

“By the Yard: Michigan in Panoramic Photographs” organizers Karla Barber, Jacob McCormick and Bill Castanier wrangle a 1901 photo of Johannesburg, a lumber town east of Grayling. The photo was found rolled up in the back of a box at the Archives of Michigan.

Panoramic photo exhibit serves super-sized slices of Michigan’s past

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

If the selfie captures the spirit of the 21st century, a photo exhibit opening Saturday (Feb. 11) at the Library of Michigan steps back — way, way back — and takes a longer view.

“By the Yard: Michigan in Panoramic Photographs” gathers 50 spectacular images, many of them taken in Lansing, that delight the eye and challenge the neck.

The exhibit covers the heyday of the panoramic photo, a wildly popular format in the early 1900s, with outliers as old as 1864 or as recent as 2004.

There are ultra-wide landscapes and cityscapes, including a breathtaking view of Lansing’s skyline in 1912 and fascinating views of a train wreck, a dam under construction, the Detroit skyline and the ore docks of Marquette.

But most of these haunting images are best described as un-selfies — proud gatherings of dozens, or even hundreds, of people at employee picnics, union conventions, military parades, sports events, graduations and motorcycle rallies.

About half of the images come from

the collection of Dan Barber, a retired United States Postal Service employee and local historian who lived in Lansing and died in 2020. Others come from a variety of private collectors.

The format reflects a growing, optimistic nation of joiners, a stark contrast to the my-face-in-your-face social media posts of today. Buffalo Bill (who visited Lansing in 1914 with his Wild West traveling show) is a big player in the exhibit, as are baseball great Ty Cobb and labor leader Walter Reuther, but the real stars are students, soldiers, milkmen, firefighters, fabric workers and other everyday people who were content to leave a tiny smudge on a yard-long photograph — or occasionally two smudges. A few sneaky subjects stood on one end of the crowd and waited for their photograph to be taken, then sprinted to the other end of the group, ahead of the motorized, rotating camera, thereby appearing twice in the same image.

Army of milkmen

A panoramic photo can teleport the viewer to another time and place like no other format.

Try to take your eyes off the proud

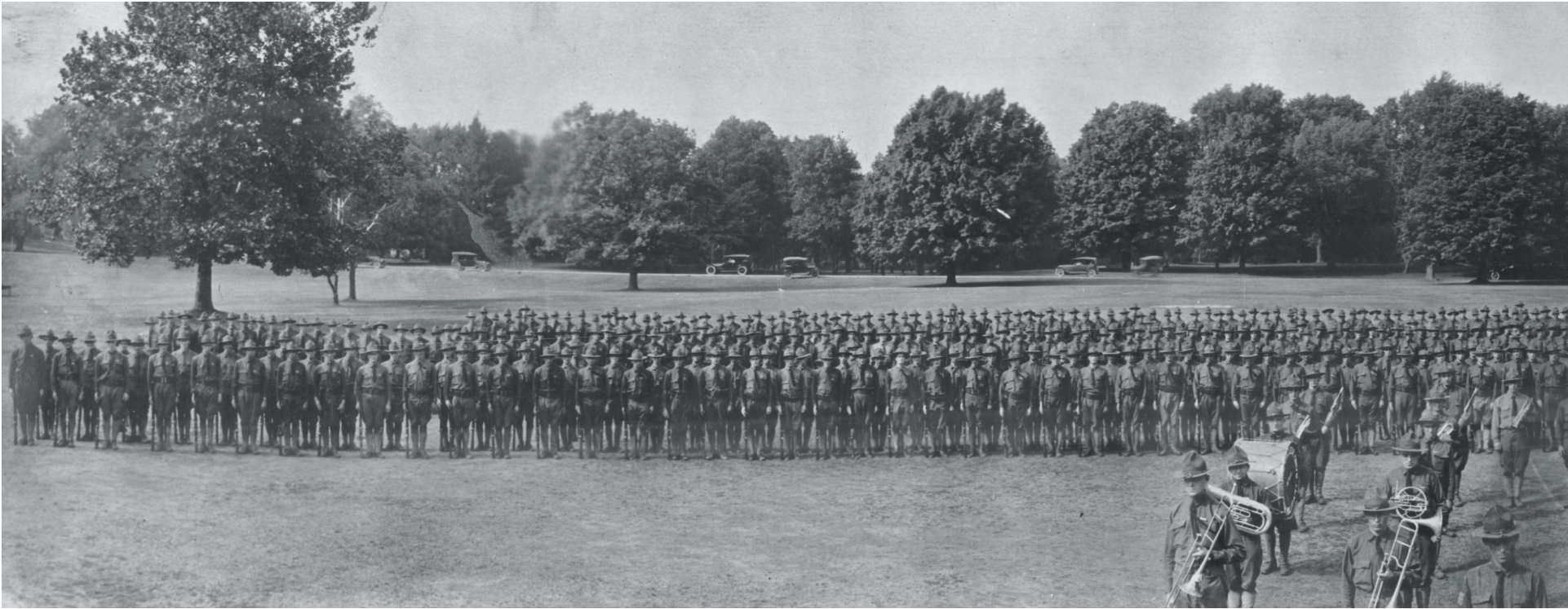


Courtesy of Richard Cohen

The Library of Michigan exhibit features panoramic, historic views of Marquette in 1863 (top), Mackinac Island in 1924 (second from top) and two images of the Detroit skyline, one taken in 1901 and the other around 1909.

army of milkmen, carts and horses from the Lansing Dairy in a panorama taken in 1922 in the middle of Cedar Street,

See ‘By the Yard,’ Page 16



The 2nd Michigan Agricultural College Training Detachment (military band and cadet corps).



Courtesy of the Rambo Family Collection

On May 10, 1921, a dedication ceremony was held for the new Lansing Senators baseball stadium. The team disbanded within two years of its opening because of poor attendance, and the short-lived park was dismantled.

'By the Yard'

from page 15

near the 500 block, just north of Shiawassee Street.

Everywhere you look — straight ahead, to the left, to the right, even in the fuzzy field of your peripheral vision — the world is shouting “milk.”

“There’s always been a desire to capture the scope of the human eye in a photograph,” exhibit co-curator Jacob McCormick said. “They invented the cameras to do it in the early 1900s.”

People started taking panoramic pho-

tos almost immediately after the invention of photography by placing two or more daguerreotype plates alongside each other.

By 1900, there were two mass-produced swing-lens cameras (the Al-Visita and Kodak Panoram) that rotated to capture an image. A few years later, a camera called the Cirkut took the process to full rotation, like an owl scouting the forest for voles.

Some of the panoramas in the exhibit swivel 360 degrees to create a mind-bending visual Möbius strip. Lansing’s East Main Street warps and spirals toward the viewer in another milk-themed panorama depicting the

Winans Dairy Co. crew in the 1920s.

“I had to make a diagram of this one,” McCormick said. “It’s hard to wrap your mind around.”

Starting with tripods 10 feet high, photographers climbed higher and higher to get the view they wanted. Before long, they were hoisting their heavy, \$400 cameras onto telephone poles and water towers.

One panorama of Fort Custer, near Battle Creek, was taken with the aid of a set of kites 500 feet in the air.

According to McCormick, the kites were flown from boats in groups of three to five, with a camera suspended below and counterbalance rods to keep

the camera from wobbling. A cable ran up the kite string so the photographer could open and close the shutter remotely.

These images shouldn’t be taken in at a glance. Linger awhile and you never know whom you might spot. A 1930s panorama of students and faculty at Olivet College first caught the eye of owner Bob Wilks more than 20 years ago, when he and his wife, Charlotte, were cruising Old Town art galleries.

Intrigued by the width of the photo, he climbed up a set of steps to scrutinize it more closely. He was amazed to find his next-door neighbor, Larida Petersen, and his high school band teacher, Sam Robin-



Courtesy of the collection of Joe Deo, Superior View, Marquette

In the 1920s, 14 cars from a train traveling on the Chicago and North Western Railroad derailed, causing a major delay in its shipment of iron ore.



The Michigan Agricultural College campus in 1915.



Courtesy of the Dan Barber Collection



Courtesy of the Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

Michigan Agricultural College's 1907 graduates, a much smaller group than Michigan State University's graduating classes of today.

son (both now deceased), both of whom taught in the music department at Olivet nearly half a century before he spotted the photo.

Turning his gaze to the students, his heart jumped as he spotted the familiar, broad smile of his mother, Esther Andre Wilks.

Bob Wilks loaned the panorama to the Library of Michigan to include in the exhibit. The curators only learned about it Saturday (Feb. 4) but rushed to include it — not just for its own merits, but also because Wilks kept a full-size negative that helps demonstrate how panoramas were made.

The photo is full of oddities, as many panoramas are, including a man facing away from the camera and a woman holding a rabbit. The more you look, the more you see.

Grand idea

McCormick called the Library of Michigan exhibit “Dan Barber’s grand idea.”

It took decades for Barber, an avid local historian, to amass his impressive collection of panoramas.

Barber’s wife, Karla, is a co-curator of the exhibit.

“Dan was always a collector,” she said. “When I met him at 18, he was already collecting. We were married for 51 years, and he was always collecting something.”

Among Dan Barber’s passions were real photo postcards, a diminutive cousin to panoramic photos.

Unlike mass-market-printed postcards, real photo postcards are actual photographs printed on postcard stock. Although they began as a throwaway, ephemeral medium, they are now prized

as a treasure trove of historical images from every nook and cranny of the nation, from big cities to the tiniest towns. When Kodak introduced the real photo service in 1907, and the U.S. Postal Service allowed messages to be written on the back, tens of thousands began to circulate throughout the country.

Many of the cards were snapshots by non-photographers.

A real photo postcard from about 1920, included in the exhibit, shows a photographer wading in a pond, tripod in hand, assembling a very large group on the shore, apparently for a panoramic photo.

The Barbers visited flea markets and antique shops around the state in search of historical nuggets. Dan Barber was intrigued whenever he spotted a wide-format photo, usually of Fort Custer in Bat-

tle Creek.

Many, if not most, of the surviving panoramas in Michigan are from Fort Custer, where civilian photographers made a lucrative income selling the images to soldiers and their families.

Dan Barber gradually accumulated more panoramas, some online and others from shops.

“He was fascinated by their size,” Karla Barber said.

Dan Barber and Historical Society of Greater Lansing President Bill Castanier, a co-curator of the exhibit and contributor to City Pulse, talked about displaying the panoramas as far back as 2018.

Dan Barber died in July 2020. The pandemic further scrambled any plans to

See ‘By the Yard,’ Page 18



Courtesy of the Michigan State University Museum

READ JOAN NELSON



on the first
Wednesday of every
month.
CityPULSE

'By the Yard'

from page 17

exhibit the images.

Meanwhile, McCormick, a photo archivist and editor at the Michigan State Capitol, took an interest in the Barber collection.

An unwieldy, bizarre medium that compelled obsessive photographers to park tripods in ponds and hang cameras from kites started to suck him in too.

"There was a built-in market for some of these things, the conventions and bigger groups of people," McCormick said. "But the landscapes — there's less of a market. Who wants this giant thing you need an entire wall to hang it on? That's why some of them are so scarce, and it's so interesting to find them."

He spent many hours looking for the names of early Lansing photographers and others who created the images, relying largely on Dave Tinder's Directory of Early Michigan Photographers.

Tinder, a project engineer for Detroit automakers, amassed data on more than 8,000 Michigan photographers, along with a collection of 100,000 old photographs. His directory lists more than 130 Lansing photographers.

McCormick learned a lot about Michigan photographers while building on Tinder's work. In Lansing, two photography shops — Russell Leavenworth (1919-1931) and Linn Photo Finishing Co. (1914-1921) were actively involved in taking panoramic photos.

"I found that they didn't just take studio portraits," McCormick said. "Some of them were out in the field doing these panoramas too, and that's what's really exciting — finding the variety of what they worked on."

In 2021, McCormick and Castanier told Karla Barber they still wanted to mount the exhibit.

To expand its scope, they spread the word to local collectors and photo enthusiasts. One of the panoramas is a copy of an image owned and displayed by Eric Satterlee, owner of Meridian Winds.

They researched each image, wrote detailed background descriptions and set to work wrangling, framing and hanging the aggressively horizontal beasts.

"Now it's happening," Karla Barber said. "But it took a massive amount of work."

Panoramas of the past

In addition to his professional interest as a photo historian, McCormick has a personal stake in the exhibit.

His great-grandfather, Lansing labor leader Raymond W. Reed, is in two of the panoramas — bustling views of United Auto Workers conventions in Lansing from 1943 and 1944.

Reed worked at REO Motors for 43 years, served as a delegate for 20 national labor conventions and was president of the local REO Motors union for 20 years, its longest-serving leader.

A young Walter Reuther, later to become the longest-serving president of the United Auto Workers, is crouched in the foreground of the 1943 photo.

Reed was proud enough of his union activity to buy at least two panoramic photos. His daughter, McCormick's great-aunt, saved the photos until she entrusted them to McCormick.

One of McCormick's favorite images in the exhibit is a view of Lansing in 1912, taken by Frank Bovee, an optician who developed photos and did some commercial work. The occasion was Decoration Day (now Memorial Day), and the photo was taken from the top of the Downey Hotel, now Knapp's Centre. The view looks north, with Washtenaw Street and the Capitol to the right.

"I see it as the most iconic panorama of Lansing," McCormick said. "We believe it is a composite, pieced together from three or four images."

Many of the exhibit's panoramas resurrect forgotten corners of history. On May 10, 1921, a parade of dignitaries proceeded from downtown Lansing to a spot on South Pennsylvania Avenue, just north of the zoo, to dedicate a new baseball park for the Lansing Senators. The team disbanded within two years of its opening because of poor attendance. The large-scale park was dismantled and the infield sod ended up on another ball field, Sycamore Park, to be used by amateur city leagues.

A near-360-degree view of Michigan



Courtesy photo

A real photo postcard from about 1920. A photographer wades in a pond, assembling a group for a panoramic photo.

Agricultural College in 1915 looks south toward the Engineering Building (replaced by Olds Hall) and northwest toward Morrill Hall, demolished in 2013; the ornate structures of Laboratory Row; Agriculture Hall; and a patchy-roofed building called College Hall, the first building erected on the MSU campus, now the site of Beaumont Tower. A white smudge on the horizon is the Capitol.

Another dramatic panorama depicts the construction of Junction Dam near Manistee, now called Tippy Dam.

The log chute from the lumbering days is clearly visible in the photo.

The newest photo in the exhibit is a panoramic view of the Michigan House of Representatives' 125th anniversary assembly in 2004, which marked more than a century since the first Legislature was held in the current Capitol. To get the image in one exposure, photographer Terry Farmer used a panoramic camera packed with 120mm film and climbed onto the rostrum of the biggest room in the Capitol, the House chamber. The chamber is seeded with several past and future mayors of cities across Michigan, future members of Congress and the future Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who was a state representative at the time.

One of the most evocative images in

the exhibit is an extra-wide (74-inch), well-preserved, turn-of-the-20th-century panorama depicting the unincorporated lumber town of Johannesburg, east of Grayling. You can almost see the newborn town taking shape before your eyes on the right side of the panorama, next to a tiny Michigan Central Railroad depot and a quarter-mile-long wall of lumber milled at the Johannesburg Manufacturing Co. sawmill. The company store, built in 1901 and still standing, is clearly visible.

The town got its post office around the time the picture was taken. Once lumbering operations went into full swing, the town swelled to 700 people, but in this image, taken in 1901, there are more cows than humans.

The Barbers found the original panorama rolled up in the back of a box while doing research at the Archives of Michigan.

The Barbers and excited Archives staff carefully unrolled it and immediately took steps to preserve it.

"It's one of the biggest ones I've ever seen," McCormick said.

Nobody in Johannesburg even knows the photo exists yet, according to Karla Barber.

"I can't wait to tell them about it," she said with a grin.



Courtesy of the Grand Rapids History Center, Grand Rapids Public Library

Bike owners gather for the Michigan Gypsy Motorcycle Tour at the west side's old Waverly Park on June 18, 1922. Gypsy Tours became popular in the early 1900s, and more than 400 attendees showed up for this event.



Courtesy of the Dan Barber Collection

Fort Custer in 1917, shortly after its construction. The camp trained or demobilized more than 100,000 men during World War I.

MSU staffer makes art gallery debut

By TAYLOR BLAIR

"I've always been a storyteller and a longtime toy collector," said Kevin Epling, whose "Adventures in Small Scale: The Art of Toy Photography" exhibit opened Saturday (Feb. 4) at the Public Art Gallery in East Lansing's Hannah Community Center. "About 10 years ago, I started thinking about how I had done product shots for toys before but never thought of building out environments for them."

He began experimenting, creating dynamic scenes such as Kermit the Frog playing banjo on a tree branch in a park near his home or a recreation of the iconic stair-dancing scene from the film "Joker" (2019) using an action figure and a handmade environment. Fan-favorite superheroes, like DC's Wonder Woman and Marvel's Black Panther, are posed in battle-ready action in many of his photos.

Audiences can view all this and more at his first official exhibit, which is on display through Feb. 27. Other works can be found on his Instagram page, @smallscalepics.

Epling, who is well known for the anti-bullying campaign he created after the loss of his son, Matthew, including passing the "Matt Epling Safe School Law," has spent three decades as a photo and video producer for Michigan State University, "Telling other people's stories."

"I think this is an intersection of my collection habits and the techniques that I've learned over the years. I'm taking 30 years of video and film production and shrinking it to 1/12th scale," he said. "I use a lot of the same things in terms of lighting, staging and set design."

At the Public Art Gallery, Epling and other budding artists can find a professional home for their work.

"What we do here is rotate artists monthly, and we attract artists who would not get that opportunity otherwise," said gallery director Yvette Robinson. "If they're talented, and it's not discriminatory against somebody else, we pretty much accept all artists and give them this platform to create their work and be an artist."

An artist in multiple mediums herself, Robinson was appointed to the East Lan-



Taylor Blair/City Pulse

Epling recreated the iconic stair-dancing scene from "Joker" (2019) with just an action figure and a homemade backdrop.

ing Arts Commission 23 years ago as arts commissioner. In 2002, she was selected to run the gallery project. Celebrating its 19th year in March, the gallery still serves as a platform for creatives in the Greater Lansing community, like Epling.

"Through my art, I get to tell my stories.

It's a little departure for me to kind of come up with different ideas because I feel like every frame on the wall has its story," Epling said. "It's been interesting to see people watch and observe my work and come up with their own interpretation of what the stories are — and that makes good art."

Epling discovered that there's a worldwide community of others doing this style of toy photography, like Joshua Vasquez, who's familiar with Epling's work and came by

the exhibit to experience the new photo series.

"My girlfriend met Kevin at a craft show, and he sold these little light-up lightsabers. She bought one for me for Christmas because I also do toy photography as a hobby," he said. "I saw his card, and I looked him up online, and I was like, 'Man, this guy does really amazing work.'"

"I'll give my support because this is a relatively unknown hobby. It's one of the more unique art forms because you can have complete control over what you



Taylor Blair/City Pulse

Kevin Epling, a longtime toy collector and photographer, created dynamic scenes with unlikely subjects for his "Adventures in Small Scale: The Art of Toy Photography" exhibit.

see," he added. "I don't have to micromanage anything; this is a complete vision of the photographer."

Vasquez showed off his Captain America phone case and wallet that complemented his emblematic sweatshirt.

"I love being here and seeing this kind of stuff," he said.

Epling's art is not without the help of his wife, Tammy Epling, a childcare professional.

"He always runs ideas past me, and we talk about what might work, might not work and share ideas," she said.

When the Eplings hit the road for comic book conventions or classes, she assists with setting up the environments for observers or students. Admittedly more a nature photographer herself, she always helps when she can.

Epling shared his continuous passion for teaching and getting novices and dedicated photographers alike into toy photography. He recently taught an introductory course into the art form at the Grand Ledge Area District Library.

"This is a very fun way to get people out of their comfort zone," he said. "You're not doing a landscape portrait or a fine-art portrait. There's not a lot on the line. You can have a lot of fun with this, make mistakes and learn from those mistakes."

For those interested in following Epling's work, he's returning to the Grand Ledge library on March 11 for a photography workshop. He'll also be at

the Holland Tulip Time Festival on April 3 and Capital City Comic Con from June 30 through July 2.

"Adventures in Small Scale: The Art of Toy Photography"

Through Feb. 27
Hannah Community
Center Public Art Gallery
819 Abbot Road, East
Lansing
Monday–Friday: 6 a.m.–
9 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m.–8 p.m.
Sunday: noon–8 p.m.
517-333-2580, ext. 0

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Radio voice meets sadistic ‘fan’

Riverwalk to open stage adaptation of Stephen King novel ‘Misery’

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

Riverwalk Theatre’s production of “Misery,” opening Thursday (Feb. 9), will feature an unexpected actor in the role of Paul Sheldon: longtime radio journalist Scott Pohl. He’ll play the romance author who’s held captive by his “number one fan,” Annie Wilkes, played by Holly Sleight-Engler.

Pohl, 65, graduated from Michigan State University in 1979 with a bachelor’s degree in telecommunications. He minored in theater, which he said prepared him for a career in radio — spent almost entirely at WKAR.

“When a professor says to you, ‘Come up on stage and sing a song for us,’ and you have to think of something you know all the words to from here to there, not much throws me anymore,” he said with a laugh.

Pohl retired in 2020, but his well-known voice can still be heard from time to time on WKAR, his employer for 35 years.

While he has that theater background, Pohl said he “never did anything with it for nearly 40 years.”

But he’s had a strong showing on Riverwalk stages in past years. He appeared in “Buried Child” and “Sweat” and directed “Art” last year. He’s also a board member.

Riverwalk has given “Misery” an R rating for its violence, featuring Wilkes’ kidnapping and torture of Sheldon in an attempt to get him to write a

new book about her favorite character, who was killed in his most recent release.

Rounding out the three-person show, directed by Ayden Soupal, is Jules Overfelt as Sheriff Buster.

A movie version was made in 1990, featuring James Caan as Paul and Kathy Bates as Annie, whose performance earned her an Oscar in 1991.

Pohl said in preparing for the role, he steadfastly avoided rereading King’s book or watching the movie. He also deliberately chose not to see a production of the play produced by the Lebowsky Center in Owosso last

October.

Why would the mild-mannered radio newscaster audition for such a violent show?

“The honest answer is when I heard that Riverwalk was adding it to the schedule for this season — and I’m on the board, so I knew even before the public announcement was made — I knew I would at least audition for it, partly because I love Stephen King,” Pohl said. “I love this story, but I also, in my gut, thought the part should go to an older actor.”

In a press release, Pohl gave a deeper explanation for his desire to be in the show.

“It feels more like it could really happen than his supernatural stories,” he said.

Soupal sang Pohl’s praises, noting he is “finding so many layers to the character.”

The book is a white-knuckle journey in psychological and physical violence, as was the movie, and the play has some of that as well.

“There are elements in the movie that are also in this stage presentation, and everybody wants to know about the sledgehammer,” Pohl said.

“Yes, this version does include the sledgehammer.”

Pohl said the process of working on stage fights, choreographed by Dale Wayne Williams, has been a different experience for him.

“Fight choreography is really interesting. You want it to look real, but you want to make sure you don’t hurt yourself or each other,” he said. “So, we’ve done more stretching before rehearsals than I’m used to.”

The production also features moments of levity, however. One such moment happens to be Pohl’s favorite — the captive Sheldon tries to convince Wilkes that he’s going to revive his dead character, Misery, in a new novel just for her.

“Paul is trying to convince Annie that he’s going along with things he is writing for her, and part of his



Courtesy of Riverwalk Theatre

“Misery” fans need not worry — the famous sledgehammer makes an appearance in the play.

scheme leads them to have dinner together,” he said. “I may like that scene more than any other scene in the show because he’s leading her astray, kind of teasing her in a playful way, and she’s kind of going for it. I think it’s funny. So, there are some laughs in the show, which break the tension. Frankly, when the tension returns, this makes it even more heightened.”

King wrote the novel following a rejection of his fantasy novel “The Eyes of the Dragon.” He felt fans locked him into the horror genre, which limited his creativity. He credits the full fleshing out of this book to a dream on a transatlantic flight to London. In fact, once he and his wife were on the ground, he spent his time writing the novel on steno pages, at one point using the desk where Rudyard Kipling died of a stroke.

The novel, movie and play are a meditation on the pitfalls of fame and pigeonholing artists to one genre. While Pohl said that was “interesting,” he is focused on the relationship between Sheldon and Wilkes.

“The individual reaction of a fan is all I’ve really contemplated in this production, as opposed to fame on a larger scale,” he said.



Courtesy of Riverwalk Theatre

While being held captive by crazed fan Annie Wilkes, author Paul Sheldon (played by Scott Pohl) comes up with a plan to save himself: making her believe he’s writing a new book just for her.

February productions:

“Wild Horses”

Feb. 3–26
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
Thursday–Saturday: 8 p.m.
Saturday: 3 p.m.
Sunday: 2 p.m.
williamstontheatre.org

“Misery”

Feb. 9–12 and 16–19
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
Thursday (COVID precaution night): 7 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 8 p.m.
Sunday: 2 p.m.
riverwalktheatre.com

“Daddy Long Legs”

Feb. 9–12 and 16–19
Peppermint Creek Theatre Co.
Bestseller’s Books and Coffee Co.
360 S. Jefferson St., Mason
Thursday–Saturday: 8 p.m.
Sunday: 2 p.m.
peppermintcreek.org

“Charlotte’s Web”

Feb. 17–26
Fairchild Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing
Tuesday, Thursday–Saturday: 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 25 and Sunday: 2 p.m.
theatre.msu.edu

“Billy Elliot”

Feb. 24–March 5
Lebowsky Center for the Performing Arts
122 E. Main St., Owosso
Friday and Saturday: 8 p.m.
Sunday: 3 p.m.
lebowskycenter.com

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



Beggar's Banquet hosts 50th anniversary celebration

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Oh, what a night in early February 1973. A relatively quiet storefront on Abbot Road in East Lansing would never be the same. Beggar's Banquet, a hippie-dippy restaurant with fabulous food and a popular hangout spot for area politicians, professors, activists and artists, opened on Feb. 8, 1973. For 50 years, it has served as the gathering place for the cognoscenti of Greater Lansing, according to one of its founders, Robert Adler of Laingsburg.

At 8 p.m. Saturday (Feb. 11), Beggar's invites former staff and customers to a 50th anniversary reunion. There's no program, but Adler expects employees and customers to step up and tell some tall tales about the East Lansing institution.

In the early 1970s, Adler, a Michigan State University graduate and ski bum by avocation, and his co-founders, Charlie Rose, Christopher Blunt and Martin Richard, had been working at the successful Cave of the Candles (now Landshark Bar & Grill), which was noted for its high-end food and service — the place to take a date or special someone.

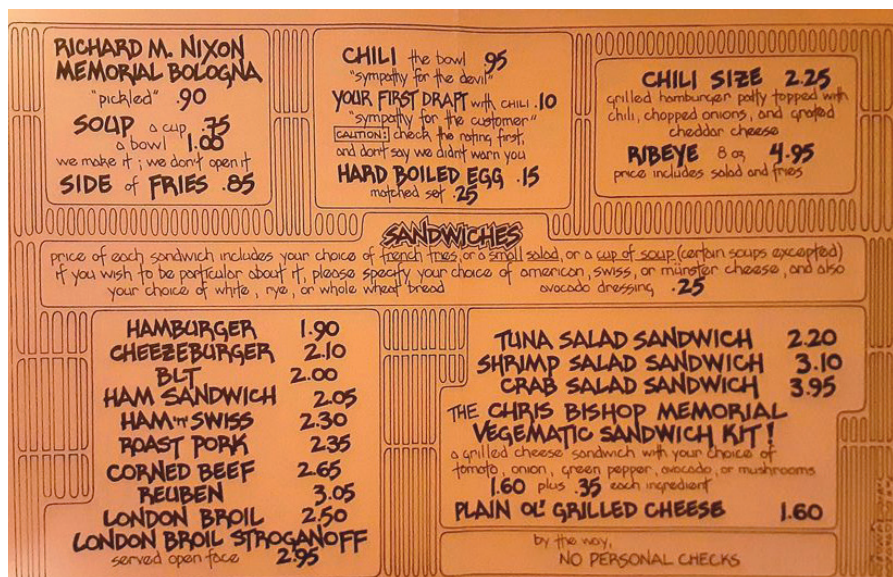
Adler and the crew liked the atmosphere of the Cave, but, like many food service workers, they wanted to open their own restaurant.

Adler had been pestering, or at least nudging, the owner of the Best Steak House, a popular eatery, to sell his operation on Abbot. When the



Courtesy photo

Beggar's Banquet co-founders and friends celebrate the restaurant's opening on Feb. 8, 1973.



Courtesy photo

The original Beggar's Banquet menu featured dishes such as Richard M. Nixon Memorial pickled bologna and spicy "sympathy for the devil" chili.

deal finally went through and a liquor license was approved, it was already January 1973.

According to Adler, in one month, the group worked nonstop to transform the former cafeteria-style restaurant into what would become the standard for good food and good service at good prices. A 1976 article in The New York Times declared Beggar's "has one of the most estimable (wine) lists to be found anywhere."

The restaurant's title was copped from a Rolling Stones LP of the same name, which Adler said, "had a wonderful, medieval bacchanal scene on the inside of the album."

Although the restaurant was noted for its higher-end items (at least for Lansing) such as chicken Kiev, liver pâté and roasted New York strip steak with French bordelaise sauce, the owners also knew how to have fun with the menu, serving a popular Richard M. Nixon Memorial pickled bologna for 90 cents. One of the favorite lunch items was a fiery bowl of chili named "sympathy for the devil," priced at 95 cents and served with a draft beer for just a dime. The beer was called "sympathy for the customer."

"Chris (now deceased) developed a rating system for the day's chili on a scale of one to four. A four would bring you to your knees," Adler said.

See Beggar's, Page 22

'Wild Horses' offers nostalgia, humor and heartbreak

By **MARY CUSACK**

Williamston Theatre is helping stave off the cold with its current production, the heartwarming, coming-of-age story "Wild Horses," directed by Mary Job. In their summer of freedom, a group of teenagers steal liquor and cars, try to score weed, learn about the male sex drive and break into a horse ranch. It's a glorious, funny and tense story told by one actress in a 100-minute master performance.

Reminiscing about a pivotal summer when she was 13 years old, a Woman (Suzi Regan) relives the heartbreaking and empowering experiences of adolescence. Her family is quietly imploding as her 14-year-old sister hides a relationship with an older man, her mother plans to escape from the family and her father withdraws to the basement. This creates the perfect setting for her to embark on a journey of

boundary-pushing and self-discovery.

The Woman and her friends Zabby and Skinny Linny learn how to sneak alcohol from Zabby's parents' bar, using color balance as a cocktail recipe. When Zabby's parents begin to suspect their liquor is being watered down, the girls hatch a plan to shoplift from the liquor store to replenish the supply.

This trip leads them on an adventure through a horse farm, where they discover a dead horse that had been intentionally hobbled. Horrified, the girls become determined to help the rest of the horses escape. When Zabby's mean older brother, Dean, learns of the plan, he blackmails the Woman into making out with him in exchange for his silence. This scene is incredibly intense, and Regan nails it. To



Review



Courtesy of Chris Purchis

Actress Suzi Regan deftly switches between roles in Williamston Theatre's one-woman production of "Wild Horses."

See 'Wild Horses,' Page 22

Downtown bistro back and better than ever

By LIZY FERGUSON

Cari Jodloski, chef and proprietor of Batter Up Bistro, is ready to step back up to the plate. After closing for more than two years amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jackson Field-adjacent eatery is finally up and running again.

“While we were closed, we did a complete renovation of our historic building, from top to bottom, and created a beautiful destination here in downtown Lansing for an old-world dining experience,” said Jodloski, who lives with her family in a loft next to the restaurant.

Originally opened in the fall of 2017, Batter Up was partly inspired by one of Jodloski’s daughters, who shares her mother’s entrepreneurial spirit.

“I would bake chocolate chip cookies for my kids when they were very young,



Courtesy photo

Cari Jodloski, chef and owner of Batter Up Bistro, personally bakes artisanal bread loaves every day to accompany dishes such as French onion soup and butternut squash ravioli.

and unbeknownst to me, one of my daughters would bring extra cookies to school and sell them to her friends for big bucks. She kept wanting more, and I couldn’t make them fast enough. Once I got clued into what was happening, I knew I was on to something because the demand was so high and they got rave



Lizy Ferguson/City Pulse

The interior of Batter Up is uniquely cozy but elegant, perfect for brunch or a romantic date.

reviews,” Jodloski said.

A rigorously studied, self-taught chef, Jodloski’s baking remains a cornerstone of her business, which, upon reopening, has expanded to include dinner service, with Jodloski personally baking artisanal bread loaves each day that are used for toast and sandwiches and served alongside bowls of pasta and salad.

Menu offerings include a veggie omelet with peppers, zucchini, maitake mushrooms and muenster; French onion soup; and, for dinner, butternut squash ravioli. Am I just naming the things I most want to try? Yes, but hopefully they sound just as good to you.

“We use fresh, organic ingredients in all our recipes and take pride in every-

thing we make, bringing out the best of each element and layering them together to create something truly memorable,” Jodloski said.

The interior of Batter Up is uniquely cozy but elegant, making it an ideal location for brunch or a romantic date. On that note, it is offering a \$90, four-course, prix-fixe menu for Valentine’s Day, which includes tantalizing French- and Italian-informed classics such as salade niçoise and red wine-braised short rib ragu. I’m betting you’ll be able to taste the love cooked in.

“I’ve always loved expressing my creativity through cooking for family and friends,” Jodloski said. “It’s been a dream of mine to open a bistro.”

Beggar’s

from page 21

Not only did politicians like former governors John Engler and Jim Blanchard hang out at the restaurant, but so did notables who were in town for events at MSU, including David Crosby, who recently died; writer Jim Harrison; and poet Diane Wakoski. Iggy Pop and Ralph Nader also dined there, but not together.

“I remembered having lunch with Buckminster Fuller twice,” Adler said.

MSU artist Bob Weil, now deceased, created a mobile that hung in the bar area before Adler and his spouse, Betty, donated it to the Wharton Center, where it hangs today.

Adler, who worked the front of the house, remembers having to tell Gov.-elect Engler and his spouse, Michelle, that they would have to wait for a table.

“The day he won his first election, he came in and read the newspaper while sitting at the bar,” Adler said.

For many local residents, Beggar’s was likely the first time they tried original menu items like the fabulous liver pâté. The recipe is posted on Adler’s and Beggar’s Banquet’s Facebook pages.

“And it was the first-time they were exposed to long-haired hippies as servers, cooks and managers,” Adler said.

Beggar’s didn’t just offer food — it served up plenty of community service, sponsoring everything from bowling leagues to a major pee-wee hockey team that boasted future NHL players.

“Charlie Rose, another partner (also deceased), was a big hockey fan, so it was a natural fit,” Adler said.

Rose also helped organize and played in what became the legendary “Pigs vs. Freaks” football game, which raised money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. At one point, more than 40,000 fans poured into Spartan Stadium to watch the “freaks” (hippies) and “pigs” (police officers) go at each other. The game became the inspiration for the movie “Off Sides,” by MSU graduate Jack Epps Jr. of “Top Gun” fame.

“The staff at Beggar’s was always eclectic and included National Merit Scholars, a Georgetown Law School graduate and Students for a Democratic Society members along with military brats,” Adler said.

“Beggar’s was always a political place, and there were rumors that the feds were tapping the pay phone. I think it was real,” he added.

‘Wild Horses’

from page 21

say more would spoil a pinnacle moment.

In a sometimes-frenzied performance, Regan deftly handles the role, quickly changing into multiple characters through differences in posture, body language and vocal inflections. Zabby is coolly disaffected, leaning back with arms crossed; Skinny Linny is hyper and clumsy; Dean is physically menacing, while Zabby’s other brother, Donno, is calm and sweet.

Aaron Delnay’s scene design creates an atmosphere of a warm summer night, further enhanced by Shannon T. Schweitzer’s fantastic lighting. At one point, the sky is ablaze as the Woman remembers a wildfire from her childhood, while at other times the set is enveloped in the calm glow of magic hour.

The use of 1970s music is perfect for creating feelings of nostalgia, as are references to era-specific phenomena like streaking. Despite the setting, though, playwright Allison Gregory’s story will strike a chord with anyone who’s lived through those awkward teen years.

One could compare the play to the movie “Stand by Me.” A different generation, different music, different mission, but the same universal truth. The movie ends with the narrator wistfully realizing, “I never had any friends later on like the ones I had when I was 12. Jesus, does anyone?”

She, like many of us, pines for the time when every feeling was visceral, every heartbreak was devastating, yet every new experience could be exciting and empowering.

A bovine mystery in Amish country

By **BILL CASTANIER**

I have some bad news for readers of Ron Erskine's mystery series that's set in Pennsylvania's Amish country: His new book, "Ghosts of Lost Dreams," is the last of three parts.

"It was always meant to be a trilogy," he said.

The novel features veterinarian Malcolm Cromarty confronting health problems in Amish dairy herds, facing deeply held healing rituals and remedies.

"The particular Amish group I chose to write about is really unique and helped me capture the 'frozen in time' concept," Erskine said.

The highly conservative "white toppers," distinguished by their white shirts, lack of bonnets and carriages with white tops, are also dealing with plans for a new highway that might result in their property being taken away due to eminent domain.

"That's the real focus of the book — the loss of farm property, which has been underway for decades," Erskine said.

Once again, Cromarty's friend Chiara, a savvy insurance investigator, and young pal Devyn, who has an uncanny ability to commu-

nicate with animals, play key roles in the amateur investigation. Erskine inserts Devyn into a small farm run by a single mother and her 20-year-old daughter, Lily. A romance between Lily and Devyn soon develops and adds depth to the mystery.

As the vet attempts to determine the cause of the animals' sickness, mayhem ensues in the form of a homicide that ultimately holds the key to solving the whole shebang.

Erskine has an intimate knowledge of Amish country and its people. He served as a farm veterinarian in the area when he first started his career.

"Malcolm, and some of the situations he is thrown into, parallels my experiences as a young vet. I always found the Amish to be superstitious," he said.

After making a farm call, Erskine would rush to his truck to write down some of the things he encountered, saying to himself, "You are never going to believe this."

He said much of his readership comes from farm owners and veterinarians.

"Vets love my books," he said. "Malcolm is not a superhero. He's just a normal veterinarian."

Malcolm may be "normal," but he has superb analytical skills that bring the solution to a dramatic conclusion. In addition, Devyn's preternatural ability to "talk" to animals plays heavily in the complicated plot as he and his band of crows save the day in one dramatic scene.

Erskine begins each chapter with a quote from a 1912 veterinarian manual, which details outdated treatment

methods that aren't far removed from the white toppers' animal sorcery. One treatment for simple mastitis calls for a "strong mercurial ointment" mixed with an extract of belladonna. It's right out of the Addams Family.

Throughout his career as a private veterinarian and professor of veterinary medicine at Michigan State University, Erskine says science has changed dramatically.

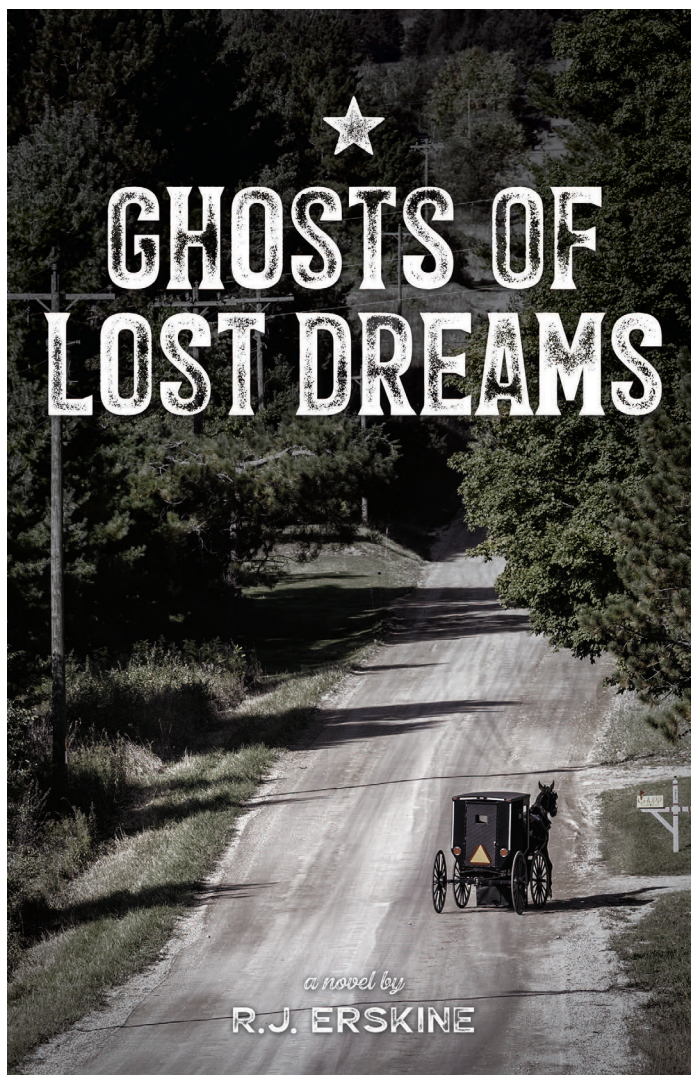
"Today, we are so much more advanced in prevention. For example, we used to use a lot more antibiotics. That's not the case today," he said.

The author is thinking through what he might write next. One idea is to expand Devyn's animal whispering into a novel. Another idea is to set a mystery at Allerton Park & Retreat Center outside of Monticello, Illinois. That book may fall more into the horror genre, akin to Stephen King's "The Shining."

He's pleased he's not contractually obligated to quickly write another book so he can take his time figuring out where he wants to go next.

"I have a hobby that's paying me," he said.

When he was a farm vet, Erskine had a lot of "windshield time" as he drove between farms. "Ghosts of Lost Dreams" shows he used that time to observe his natural surroundings, and he plays those musings out in his narrative.



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Wet and wild: THC-infused lube

By LUCAS HENKEL

Cannabis research is notoriously difficult because weed is still federally illegal in the U.S., making it hard for organizations to fund projects. Most of the research that exists today is from surveys of people that already consume cannabis and are therefore more likely to submit opinions. These surveys do not usually provide reliable or precise information about dosage, delivery method or timing, but they can provide at least some information or background on consumption habits. That being said, there is limited evidence that cannabis enhances sexual experiences among users.

Dr. Becky K. Lynn is a sexual medicine and menopause expert and a professor at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine. In 2019, she was the lead author of a study that surveyed 373 women about cannabis and their sex lives. Of those surveyed, 34% reported having used cannabis before sexual activity, and most said it resulted in increased sex drive, improved orgasm and decreased pain. This may be

because cannabis dilates blood vessels — it truly helps get the blood flowing, especially to the parts that count.

In a separate 2019 study, written by a faculty member and medical student at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada, 216 men and women who had experience combining cannabis with sex completed a series of questionnaires. About 52% said they used cannabis to alter sexual experiences and 38.7% said sex was better with cannabis. Respondents also reported increased sensitivity to touch and increased intensity of orgasms. However, there were some people, specifically males, that reported cannabis interfering with sexual activities, making them feel sleepy and less focused.

If you're looking to put these theories to the test, there are a multitude of routes you can take. Smokers should look for terpene-heavy strains like Cheetah Piss or Wedding Cake to help boost arousal. Chocolate, an aphrodisiac, that is infused with THC is also a wonderful option (Kiva Confections, anyone?). A less common but highly ef-



Courtesy of Weedmaps

Artemis Brands' Sundara lubricant is infused with THC, which could help increase sex drive, improve orgasms and decrease pain.

fective option is a cannabis-infused lubricant. This is where Artemis Brands' Sundara lubricant comes into play.

Artemis Brands is an Ann Arbor-based cannabis company that specializes in creating all-natural, THC- and CBD-infused topicals that are as versatile as its customers. One of its most popular products is its THC-infused personal lubricant, Sundara, designed to enhance intimacy, stimula-



tion and overall pleasure by increasing blood flow and relaxing muscles. Sundara can be applied directly to intimate areas or used on any non-latex condom and can even double as a massage oil. If you're interested in trying it for yourself, check out Weedmaps or I Heart Jane to see if it's available in your area. (When I last looked, Bazonzoes had it at its Lansing location.)

MSU Expungement Fair: an update

On Jan. 21, Michigan State University held its first Expungement Fair. In a letter to donors, the executive boards of the two student organizations that ran the event said:

"We are so happy to announce that we were able to assist over 225 individuals to determine their expungement eligibility and were able to help 168 applicants set aside their criminal convictions. Additionally, we raised over \$10,000 to help assist applicants to pay for their court filing fees, which is a novel idea in the expungement fair world. We were able to provide every single applicant with up to two money orders made out to the state of Michigan.

"This would not have been possible if not for your generosity and contributions. We had the help of over 90 volunteers, including students, MSU faculty and staff and attorneys, who helped make this Expungement Fair the success that it was. We were also able to set up stations with additional resources from outside organizations such as Voting Access for All Coalition, Nation Outside, Capital Area Michigan Works, the Michigan Attorney General's Office, the Secretary of State, the Office of Financial Empowerment for the City of Lansing, Legal Services of South-Central Michigan and Code for America. We are pleased to inform you that we also assisted four individuals to register to vote.

Without your contribution, this event would not have been possible. On behalf of all volunteers, the members of the Criminal Defense Association and the International Cannabis Bar Association's MSU Chapter, we sincerely thank you for your contribution in making the MSU Law Expungement Fair the monumental success that it was."

Here's hoping we see more events like this in the future!

BLIND SPOT: STEPHANIE SYJUCO

EXPLORE INTERVENTIONS INTO ARCHIVES + MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Stephanie Syjuco, Installation shot of Block Out the Sun, 2021. Site-specific video with sound. Edition of 3 + 2AP. 5:09 minutes. Looped. Photo: John Janca. Courtesy of the artist, Chiharu, Clark Gallery, San Francisco, and RYAN LEE Gallery, New York.



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OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

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

Wednesday, Feb. 8

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

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

All-You-Can-Eat, Donation-Based Spaghetti Dinner - Suggested donation: \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 and under. All proceeds go toward the creation of transitional housing for those in need. 5-8 p.m. Jackpots Hall, 5443 S. Cedar St., Lansing. theliftlansingproject.org.

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

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.

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.

MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit - Showcases talent from 17 area high schools. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters 1, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

Read Across Time Book Group - “The Princess Bride” by William Goldman. Intended for adults. 11 a.m. Mark’s Place, 238 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids.

Sweetheart Ball - 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-333-2580 ext. 0. cityofeastlansing.com.

Valentine’s Dog Treats - Learn how to make three kinds of treats using nutritious, human-grade ingredients. One lucky student will win a “be mine” doggy toy and treat prize pack. 6 p.m. Brady’s HG, 319 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. 517-999-0399. bradlyshg.com.

Weaving the Web: Humility - Join us online or in person for discussions, rituals, meditations, and more! 6 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

“Whoooo’s there?” It’s an Owl (Full) Moon - Learn about the winter wonder of our MI owls and make an owl craft. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Wings of Fire Book Club - Dragon-themed activity. Intended for grades 4-6. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.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.

Thursday, Feb. 9

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

Angela Davis - Known for her activism, scholarship, focus on building “communities of struggle for economic, racial and gender justice” and helping popularize the notion of a prison industrial complex. 5 p.m. Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-353-5470. com.msu.edu.

Awesome Artists - Ages 2-4. 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

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.

Max Gage Trio - 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Misery - 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit - Showcases talent from 17 area high schools. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters 1, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

Panel Talk: Sustainability in Fashion and Textiles - Hear from experts on Earth-friendly textile design, eco-certification and the future of Gen Z fashion. 5 p.m. STEM Teaching and Learning Facility, 642 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing. museum.msu.edu.

Sweetheart Ball - 7 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-333-2580 ext. 0. cityofeastlansing.com.

Wind Symphony - 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Wine about Winter - 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sidecar Slider Bar, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Suite 100, 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. 10

Awesome Artists - Ages 2-4. 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Circulate Love: Red Cross Blood Drive - Registration req. 10 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Error 404 – Waverly Robotics Night Out Fundraiser - Dinner, keynote speech by Michelle Massey, comedian Nicole Melnyk, jazz music, community speakers and a silent auction. 5-9 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Fitness Over 50 - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Meridian Mall Food Court.

Waverly Robotics Night Out fundraiser

Friday, Feb. 10

5-9 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner Road, Lansing

Waverly Robotics, a Waverly Community Schools STEAM program with 20 teams across all grade levels, is hosting a fundraiser so it can purchase a trailer to transport materials to events and competitions.

The event will be emceed by Deb Hart from Fox 47 News and will feature keynote speaker Michelle Massey, vice president of community outreach and customer support at TechSmith and recipient of the 2021 ATHENA Leadership Award; comedian Nicole Melnyk; additional community speakers; jazz music; and a silent auction.

Tickets are \$80 and can be purchased at brownpapertickets.com or by scanning the QR code. The ticket comes with dinner, including appetizers, a main course, dessert and drinks.



9-10 a.m. 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Flatbreads Two Ways - 6 p.m. Brady’s HG, 319 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. 517-999-0399. bradlyshg.com.

Frank Pfaff - Lyrical pictures that tell stories of the human condition. 9 p.m. Sirens Bar, 119 E. Walker St., Saint Johns. 989-292-4600.

From Scotland, Tannahill Weavers - Traditional Celtic music at its best! 7:30 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. 517-337-7744. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Galentine at October Moon - Raffle, shopping, music, sips and nibbles. 5 p.m. 119 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. 517-485-4100. octobermoon.shop.

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

Mason Knights of Columbus Dine-in Fish Fry - Three fried or baked pieces of cod, shrimp, fries or baked potato, mac and cheese, coleslaw, green beans, dinner roll and a dessert. Take-out available. 4:30-7 p.m. 1010 S. Lansing St., Mason. masonknights.org.

Mid-Michigan Women’s Expo - Exhibits, activities, main stage presentations and shopping that aim to provide a weekend of entertainment, education and enjoyment. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. kohlerexpo.com.

Minecraft Club - Play Minecraft on the library’s private server! Laptops provided. Grades 3 and

See Events, Page 28

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Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"In the Worst Way"--
find the missing links.
by Matt Jones
© 2023 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Aromatic ointment
- 5. Fitzgerald forte
- 9. Like some doors
- 13. "Superfood" berry
- 14. Approximately
- 15. Put on the hard drive
- 16. Flagship brew of what's now Spoutzel Brewery, named for the town in Texas
- 18. ACL's joint
- 19. Tea holder
- 20. Sweater style
- 22. Tongue-in-cheek entertainment
- 24. "The game is ____"
- 25. Side-to-side skid
- 29. Surpass in smarts
- 32. Shaw on the jazz clarinet
- 33. Peculiarity
- 35. Suffix with ethyl and propyl
- 36. Pager sound
- 37. Like some 1940s pinups
- 38. Clamors
- 39. Web connection co.
- 40. Invoice words before a date
- 41. Assume as a fact
- 42. Not these or those
- 44. Circle segments, in some circles
- 46. Peeved
- 48. Do some karaoke
- 49. Term for a long streak of championships (last achieved in major pro sports by the 1980s New York Islanders)
- 52. Deeply dismayed
- 56. ____ Kadabra (enemy of the Flash)
- 57. 1977 four-wheel drive coup that sorta

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13					14					15			
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39				40					41				
42			43			44		45					
46					47		48						
49	50					51		52		53	54	55	
56					57		58						
59					60					61			
62					63					64			

- resembled a pickup
- 59. Type of skateboarding that includes inclines
- 60. Birthplace of the violin
- 61. Egg, in Paris
- 62. "Game of Thrones" heroine Stark
- 63. Foam football brand
- 64. Knit material
- DOWN
- 1. Enjoy the limelight (or sunlight)
- 2. Bruise symptom
- 3. Cafe au ____
- 4. Ice cream flavor that's usually green or white
- 5. Blood relation, slangily
- 6. "Peter Pan" critter
- 7. African capital on the Gulf of Guinea
- 8. Become... something
- 9. Beginning of a JFK quote
- 10. Former Sleater-Kinney drummer who also worked with Stephen Malkmus and the Shins
- 11. "Voulez-vous coucher ____ moi?"
- 12. Smell real bad
- 14. Espresso foam
- 17. Bring delight to
- 21. "The Caine Mutiny" author Herman
- 23. Arouse, as one's interest
- 25. Italian model who graced many a romance novel cover
- 26. "____ my case!"
- 27. Superstar who holds records for most three-pointers in a career; season, and NBA finals
- 28. Pyramid-shaped Vegas hotel
- 30. Belly button type
- 31. Students' challenges
- 34. New York college and Scottish isle, for two
- 37. Brings en masse to an event, maybe
- 38. Pillsbury mascot (whose name is Poppin' Fresh)
- 40. Roller coaster feature
- 41. Stop-motion kids' show set in Antarctica
- 43. Literary misprints
- 45. Daily record
- 47. Pan-fry
- 49. Broad bean
- 50. "Remote Control" host Ken
- 51. Ski resort transport
- 53. Rectangle calculation
- 54. Dino's end?
- 55. Initialism from "Winnie the Pooh" specials that predated text messages
- 58. TV alien who lived with the Tanners

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Answers on page 28

SUDOKU

Advanced

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

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

February 8-14, 2023

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Aries director Francis Ford Coppola was asked to name the year's worst movie. The question didn't interest him, he said. He listed his favorite films, then declared, "Movies are hard to make, so I'd say all the other ones were fine!" Coppola's comments remind me of author Dave Eggers': "Do not dismiss a book until you have written one, and do not dismiss a movie until you have made one, and do not dismiss a person until you have met them." In accordance with astrological omens, Aries, your assignment is to explore and embody these perspectives. Refrain from judging efforts about which you have no personal knowledge. Be as open-minded and generous as you can. Doing so will give you fuller access to half-dormant aspects of your own potentials.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Artist Andy Warhol said, only half in jest, "Being good in business is the most fascinating kind of art. Making money is art, and working is art, and good business is the best art." More than any other sign, Tauruses embody this attitude with flare. When you are at your best, you're not a greedy materialist who places a higher value on money than everything else. Instead, you approach the gathering of necessary resources, including money, as a fun art project that you perform with love and creativity. I invite you to ascend to an even higher octave of this talent.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You are gliding into the Season of Maximum Volition, Autonomy and Liberty. Now is a favorable time to explore and expand the pleasures of personal sovereignty. You will be at the peak of your power to declare your independence from influences that hinder and limit you. To prepare, try two experiments. 1. Act as if free will is an illusion. It doesn't exist. There's no such thing. Then visualize what your destiny would be like. 2. Act as if free will is real. Imagine that in the coming months, you can have more of it at your disposal than ever before. What will your destiny be like?

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The ethereal, dreamy side of your nature must continually find ways to express itself beautifully and playfully. And I do mean "continually." If you're not always allowing your imagination to roam and romp around in Wonderland, your imagination may lapse into spinning-out, crabby delusions. Luckily, I don't think you will have any problems attending to this necessary luxury in the coming weeks. From what I can tell, you will be highly motivated to generate fluidic fun by rambling through fantasy realms. Bonus! I suspect this will generate practical benefits.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't treat your allies or yourself with neglect and insensitivity. For the sake of your mental and physical health, you need to do the exact opposite. I'm not exaggerating! To enhance your well-being, be almost ridiculously positive. Be vigorously nice and rigorously kind. Bestow blessings and dole out compliments, both to others and yourself. See the best and expect the best in both others and yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Is there a bug in the sanctuary of love? A parasite or saboteur? If so, banish it. Is there a cranky monster grumbling in the basement or attic or closet? Feed that creature chunks of raw cookie dough imbued with a crushed-up Valium pill. Do you have a stuffed animal or holy statue to which you can spill your deep, dark, delicious secrets? If not, get one. Have you been spending quality time rumbling around in your fantasy world in quest of spectacular healings? If not, get busy. Those healings are ready for you to pluck them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There's a weird magic operating in your vicinity these days — a curious, uncanny kind of luck. So, while my counsel here might sound counterintuitive, I think it's true. Here are four affirmations to chant regularly: 1. "I will attract and acquire what I want by acting as if I

don't care if I get what I want." 2. "I will become grounded and relaxed with the help of beautiful messes and rowdy fun." 3. "My worries and fears will subside as I make fun of them and joke about them." 4. "I will activate my deeper ambition by giving myself permission to be lazy."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): How many people would fight for their country? Below, I list the countries where my horoscopes are published and the percentage of their populations ready and willing to take up arms against their nations' enemies: Japan, 11%; Netherlands, 15%; Italy, 20 %; France, 29 %; Canada, 30 %; US, 44 %. So, I surmise that Japanese readers are most likely to welcome my advice here, which is threefold: 1. The coming months will be a good time to cultivate your love for your country's land, people and culture, but not for your country's government and armed forces. 2. Minimize your aggressiveness, unless you invoke it to improve your personal life — in which case, pump it up and harness it. 3. Don't get riled up about vague abstractions and fear-based fantasies. But do wield your constructive militancy on behalf of intimate, practical improvements.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): By the time she was 33, Sagittarian actor Jane Fonda was famous and popular. She had already won many awards, including an Oscar. Then she became an outspoken opponent of America's war in Vietnam. Some of her less-liberal fans were outraged. For a few years, her success in films waned. Offers didn't come easily to her. She later explained that while the industry had not completely "blacklisted" her, she had been "greylisted." Despite the setback, she kept working — and never diluted her political activism. By the time she was in her 40s, her career and reputation had fully recovered. Today, at age 84, she is busy with creative projects. In accordance with astrological rhythms, I propose we make her your role model in the coming months. May she inspire you to be true to your principles, even if some people disapprove. Be loyal to what you know is right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Charles V (1500-1558) had more than 20 titles, including Holy Roman Emperor, King of Spain, Archduke of Austria and Lord of the Netherlands. He was also a patron of the arts and architecture. Once, while visiting the renowned Italian painter Titian to have his portrait done, he did something no monarch had ever done. When Titian dropped his paintbrush on the floor, Charles humbly picked it up and gave it to him. I foresee a different but equally interesting switheroo in your vicinity during the coming weeks. Maybe you will be aided by a bigshot or get a blessing from someone you consider out of your league. Perhaps you will earn a status boost or will benefit from a shift in a hierarchy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Some people I respect regard the Bible as a great work of literature. I don't share that view. Like psychologist Valerie Tarico, I believe the so-called good book is filled with "repetition, awkward constructions, inconsistent voice, weak character development, boring tangents and passages where nobody can tell what the writer meant to convey." I bring this to your attention, Aquarius, because I believe now is a good time to rebel against conventional wisdom, escape from experts' opinions and formulate your own unique perspectives about pretty much everything. Be like Valerie Tarico and me.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I suspect that "arrivederci" and "au revoir" and "sayonara" will overlap with birth cries and welcomes and initiations in the coming days. Are you beginning or ending? Leaving or arriving? Letting go or hanging on? Here's what I think: You will be beginning and ending; leaving and arriving; letting go and hanging on. That could be confusing, but it could also be fun. The mix of emotions will be rich and soulful.

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

Live & Local CityPULSE

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
The Stick Arounds, LVRS, Tangelo
 Fri., Feb. 10, 9 p.m.
Anvil Crawler, Cavalcade, A Rueful Noise, Lucius Fox
 Sat., Feb. 11, 9 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Cadillac Duo
 Fri., Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
Cat Story
 Sat., Feb. 11, 7 p.m.

Ellison Brewery & Spirits

4903 Dawn Ave., East Lansing
Tony Thompson
 Sat., Feb. 11, 7 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
The Corzo Effect
 Fri., Feb. 10, 8:30 p.m.
Jimmy Likes Pie
 Sat., Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
The Swift Brothers
 Sat., Feb. 11, 7 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Mungion, Moscow Mexico
 Sat., Feb. 11, 8 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
The Swift Brothers
 Fri., Feb. 10, 8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits

2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Tony Thompson
 Fri., Feb. 10, 7 p.m.

Reno's East

1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing
The New Rule
 Fri., Feb. 10, 6 p.m.

University United Methodist Church

1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
Tannahill Weavers
 Fri., Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner Road, Lansing
Max Gage Trio
 Thurs., Feb. 9, 7 p.m.

Crossroads Resurrection

Sat., Feb. 11, 7 p.m.

Afro Beat Night with DJ Dalavey

Sat., Feb. 11, 8 p.m.

Elden Kelly - Songs of Love

Sun., Feb. 12, 5 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston
Potts Road
 Sat., Feb. 11, 7 p.m.



TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

NO SINGER, NO PROBLEM



Courtesy photos

Anvil Crawler, an instrumental progressive rock quartet from Lansing, releases its debut full-length album Friday (Feb. 10). On Saturday, the band hosts its release show at The Avenue Café.

Anvil Crawler releases blazing instrumental LP

While some rock 'n' roll bands depend on a flashy lead singer, other outfits, like Anvil Crawler, let their instruments do the talking.

The Lansing-based instrumental band is known for its white-hot pentatonic leads that soar across erratic compositions while melding progressive heavy metal, syncopated jazz-rock and post-hardcore into one cohesive sound — all without lyrics getting in the way.

With a shared love of bands like The Mars Volta, King Crimson, Steely Dan, Soundgarden and Iron Maiden, to only name a few, Anvil Crawler was formed in 2017 and comprises Ed Emmerich (guitar), Nick Deason (drums), Jason Roedel (guitar) and Robby Donaldson (bass). Together, they form a vibrant, towering soundscape distinctly their own, and the band's forthcoming "Hot Electrifying Color" LP is sonic proof of that. The release show happens Saturday (Feb. 11) at The Avenue Café.

Emmerich chatted with City Pulse about the fiery new album.

On this new record, are there once again no lyrics at all?

There are zero lyrics, but the song titles are just super-specific color names that I vaguely associate with the moods of the songs themselves. Some of the colors are accidentally in the artwork. It's a whole concept. High-IQ stuff.

Sonically, what were you going for on this new one?

We wanted to make a progressive rock record with a bit of heavy-handed ugliness to it — a strong emphasis on driving riffs and dissonance. Nick and I were also pretty deep in a Steely Dan obsession when we were writing. It's basically (the 1977 album) "Aja" with ass-beating sludge riffs. This genre is mostly rightfully panned for its focus on polished, heady technicality and flash. I like to think our sound is a little more

down to earth. We just want to rock against some odd-time grooves and rip pentatonic leads. It's fun.

What was the recording process like for "Hot Electrifying Color"?

We recorded the album ourselves in my basement in the spring of 2021. Jason Roedel, our other guitarist, is a phenomenal engineer and producer. He was working at a studio that went down in the COVID year, so he brought all of his gear over, and we knocked it out over a few months. Jason recorded and did all the post-production. Having everything at my house gave us a ton of freedom to play around and try different things. It was sweet.

How did Anvil Crawler first take shape?

Nick and I have been playing together since high school. We wanted to do something brighter and more grounded in rock music aside from our extreme metal band,

Dead Hour Noise. We wrote a few songs and asked Jason (from The Jackpine Snag and Dozic) if he wanted to play bass. He insisted on playing guitar instead, and we absolutely couldn't turn him away. The dude is a shredder and a wealth of knowledge. He took

us to another level in the writing process for this album and held us to a high standard in the studio.

Robby had been around at shows we played in other bands. After Jason joined, he was unanimously at the top of our list to play bass simply because we geeked about the same music, and we've seen him play bass before in a punk band. He didn't own a bass, though. When we asked him, he went out and bought one the next day. It came together really easily.

Anvil Crawler "Hot Electrifying Color" LP release show

With Cavalcade, Lucius Fox and A Rueful Noise
 The Avenue Café
 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
 9 p.m.
 FREE

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program

Tuesdays and Wednesdays through April 15

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

East Lansing Public Library

950 Abbot Road, East Lansing

Stressed about getting your taxes filed before April 18? The AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program provides free tax preparation services for low- to moderate-income individuals and families ages 50 and older.

The program is staffed by volunteers who are trained and certified by the IRS. Call 517-351-2420 to schedule an appointment.

Other locations include:

Tri-County Office On Aging

5303 Cedar St., Lansing

Monday-Thursday

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

517-887-1440

NorthWest Initiative

510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing

Tuesday and Wednesday

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

517-999-2894

DeWitt Charter Township Community Center

16101 Brook Road, Lansing

Monday and Wednesday

9 a.m.-3 p.m.

517-668-0270



Events

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up. Registration req. 4 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Misery - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Monthly fundraiser fish fry - Takeout only, with seating available and bake sale. 4:30-6:30 p.m. or until we run out. Wacousta - DeWitt Masonic Lodge, 9030 W. Herbison Road, Grand Ledge. 517-626-6050. wacousta.net.

MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit - Showcases talent from 17 area high schools. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters 1, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

Paint & Picasso, a family-friendly fundraising event - Eat, paint and support underserved youth who are embarking upon a trip of a lifetime. 6-8 p.m. Peckham Inc., 3510 Capital City Blvd., Lansing. 517-316-4000. peckham.org.

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

The Stick Arouns - 8 p.m. The Avenue, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-999-7549. avenuecafelansing.com.

Symphony Orchestra: Orchestral tour de force - "Soul Force" by Jessie Montgomery, "Karakatoa" by Stacy Garrop and "Concerto for Orchestra" by Witold Lutoslawski. 8 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

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

Travelogue - Along the Silk Road - Mary Pollock takes guests to Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, where she found beautiful Islamic architecture, Silk Road artifacts and colorful markets. 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.

Saturday, Feb. 11

Afro Beat Night with DJ Dalavey - 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

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. eradl.org.

Books & Sweets - Free book giveaway with Valentine's treats and refreshments. Accepting donations of new and gently used books. 9 a.m.-noon. Capital Area Literacy Coalition, 1028 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. 517-485-4949. thereadingpeople.org.

Brain Bee competition - Finding the high school student who knows the most about the human brain. MSU Biomedical and Physical Sciences, 567 Wilson Road, East Lansing. 517-884-5051. physiology.natsci.msu.edu.

Crossroads Resurrection - 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Darwin Discovery Day - Hands-on exploration and discovery of the effects of climate change on plants, animals and ecosystems. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the natural science collections and bring a rock or fossil for identification. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-355-2370. museum.msu.edu.

Environmental Stewardship Work Day - Remove invasive buckthorn from White Park. 9-11 a.m. 3283 E. Lake Lansing Road, East Lansing. 517-319-6804.

Ice Safari - Variety of animal ice carvings with conservation messaging attached, plus live carving. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

Inebriated Insights - A night of intoxicated witchcraft! Usually have a variety of Tarot, oracle cards, bone readings, astrology, runes,

Reiki and more. 5 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

Jimmy Likes Pie at The Green Door - Special show remembering their bandmate Doug. 8:30 p.m. 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

Lansing's Official Daddy-Daughter Dance - Red carpet, live music, dancing, custom drink menu, dessert bar, photo backdrop and more! All ages and father figures welcome. 5-8 p.m. The Venue by Eleven 11 Events, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 517-886-0601. venue1111.com.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - 3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-319-6957. allofusedexpress.org.

"Love is in the Air" Art Exhibit Opening Reception - Light refreshments provided. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Art Williamston gallery, 3845 Vanneter Road, Suite 1, Williamston. 517-655-1191. Cadl.org.

Mid-Michigan Women's Expo - Exhibits, activities, main stage presentations and shopping that aim to provide a weekend of entertainment, education and enjoyment. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. kohlerexpo.com.

Misery - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Mixed-Media Valentines - Create hand-painted, mixed-media greeting cards. Ages 17+. 10 a.m.-noon. Lansing Art Gallery, 300 S. Washington Square, Suite 100, Lansing. 517-574-4521. lansing-artgallery.org.

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

LSO - Music of the '80s - 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.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.

DC Super Heroes: Discover Your Superpowers - On display Feb. 11-May 7. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

The Swift Brothers - 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co., 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

Tease A Gogo Presents: Stupid Cupid - Delicious food and beverage, kissing contest with prizes,

free photo booth. 8 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. 517-574-4214. thejunction-michigan.com.

Winter Birding in the Eastern U.P. Tour - Michigan Audubon birding tour of the eastern Upper Peninsula. Limited to 12 participants. 2310 Science Parkway #200, Okemos. 517-580-7364. michiganaudubon.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.

Sunday, Feb. 12

Burning Desires - An Afternoon of Love Poetry - 2 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Collection Reframe: A Community Conversation - Interactive brainstorming and listening sessions about MSU Broad Museum's collection and how we can present it in a new, collection-focused space that's coming soon. 2 p.m. 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.

Elden Kelly - Songs of Love - 5 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Ice Safari - Variety of animal ice carvings with conservation messaging attached, plus live carving. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4222. potterparkzoo.org.

See Events, Page 30



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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.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Kin Thai's laab wings will fly into your heart

The long-awaited Lansing Shuffle, housed in the former Lansing City Market, has finally opened, and with it, many a new eatery to explore. The interior is a food-court-style layout, but with locally owned Nepalese and vegan-Italian stalls instead of Panda Express and Sbarro. I went on a Saturday afternoon, and it was busy, but not overwhelmingly so. Currently open are an expansive, full-service bar and five food vendors (with more to come), so my companion and I were spoiled for choice.

After much deliberation, the winner was Kin Thai, which offers dishes inspired by Southeast Asian street food, including wok-tossed noodles, boba teas and crab Rangoon nachos, the last of which I will absolutely need to go back for. We chose the classic Thai dish drunken noodles (with tofu)

and the laab wings. We then wandered around while our food was prepared, further exploring the new space and trying to find where the shuffleboard happens (that part of the development isn't completed yet).

Both our selections came out in short order, hot and fresh. The thick, wide rice noodles were satisfyingly dense and chewy, tossed in a delicious, mildly spicy, gravy-like sauce with notes of soy and oyster sauce, stir-fried red peppers and sweet red onions. The tofu was silky but still held its shape, and the fresh, crunchy bean sprouts sprinkled atop added the perfect element of textural variety.

As lovely as the noodles were, I, like many others, am an absolute sucker for fried chicken in any



Lizy Ferguson/City Pulse

The laab wings at Kin Thai, located within Lansing Shuffle, are perfectly golden-fried and served with lime wedges to enhance the umami-rich seasoning.

form, so my focus couldn't help but drift back to the laab wings. Laab — from larb, a national dish of Laos — is a chopped meat salad that's noted for its umami-rich, lime-soaked seasoning. Kin Thai has taken those delectable flavors and infused them with perfectly golden-fried but not-at-all-greasy chicken wings, creating a dish that seems designed to keep me, personally, entranced and craving more. What I appreciated most were the generous quarters of fresh, ripe lime served with the wings, allowing me to absolutely

douse them in juice. It would be difficult for there to ever be too much lime in my Thai food (or Vietnamese ... or Mexican).

We sat at one of the large, communal tables and, since we were sharing it with a few others, I thought I should maybe tone down the voraciousness with which I was consuming my food. I comforted myself, though, with the thought that the sudden pops of wild, spicy flavor I encountered as I worked through the wings would surely have a similar effect on most.



Laab wings
\$14

Drunken noodles with tofu
\$17

Kin Thai
Inside Lansing Shuffle
325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Tuesday-Sunday: 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
lansingshuffle.com

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 BARBECUE

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

1. Meat Southern BBQ

Slow-smoked barbecue standards and inventive, handmade sides
1224 Turner Road, Lansing
517-580-4400
meatbbq.com
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
Noon-5 p.m. Sunday

2. Saddleback BBQ (REO Town)

Authentic Southern barbecue with a unique Midwestern flair
1147 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
517-306-9002
saddlebackbbq.com
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Sunday

3. Smoke 'N Pig BBQ

Slow-smoked meats with a secret, mouthwatering rub
908 Elmwood Road, Lansing
517-582-5100
smokenpigbbq.com
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday

4. Capital City BBQ

Traditional American barbecue dishes alongside Vietnamese classics
1026 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
517-721-1500
facebook.com/capitalcitybbq
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday

5. Gravity Smokehouse & BBQ

Texas-style barbecue with a hometown flavor
2440 Cedar St., Holt
517-258-4900
gravitysmokehouse.com
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

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The perfect salad for citrus season

Events

from page 28

By **ARI LEVAUX**

This time of year, citrus season is in full swing. If you live in the dark, frigid North, these colorful orbs and oblong spheroids can light up a room from a bowl on the table, so cheery they practically boost your vitamin D levels.

If you've spent time in the Sun Belt during these months, when citrus fruits dangle from the bushy trees like Christmas ornaments, you know they're good for more than just juice, a snack or a garnish. They're useful ingredients in all sorts of ways, including in cooked dishes. You may not want to eat a cooked lemon quarter on its own, but if you add

some to a stew, you'll be rewarded with a more flavorful bowlful, as it donates its fragrant acidity to the mix.

One of the easiest ways to get into a citrus state of mind is to use lemon or lime, or even orange, in place of vinegar in salad dressings, marinades or any other context that calls for acid. If you want the flavor without the acid (or water content), use grated zest from the peel. Zest is often used in baked goods and

mixed drinks, but it can also be added wherever a hint of citrus would be appreciated, like a salad, a bowl of soup or a side of vegetables. A little goes a long way. Depending on what's cooking, the zest might be the most useful part of the fruit.

This time of year, when tomatoes are out of season, I use peeled slabs of citrus in my winter salads. They pack a similar tart punch, and a pile of multicolored slices looks similar to a heap of heirloom tomato rounds.

Here is a recipe for a winter salad of citrus and greens. Like any salad recipe, you don't have to follow it exactly. Instead, consider it a framework. Winter greens like endive, radicchio and kale tend to have more personality than lettuce, which makes them a perfect contrast to the passionate citrus. My favorite green for this salad is baby arugula from the winter farmers market. Its spicy, mustardy zing is nicely balanced by the zesty fruit. I also like to include a gamey cheese like Romano to balance the sweetness, along with feisty bits of onion and garlic.

This salad performs like a team of rivals, with many competing flavors creating multiple subplots. For example, the way the arugula combines with the spicy black pepper, onions and garlic, along with the occasional piece of bitter pith clinging to the fruit, presents a dra-

matic contrast to the sweet, tart citrus. When you factor in the umami from the nuts and cheese, the salad delivers every known category of flavor.

Citrus wintergreen salad

Mix and match your favorite citrus, greens, nuts and cheeses. Here is my preferred formulation.

Serves 2

- 1 blood orange
- 1 Cara Cara orange
- 1 grapefruit
- 1 "normal" orange
- 2 tangelos or tangerines
- 4 cups baby arugula
- ¼ cup olive oil
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 clove of garlic, pressed or mashed
- ¼ of a large onion, minced
- ¼ cup grated Romano cheese
- ¼ cup slivered almonds
- Juice of ½ lemon

Cut the top and bottom off of each citrus and place them on a cutting board with the cut ends flat so they won't roll. With a thin knife, slice off the skin of each fruit, following the curvature of the flesh. Then slice each piece into circles. Cut the slices of larger fruit in half or quarters to make them more bite-sized.

In a large bowl, toss the arugula with the olive oil, salt, pepper, onion and garlic. Divide the leaves and put each portion on a plate. Arrange the citrus artfully atop the leaves. Sprinkle the almonds and cheese on top and squeeze a quarter lemon over each of the two servings.





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Intro to Numerology with Danielle McMahon - 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

"Invictus" Movie and Discussion - Nelson Mandela initiates a venture to unite the Apartheid-torn land by enlisting the national rugby team to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup. Noon. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

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.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - 3 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-319-6957. alofusedexpress.org.

Mid-Michigan Women's Expo - Exhibits, activities, main stage presentations and shopping that aim to provide a weekend of entertainment, education and enjoyment. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. kohlerexpo.com.

Misery - 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

Rock Mandalas with Sallie Thrush - Learn and practice the meditative art of dot painting by creating mandalas on stones. 3 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

Valentine's Dog Treats - Learn how to make three kinds of treats using nutritious, human-grade ingredients. one LUCKY student will WIN a BE MINE doggy toy and treat prize pack. 1 p.m. Brady's HG, 319 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. 517-999-0399. bradlyshg.com.

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

Monday, Feb. 13

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.

Intro to Fly Tying Workshops - Learn the tools, materials and techniques to tie two to three different fishing flies. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Jump Into Reading - Stories, songs, activities and therapy dogs. Intended for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers. 11 a.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

MSUFCU Student Art Exhibit - Showcases talent from 17 area high schools. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. MSUFCU Headquarters 1, 3777 West Road, East Lansing. msufcuart.com.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

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

Valentine's Dinner cooking class - Three-course dinner meets cooking class. 6-8 p.m. Brady's HG, 319 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. 517-999-0399. bradlyshg.com.

On the Same Page Book Club - Chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 7-12. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Friendship Baptist Church
Celebrating
Black History
Through the Arts!

Music, Literature, Artists, Architecture/Engineering



(Poet, Actress, Director)
Rose Jangmi Cooper

And



Blues, Folk, Reggae, R&B and Americana
Deacon Earl

February 12th, 2023
2912 Pleasant Grove Road. Lansing, MI.
Starting at 10:15 a.m.

Friendship Baptist Church
Celebrating
Black History
Through the Arts!

Music, Literature, Artists, Architecture & Engineering



Artist and Olivet College
Basketball Coach
Brian Snyder



Artist, Children's Writer,
and Stage
Julian Van Dyke



Music Performance
by
*Color Me
Music!*
ALLIANCE FOR STUDENTS OF COLOR

February 19th, 2023
10:15 am
Friendship Baptist Church 2912 Pleasant Grove Road Lansing, MI

Friendship Baptist Church
Celebrating
Black History
Through the Arts!

Please join us as we
welcome the
Earl Nelson Singers
for their
Farewell Concert
celebrating 60 yrs.
of singing and
sharing Negro Spirituals.

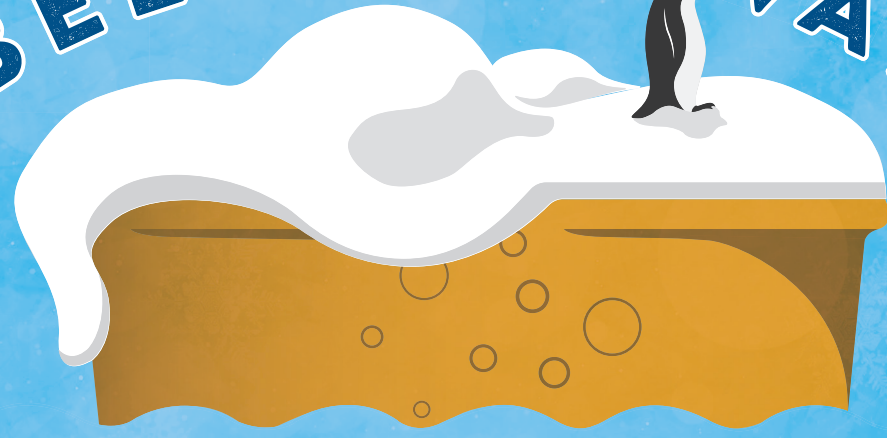


The Earl Nelson Singers
February 26, 2023. Starting at 3pm
Friendship Baptist Church 2912 Pleasant Road Lansing, MI

All are invited to
enjoy a day of song
and fellowship, in
recognition of this
area's amazing
singing group!

MICHIGAN BREWERS GUILD
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17TH ANNUAL
WINTER BEER FESTIVAL



2.25.23
SAT. 1-6 P.M.

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TICKETS: \$60 in advance. Tickets are limited. Advance purchase recommended.
No refunds. Tickets online only at MiBeer.com. Includes 15 drink tokens, available as you enter the festival. Beer tokens required for beer samples. Sample size is 3 oz. Additional tokens available inside festival. **Must be 21 and over. I.D. is required.**

BEER TOKEN POLICY: To comply with Michigan Liquor Control Commission rules, tokens must be exchanged for beer samples. Any attempt to obtain beer samples without the appropriate exchange of tokens is a violation of MLCC rules and may result in removal from the festival.



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