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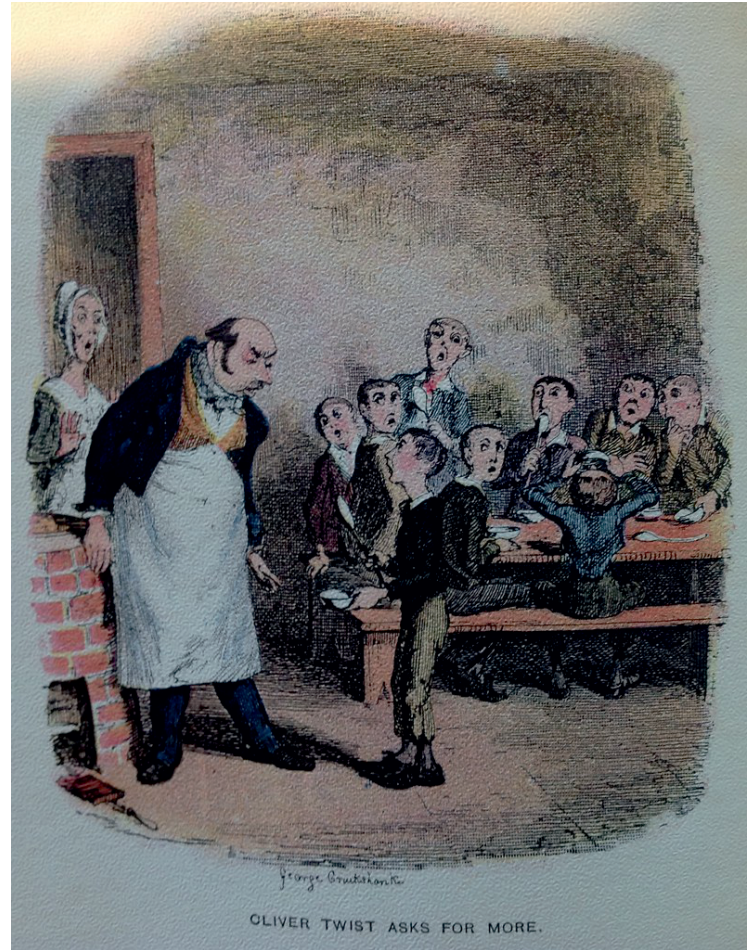
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"One nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" may be the most pretentious proclamation ever uttered by the masses.

Indivisible? Really? Name a time when that was true. Liberty and justice have been forsaken in the name of hierarchy.

My indoctrination was nearly complete when I was 6 and recited the Pledge of Allegiance every morning. By the time I was 9, I could recite "The Star-Spangled Banner," not knowing its composer was a slave owner and that stanzas were removed for racist content. I was told that America was the safest place on Earth. I was convinced the rest of the world was violent and full of terrorists. I was told that our founders were righteous and virtuous.

Here we are watching police murder Black people, watching children be murdered regularly in the classroom, and what? Thinking it'll go away with more guns. If the police can't control themselves and treat people with dignity, how can we think other people won't react the same?

Honestly, America, we learned it by watching you.

We have learned that racism doesn't exist, that history shouldn't be taught, that education and healthcare are only for the rich, and employers can exploit the vulnerable without consequences. We've learned that police are all too often above the law. That children are expendable.

Some lessons we are learning aren't coming from classrooms, but, fortunately, many of us are learning in real time that we are the ones who will provoke change. We all deserve better, and we will not accept less anymore. The future is ours, and we must demand the change we seek. Ironically, those who oppose the change will also prosper from it — albeit, I'm I'm sure, begrudgingly.

Chris Stapleton's Super Bowl performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner," along with Sheryl Lee Ralph singing the gospel hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing," Rihanna's fabulous halftime performance, and an all-woman pilot team's flyover are all signs of moving away from old, tired patriarchal norms of the past. What you are seeing is progress with your own eyes, and the resistance to it is futile as long as WE aspire to be indivisible.

I will gladly embrace this nation the same way I did as a child — IF we hold ourselves accountable and actually live up to the promises of liberty and justice for all.

CityPULSE

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RAW rolling papers under fire for false claims

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Visit Williamston pop-up restaurant before it's gone

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Unlock hidden flavors and nutrients in your food

PAGE 26

Cover illustration courtesy of Golden Cosmos

Missing the Story

IN SOUTH CAROLINA, GOP LAWMAKERS HAVE PROPOSED MAKING ABORTION ANYTIME AFTER FERTILIZATION A HOMICIDE SUBJECT TO THE DEATH PENALTY.

Fig. 1 MURDER Fig. 2 NOT MURDER

GOV. DESANTIS TOOK OVER FLORIDA'S HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS BOARD A WEEK AFTER IT VOTED AGAINST MANDATORY MENSTRUAL CYCLE REPORTING.

TWO IDAHO STATE LAWMAKERS HAVE INTRODUCED A BILL THAT WOULD MAKE IT ILLEGAL TO ADMINISTER A COVID mRNA VACCINE.

I'VE GOT A STORY ON THE GROWING EXTREMISM OF RED STATE GOVERNMENTS.

SORRY, THERE'S NO SPACE—WE'VE ALREADY GOT SIX ARTICLES ON THE "TRANS PROBLEM!"

The Mainstream Muddler

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

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CityPULSE

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

Stay aware with local news right at your fingertips!

THIS HEARING OF THE SELECT SUB-COMMITTEE ON RANDOM RIGHT-WING GRIEVANCES WILL COME TO ORDER! OUR FIRST WITNESS--AN EXTREMELY AGGRIEVED REPUBLICAN!

DO YOU SWEAR TO BE VERY RESENTFUL OF SOCIETAL TRENDS YOU FIND PERSONALLY THREATENING, SO HELP YOU GOD?

I DO!

MY FIRST QUESTION FOR YOU, SIR--DO YOU CONCUR THAT THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING OUR NATION TODAY IS ALL THE WOKENESS?

ABSOLUTELY, MR. CHAIRMAN! THE PANDEMIC WAS A HOAX--BUT OUR SOCIETY WON'T SURVIVE THE WOKE MIND VIRUS!

IT'S EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK! OUR UNIVERSITIES ARE WOKE! HALF-TIME SHOWS ARE WOKE! DISNEY WORLD IS WOKE! M&M CANDIES ARE WOKE!

PEOPLE SHOULD JUST STAY THE HELL ASLEEP, IF YOU ASK ME!

GOOD POINT! MOVING ON TO OUR NEXT GRIEVANCE--

--WHAT ABOUT THE F.B.I. TREATING CONCERNED MAGA PARENTS LIKE COMMON CRIMINALS?

IN MY OPINION AS AN AGGRIEVED REPUBLICAN, IT IS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THEIR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT TO MAKE VIOLENT THREATS AGAINST THE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS OF THEIR CHOICE!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HONEST AND COMPELLING TESTIMONY! DO YOU HAVE ANY INSIGHT INTO SOCIAL MEDIA BIAS AGAINST CONSERVATIVES?

IT'S UNDENIABLE! I POSTED AN EXTREMELY AMUSING MEME ABOUT PRO-ABORTION WOMEN BEING FAT AND UGLY--AND IT ONLY GOT FIFTEEN LIKES!

SHOCKING! WELL, BEFORE WE RECESS--WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON ALL THIS GENDER CRAP?

CONGRESSMAN, MY PRONOUNS ARE "I ONLY KNOW ONE JOKE" AND "IT'S ABOUT PRONOUNS!"

HA HA! THAT ONE NEVER GETS OLD!

NEXT WHY WON'T LIBERAL WOMEN MATCH WITH MAGA REPUBLICANS ON DATING APPS?

THIS CHAIR INTENDS TO FIND OUT!

TOM TOMORROW © 2023-02-20 ... JOIN SPARKY'S LIST: thismodernworld.com/subscriptions

PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Shooting aftermath: Should MSU be a less open campus?

In 2021, Lansing Community College locked down its downtown campus buildings. Access was limited to those holding a card issued to students, faculty and staff.

LCC made the quiet move, President Steve Robinson said, “in response to fewer people in the buildings and mitigating against those threats where you can say, ‘It can’t happen here,’ but it can happen anyway.”

“Those threats” came to pass at Michigan State University two Mondays ago, and now MSU is deciding whether to follow suit.

The system used by LCC not only limits access to campus buildings. It also allows security officials to remotely lock down not just certain buildings but also certain hallways, effectively isolating a threat on campus, allowing law enforcement to marshal a response while protecting lives.

“We have the ability to restrict building access on campus,” MSU deputy spokesperson Dan Olson wrote in an email. “The question is, we are a public university, and we have a history of being a public campus and welcoming the community to our campus. And so, long term, we have to be having those conversations about what do we want to do and what do we want to do from a safety and security measure?”

“We’ll be having those conversations and incorporating community, students, faculty as part of that to understand what our community needs are and what will help them feel most safe. But also trying to work through that process into the future.”

The mass shooting was not the first time a gun on campus was a concern for students. City Pulse reported last August on a 2021 incident involving an 18-year-old freshman who was found in possession of firearms, a homemade taser and knives after weeks of escalating and concerning behavior.

Last fall, MSU officials announced plans to consolidate the university’s 2,000 camera feeds into a centralized facility that would be monitored 24 hours a day.

Olsen said contractors were expected



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

Michigan State University students at the Michigan Capitol building Monday demanding change to gun laws.

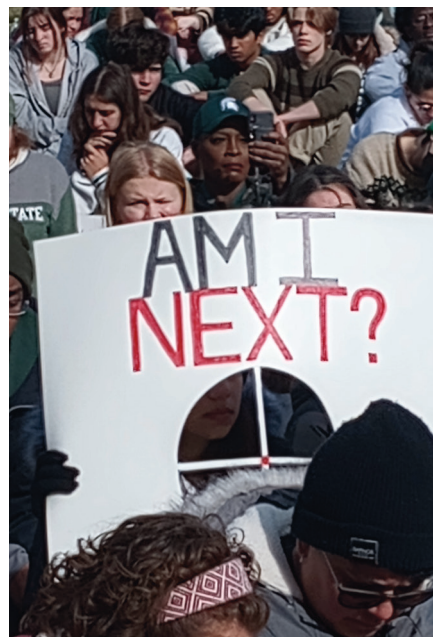
on campus last week to review all the systems and provide bids on the software and hardware that will knit the disparate systems composing the current network into a cohesive whole. The centralized system would have sped up circulating images of mass shooter Anthony McRae. It took just over three hours for detectives to comb through video to identify him. Once released, the photo quickly led to a tip from a Lansing resident who saw McRae miles away. When police confronted him, he killed himself.

Dion Bennett graduated from MSU in May 2022. He is living in East Lansing and was frustrated by the university’s delay in addressing video surveillance issues.

“The cameras were supposed to be updated. I’m hoping that this will wake them up for them to get to it, things of that nature,” he said.

In addition to the central surveillance room, MSU has radio frequency identification (RFID) chip cards for access to buildings on campus, such as residence halls. When the new central security hub is complete, Olsen said MSU will be able to remotely lockdown facilities across campus.

Like LCC, other universities across the country have moved toward more restric-



Todd Heywood/City Pulse

A protest sign at Monday’s rally at the Capitol.

tive security measures, according to their spokespeople or websites. Those security measures include centralized systems like MSU’s as well as RFID chip technology limiting access to campus buildings.

Heather Bow, 20, and her friend Cydney Jenkins, 19, talked to City Pulse as

an estimated 1,000 students sat on the lawn of the Capitol Monday demanding changes to laws around guns to stop mass shootings.

Jenkins said she never felt unsafe at MSU. In fact, most Mondays would have found her in the MSU Union building, where the shooter killed one.

“I never felt unsafe there. I loved it there,” she said.

Still, Jenkins, who helped organize a March for Our Lives protest five years ago, at 14, following the massacre at Parkland High School in Florida, said locking down buildings on campus is not necessarily the answer to stopping an active shooter.

“I think it takes away a lot of freedom, but I don’t think it’d be super effective. On our campus, we’re taught to be kind. We’re taught to hold doors open for people, to not project an image of what a student should be,” she said, as Bow concurred. “So to me, it wouldn’t be out of line for another student to let somebody in that they see outside. It would be quite simple just to wait for somebody to come by, swipe a card and say, oh, come on in. Sorry, let me hold this door open for you. So I don’t know if it would be an effective solution to that.”

She conceded that if a stranger was waiting for that opportunity, it might give someone pause enough to call law enforcement out of concern.

Jenkins said gun control legislation is important, such as “red flag laws” that would allow family and law enforcement to seek a temporary order to seize firearms from a person who may be a threat to themselves or others.

But with the security of the bucolic campus shaken to its core by the shootings, Bow admitted she is not sure what, if anything, will make her feel safe on campus again.

“I don’t even know what I need,” she said. “I don’t know how you can even start to secure a building like that, a building that’s supposed to be an open and safe place for students. I don’t know where the university could even begin to start.”

— TODD HEYWOOD

ADVERTISEMENT

Vevay Township, Ingham County, Michigan, through Wolverine Engineers and Surveyors, Inc. of Mason, Michigan, will receive sealed bids for **Vevay Township Hall Building Upgrades and Improvements until 10:00 a.m.**, Local Time, **Thursday, March 16, 2023**, at the offices of Vevay Township, 780 Eden Road, Mason, MI 48854. At that time and place all bids received shall be publicly opened and read aloud.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Walk Through shall be held on Thursday, March 2, 2023, at 10:00 am at the Township Hall. Any Contractor Interested in Bidding as the Prime/General Contractor Shall be Represented at this Meeting.

General Description

This project consists of various interior and exterior building improvements and upgrades to the Township Hall and Offices located at 780 Eden Road, Mason, MI 48854.

Upgrades and Improvements shall include but may not be limited to:

EXTERIOR

- Complete roof replacement, including any necessary and required rough carpentry, framing repairs at any and all water damaged areas, and roof decking replacement.
- Vinyl siding over existing vertical T1-11, including all rough carpentry and miscellaneous and extraneous repairs required to install the vinyl siding.
- Removal and replacement of existing gutters and downspouts, including all rough carpentry and miscellaneous and extraneous repairs required to install the gutters and downspouts.
- Exterior painting of exposed wood surfaces, including all prep work required to insure paint adhesion.
- Exterior lighting and other miscellaneous exterior electrical work.
- Mulching of existing landscape beds, including raking and removal of any damaged, diseased, or otherwise unsuitable planting material.
- Removal of exterior hose bibs and replacement with frost-free exterior hose bibs, including all required piping and other work as required for removal and installation

INTERIOR (Board Room, Hallway, Restrooms)

- Removal and replacement of existing water heater (new to be 50 gallon), including all required piping, venting and other work as required for removal and installation.
- Removal and replacement of existing furnaces (2) and one (1) exterior air conditioning compressor including all required piping, venting and other work as required for removal and installation.
- Selective interior building demolition; drywall repairs; selective acoustical ceiling tile repair and replacement.
- Removal of existing water closets and replacement with flush valve water closets.
- Lighting upgrades.
- Removal and replacement of Accordion door to the kitchen.
- Removal and replacement of existing wall coverings and repainting (Owner to select colors).

All fees and quotes shall include all permits as may be required for the work, labor, supervision, general conditions, bonds, insurances, profit and overhead, tools, materials, equipment, and ALL other ancillary items necessary to complete the described work items.

Documents - IMPORTANT

Contract Documents for the project will be on file and available for inspection at the offices of the Vevay Township Hall & Offices, 780 Eden Road, Mason, MI 48854; and at the offices of Wolverine Engineers and Surveyors, Inc. 312 North Street, Mason, MI 48854. Bid documents will be available for prospective bidders at the offices of Wolverine Engineers & Surveyors.

The Contractor is solely responsible to obtain any and/or all Addenda as may be issued for this project. Failure to obtain and acknowledge any and/or all Addenda will result in rejection of Contractor's bid.

Bid Bond

Each bid proposal shall be accompanied with a bid bond, certified check or cashier's check payable to the Owner in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid as a guarantee that the bidder shall, within ten (10) days after the award of a contract, execute a contract or agreement and file necessary insurance and other bonds if selected as the accepted bidder. If the selected awardee fails to properly execute the necessary bonds, agreement, and insurance requirement, the bid bond shall be deemed forfeited to the Owner as liquidated damages.

Bid Rejections

The Owner reserves the right to accept, reject or negotiate any or all bids, to waive or not to waive informalities in bids or bidding procedures and to accept any bid determined to be in the best interest of the Owner, whether a bid is lowest or not. Bids shall be held for consideration for a period of time not to exceed SIXTY (60) days from the date of bid opening without increase in cost bid for the project. Further time extension may occur only with mutual agreement by the Owner and the successful bidder and the Surety Company issuing the bid bond for the successful bidder. The Owner also reserves the right to reject any or all bids received which are judged by the Owner to not serve the best interests of the Owner in the conduct of this project. The Owner shall have the right to determine if bids are responsive and responsible and to waive defects or irregularities in any bid if it appears in the best interest of the Owner to do so.

JOANNE KEAN, CLERK

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Homeowners write out racism in residential property deeds

New state law allows for removal of restrictive covenants

Growing up in Lansing, Ingham County Register of Deeds Derrick Quinney has seen racism on multiple levels — from neighbors, from the state and from laws that told his family where they were and were not allowed to live.

He recalled how as a child, court-ordered busing for desegregation took him to a school on the other side of town and how the construction of Interstate 496 tore through predominantly Black neighborhoods.

He also knows about the history of restrictive covenants: housing provisions put into place to keep neighborhoods legally segregated.

“From the standpoint of an individual like myself, I remember the days when my mother or my father would take my grandmother, and my mother also, to scrub and clean the floors in the houses with those restrictions that we couldn’t live there,” Quinney said.

Now, as the only African American register of deeds in the state of Michigan and one of just a few across the country, he was a key voice in shaping a new state law to make it easier for property owners to remove those covenants from their records.

Under the statute, signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in December, Michiganers may expunge such language from their residential deeds of sale.

The “Discharge of Prohibited Restrictive Covenants Act,” which state Sen. Sarah Anthony, D-Lansing, began working on in 2018 as a state representative, simplifies the removal process and requires homeowner associations to act if home or property owners request them to remove a restrictive covenant.

Quinney and Anthony have planned a “restrictive covenants removal fair” from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Monday (Feb. 27) at the Register of Deeds Office in the Ingham County Courthouse, 315 S. Jefferson St. in Mason. Ingham County residents are encouraged to bring deeds that include discriminatory language.

While many might see the removal of a restrictive covenant as nothing more than symbolic, since they were made illegal by Congress in the Fair Housing Act of 1968, Quinney said that for him, the new law is of deeper importance.

“I’ve heard folks say, ‘Oh, it’s just symbolic, it’s just ceremonial, it doesn’t mean anything, it has no significance to it,’” he



Bill Castanier/City Pulse

To Ingham County Register of Deeds Derrick Quinney, pictured here outside the county courthouse in Mason, the new state law that makes it easier to remove restrictive covenants from property deeds is far from symbolic. Quinney and state Sen. Sarah Anthony are sponsoring a “restrictive covenants removal fair” from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Monday (Feb. 27) in the Register of Deeds Office at the courthouse.

said. “For those individuals, they tend to be those that are privileged, they’ve made their career through nepotism and also generational wealth.”

Restrictive covenants are no longer a means of keeping minorities from owning property, but the hateful words often remain in property documents and can be a reminder of a time where racism still had a hold on how the state and the country were run.

Anthony credited Quinney’s efforts with being a key part of getting the legislation across the finish line.

“He has been one of the champions in the room where no one looks like him to say, ‘This is an important thing, we do need to make sure that we’re not uplifting a legacy of racism in this state,’” she said. “That’s been a hard battle for him.”

Quinney, 66, gave credit to the Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds for also supporting the legislation.

Anthony said that she learned more about restrictive covenants through her own home-buying journey and from previous iterations of the bill that failed in the state Legislature. The history connected to restrictive covenants motivated her to get it done.

“It’s not a coincidence that poverty is concentrated into certain pockets of our region, that Black and brown folks were forced to live in certain areas of Lansing, and were prohibited from living in certain areas, particularly in our suburban community,” she said. “We know that that has a lasting legacy on generational

wealth, on the ability to pass down properties, what it does to property values. These types of steps ensure that we’re dismantling that legacy.”

Bill Castanier, president of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing, said that restrictive covenants were often used as a form of racial discrimination in northern states like Michigan, as opposed to the outright segregation that took place in the South. He said the restrictive covenant on the deed to his Lansing home reads, “Only persons of the Caucasian Race shall have the right of habitation or dwelling in any of said premises.”

“The South had white and ‘colored’ drinking fountains,” Castanier said. “We didn’t have those in the North. You probably couldn’t ever find a photograph of those in any northern cities.

“However, we did have these,” he said, referring to restrictive covenants. “This was probably the equivalent, but was worse, because it decided where you can live and it basically controlled your whole life.”

The effort to get restrictive covenants removed has also been one that neighborhoods have tried to take on themselves in recent years, like East Lansing’s Brookfield neighborhood.

John Hays, an attorney who lives in the neighborhood, has been working on getting the language removed from neighborhood deeds for years. With owners of all 99 neighborhood lots needing to agree on amendments, getting anything

changed can be a significant challenge. Properties in the neighborhood have existed since as early as 1924. Hays said that even though Brookfield’s racial restrictive covenants can’t be enforced, they’re still a “blight” on the neighborhood.

“If my wife and I wanted to sell our house and the new purchasers got a copy of the restrictions, the covenants and saw this one, they’d say, ‘Oh, we don’t want to live in a place like this,’” Hays said. “It’s unconstitutional, it’s illegal, but still, it looks bad.”

While many restrictive covenants in the Lansing area were race-based, Anthony said that examples of religious and sex-based restrictive covenants can also be seen today.

For example, she said there are covenants under which “only men can actually own this home or live in this home unless they’re servants or unless they kind of belong to a woman,” Anthony said. “It is telling, especially when those men have daughters.”

Quinney said that the removal of the language in restrictive covenants is still optional and that there will always be people who push back against the new law. He’s more focused on helping those who want to get their deeds changed — hence, next week’s fair.

He said he’s been “pleasantly surprised” at how many people “can’t believe they exist and want to do something to correct” their deeds once they learn they have restrictive covenants.

—TREVOR HUBERT

Westside Neighborhood wins: Traffic islands to be spared from sewer work

But the CSO project planned for next year may destroy old trees

The historic planted islands in the Westside Neighborhood will be restored following sewer work next year, thanks largely to two grants to the city of Lansing.

But residents, who fought to save the islands, are not out of the woods yet, so to speak. Some of the neighborhood's oldest trees may not survive the project, a city official said.

Last June, residents were fighting City Hall to save the islands from possible destruction after the city announced plans to bring the Combined Sewer Overflow project to the tree-lined neighborhood.

But the original plan is off the table. "The initial design for the West Side CSO project included some concepts for reconfiguring some of the intersections with islands," Andrew Kilpatrick, the city's public service director, said. "Based on feedback from residents, the final design retained the existing configuration."

The \$25.5 million sewer project, which is scheduled for next year, has received \$16.5 million in grants that will allow the city to maintain historic planted islands in the streets. Most of it, \$16 million, is from federal American Rescue Plan funds, while the \$500,000 is a grant from the U.S. Environment Protection Agency.

Schor administration spokesperson Scott Bean said Mayor Andy Schor has been clear that the islands were to be retained after westside residents complained.

But Bean, who lives in the neighborhood, noted that older trees that have large root systems spread out over sewer lines may have to be removed.

The trees will be replaced if that occurs, he said.

"We are going to do everything we can," he said. "We don't know until we start digging."

The potential loss of trees still has neighbors concerned.

Westside Neighborhood resident Heidi Frei said the community is "relieved the city has listened to the overwhelming support" for keeping the distinct islands and patterns in the neighborhood of older homes and winding streets.

But she said the community is concerned that reductions in the city's forestry division will impact the trees in the neighborhood.

She said that in 2021 the city removed 497 trees, but only replaced 215 (numbers City Pulse has been unable to confirm with the city). The majority of the removed trees had been damaged in storms, she said.



Dawn Parker for City Pulse

Residents gather in a traffic circle in the Westside Neighborhood in June 2022 to discuss concerns about how the city's Combined Sewer Overflow project might affect their beloved islands.

Frei said the city's consistent budget cuts in forestry services over the years have hobbled the capacity to address the complexities of maintaining old-growth trees and replacing the sewer systems in the city. The forestry activities in the city had declined over the last two decades in tandem with significant budgetary pressures.

"The sewer separation project in '90s did have forestry staff supervise," Frei said, adding that former Mayor David Hollister created a "tree committee."

"Mayor Schor has not committed to adding to their forestry staff, not even an intern," she said.

Asked for comment, Bean said, "We have had city forestry staff involved in the CSO project. I know we have had forestry staff in the Westside Neighborhood several times to assess the project's potential impact and also advise on ways to minimize those impacts."

— TODD HEYWOOD

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	



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: Rezoning #23006
MONDAY, March 13, 2023

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Rezoning #23006 (Worful)
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 (phone 517-853-4560) to hear all persons interested in a rezoning request initiated by the Township. The property owner, Jessica Worful, is requesting the Township to administratively rezone an approximately 0.18-acre parcel located at 5677 Cade Street, south of Haslett Road, from PO (Professional Office) to RB (Single-Family 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 and on the Township website under Planning & Development Documents at <https://www.meridian.mi.us/about-us/departments/community-planning-development>.

Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to planningcommission@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.

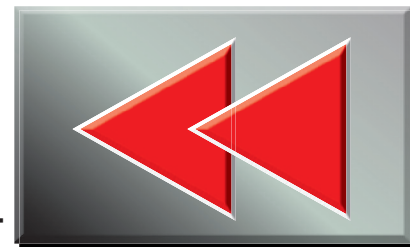
Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

CP#23-045

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY TREVOR HUBERT



Classes resume at Michigan State University one week later

Students, faculty and staff at Michigan State University are still easing back into normal operations following the mass shooting on Feb. 13 that killed three students and left five more injured.

Return to class

Classes resumed at MSU on Monday, exactly one week after the shooting. The return to the classroom has been met with mixed emotions, and the university made counselors and listening sessions available to those still grieving. Classes that were held in Berkey Hall, where two killed were killed and five were injured, have been moved to alternate locations. Berkey and the Student Union, the site of the third killing, are closed at least the rest of the semester. Campuswide, faculty have been encouraged to modify syllabi, arrange hybrid classes and change paper deadlines if needed, according to the Detroit Free Press.

Hundreds of MSU students skipped class Monday to protest against gun violence at the state Capitol to demand accountability on the issue from lawmakers.

Injured students still recovering, some conditions improving

Officials at E.W. Sparrow Hospital confirmed Monday that three of the five students injured in the shooting are no longer in critical condition. One student remains in the hospital in fair condition, and two are in serious but stable condition.

The identities of the injured students have not been officially confirmed, but at least two have been identified.

Guadalupe Huapilla-Perez was identified as one of the injured students through a GoFundMe page created by her sister, Selena. She wrote in an update on the page Monday that her sister was making “slow and steady progress” after undergoing major surgery for two bullet wounds. The page has received more than \$457,000 as of Tuesday morning.

Another GoFundMe was set up for international student John Hao, 20, from China, who was paralyzed from the chest down. His longtime roommate Argent Qian, who set up the page, wrote that Hao is no longer intubated. The page has raised over \$350,000.

Interim President Teresa Woodruff announced on Sunday that MSU will cover medical costs for the five injured students and funeral costs for Brian Fraser, 20, Alexandria Verner, 20, and Arielle Anderson, 19. Coverage will be provided through the Spartan Strong Fund, which has raised over \$250,000, Bridge Michigan has reported.

Motives still unclear

The shooter, identified as Anthony McRae, 43, died



Dale Young/Bridge

Thousands attended a vigil at Michigan State University on Wednesday evening.

from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after being confronted by police on the night of the shooting. He was found with two handguns, several magazines of 9mm ammunition and a bag containing 50 rounds of loose ammunition, authorities said Thursday. The motive for the shooting is still unclear, and he also had two pages of notes that made various threats to a church, a New Jersey school district and some businesses, including Meijer, which he had connections to. Police have stated that he acted alone and did not have any connection to the university or the victims.

“It appears based on the content of the note that he felt he was slighted in some way by people or businesses,” MSU Interim Deputy Police Chief Chris Rozman said at the conference. “Did a mental health issue amplify that or was it a component of that? We’re not sure at this point. We’re working our best to try to determine that as best as possible.”

McRae, who was from Lansing, faced a charge for illegally carrying a concealed weapon in 2019, but he was allowed to plead guilty to a misdemeanor and was sentenced to 12 months’ probation. Former Ingham County Prosecutor Carol Siemon, who resigned in December, defended the plea deal, saying it was “standard.”

Rallying together

MSU has received an outpouring of support from around the country, and students got together for various vigils, protests and fundraisers throughout the

week.

“Spartan Sunday” may have been the largest of them all, bringing thousands of people and more than 100 businesses to campus to show their support. Volunteers came to help clean up campus and brought everything from flowers and cards to emotional support dogs for MSU students.

Ink Therapy Lansing, a local tattoo shop, saw more than 500 people come in Sunday to get “Spartan Strong” tattoos in an effort that raised north of \$3,000 for the victims, according to the Lansing State Journal.

Back to action

Spartan basketball returned Saturday after games immediately following the shooting were postponed. The women’s team honored victims at the Breslin Center in an emotional pregame ceremony. Acting coach Dean Lockwood said that he wanted the game to be “a healing event for our community.” The Spartan women fell just short to Maryland, 66-61.

It was an equally emotional scene at the Crisler Center in Ann Arbor as the Spartan men faced rival Michigan. They held a moment of silence and lit the arena up green before the game. Coach Tom Izzo commended Michigan’s effort to honor the victims after the game, which Michigan won, 84-72.

Lawmakers consider changes

Since the shooting, Democratic state lawmakers have continued their push for more gun laws, which Gov. Gretchen Whitmer supports. On Thursday, Democratic senators introduced an 11-bill package that includes requiring criminal background checks for firearm purchases, safe storage laws and red-flag laws.

Some gun-ownership advocates are already pushing back against the legislation. Brandon Boudreau, executive director of Great Lakes Gun Rights, said on Michigan Radio on Monday that the group would launch recall campaigns against vulnerable Democratic lawmakers who vote for the gun reform package. State Democrats hold a 20-18 majority in the Senate and an equally thin 56-54 majority in the House.

In Eaton County, the Republican majority on the Board of Commissioners rejected a resolution condemning gun violence and supporting stricter laws. Democratic Commissioner Jacob Toomey, a 20-year-old MSU student from Dimondale, introduced the measure. All eight Republican members voted no and all seven Democrats voted for it.



Anthony McRae

On Wednesday last week, the Eaton County Board of Commissioners began with a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the Michigan State University shooting tragedy. Later in the meeting, they debated the passage of a resolution in a manner that was anything but silent.

Todd Heywood reported on the meeting in an online story headlined “Eaton County Board of Commissioners rejects gun violence resolution.” If you have the stomach for it, you can link to a recording of the debate by googling the headline. It is very tempting to counter each specious argument made by those against the resolution, which failed, 8-7, along party lines: Eight Republicans opposed, seven Democrats in favor. But that would distract us from the issue now terribly at hand: Students were murdered and students were injured by a man with a gun. Again.

It is, however, important to acknowledge the facts. The resolution stated, “The Board stands with the students of Michigan State University and the people of the State of Michigan in demanding effective and comprehensive action on gun safety legislation to protect students, teachers, parents, support staff, and others visiting the schools of Eaton County from gun violence.” Additionally, it called for “appropriate adequate new funds to increase the numbers of counselors, mental health staff, psychologists, and social workers in our communities to both prevent and respond to gun violence.” That’s it. It was general in nature. It asked the state Legislature to address gun safety and mental health needs.

Not surprisingly, Republicans jumped on Carol Siemon, the progressive former Ingham County prosecutor, because she had accepted a plea bargain after the shooter, Anthony McRae, was charged with carrying a concealed gun without a permit in 2019. They ignored that McRae didn’t brandish the gun or even display it. The suspect freely told police that he was carrying a weapon when he was asked if he was. It was a question that McRae had given police no reason to ask. His explanation was that he had walked to the store to get cigarettes and was concerned about his safety. He was not using the weapon. Why did the police engage with the suspect in the first place? Because he was sitting on the steps of an abandoned building at 1:30 a.m. In his hand when police approached him were a cigarette and his cell phone. As he told police, “I normally come here.”

Eaton County’s Republican commissioners sought to blame Siemon because McRae was not in jail on a gun charge on Feb. 13. Who doesn’t wish that? But in any jurisdiction in Michigan, the original charge

would have not ended up with prison time, given it was his first offense. Moreover, his lawyer made a valid point in seeking the charge to be dismissed because the police had no cause to question the man in the first place, making the entire interaction unconstitutional. Indeed, the arrest appears to be an excellent example of why Siemon chose in 2021 to limit gun charges in unrelated stops: because far more Black people were being charged, raising the specter of racial profiling. In any case, it’s only in hindsight, and by purposely twisting the facts, that the plea deal appears questionable. It is the kind of illogical thinking and political spin that sadly have been common in public discourse.

Commissioner Jacob Toomey — a 20-year-old Michigan State University student — offered a resolution that made an effort to express solidarity with MSU and did not accuse anyone or any party of the attack on innocents. The resolution supported gun safety measures. A wide majority of citizens support such legislation, including 60% of NRA members. In addition, the resolution proposed that adequate funding be provided for mental health. This is an issue supported by both parties.

The vitriol expressed by its opponents was completely out of line with the resolution. One commissioner, Brian Droscha, argued that gun regulation was “communistic.”

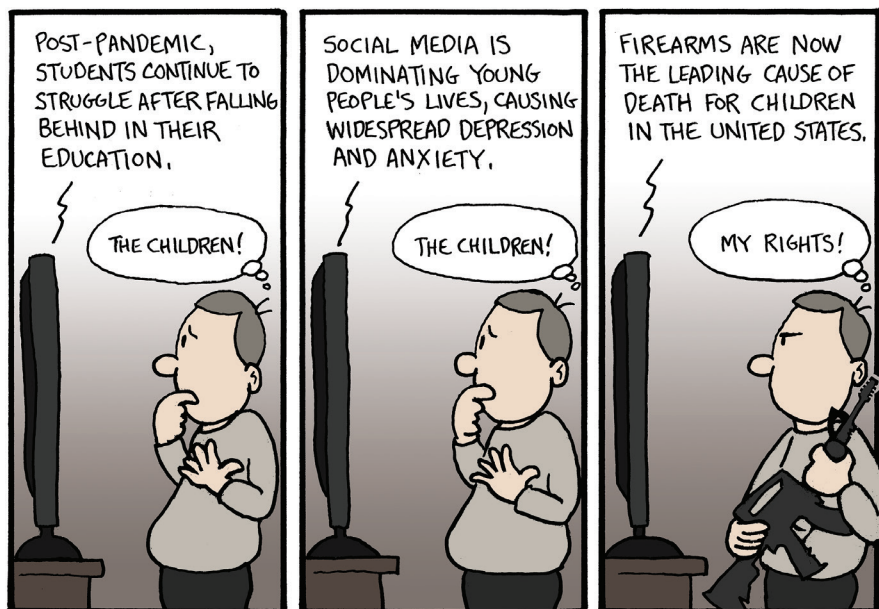
In a breathtaking non-sequitur, one member emotionally thanked a commissioner for “not aborting” his children. It was a classic example of politicians behaving badly.

Worse than that, their behavior replaced the solidarity our community was feeling in our common grief — literally as thousands attended a vigil at MSU — with partisan rage. They argued to be right, rather than working to get it right. While families of the victims reeled in sorrow, some elected representatives believe that any attempt at solving the issues that lead to this peculiarly American problem was a personal attack on them.

Why can’t America stop its gun madness? What occurred in Eaton County is unfortunately indicative of the irrational opposition that keeps our nation from taking steps in a more sensible direction. Solving the problem of being a nation with far too many guns and far too easy access to them is challenging enough. Is it asking too much of our leaders to behave like rational adults? Citizens should demand it. Citizens deserve it. The frenzied debate that is all too common in Eaton County is damaging to the community. It is way past time for the elected representatives in Eaton County to work together to find solutions.

Shame on Eaton County Republicans

The CP Edit
Opinion



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A free history lesson

As a historian of 20th century Europe, I wanted to extend an invitation to Eaton County Commissioner Brian Droscha to educate himself on communism, its goals and history, given the important role he states it played in his decision to vote against the proposed gun violence resolution on Wednesday. Michigan State University has an amazing faculty, able and willing to teach him about communism, yes, but also any number of subjects on which he might wish to speak authoritatively.

When it comes to the study of history, however, there is a catch:

The history faculty teach predominately in Berkey Hall — or did until the shooting that occurred there. Attending a history class would thus require him to not only confront the fallacy of his own professed knowledge, but also the reality of his and his Republican colleagues’ repeated refusal to support gun violence legislation. An open and honest appraisal of history requires courage. Would that the commissioner had it.

Karrin Hanshew

(The writer is an associate professor in the History Department at Michigan State University.)

Letter to the editor

Whose voice is heard over ‘shots fired’?

By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**

Come ride along with me while I detour from the regular education route of my monthly column. Go with me to Spain, to the streets of Barcelona on International Women’s Day, March 8, 2018. I was marching that day, stalled at an intersection with a statue in the middle. 100,000 people pressed in against me and each other. Fearfully, I gazed up to the low building roofs and thought, “I would never do this at home because of mass shooters.”



We are still trying to comprehend the mass shooting at Michigan State University, and we are witnessing firsthand this problem that the United States is failing to solve, like the worst student in the world with a grade of 0.0. Let’s listen to various voices and consider whether any one point of view can resolve this grueling, torturous test of modern American existence.

Because MSU is an institution of higher education, I listened when my friend, a professor of sociology, said, “I’m not sure if as a culture we even agree these shootings are a problem, or what the problem is.”

U.S. Constitution, Second Amendment, 1791: Yes, Americans have the right to keep and bear arms.

Humorists: Americans have the right to arm bears.

Regular Joe constitutionalists, guys holding rifles standing on the corner of Michigan and Washington avenues in downtown Lansing.

I asked them, “Why are you doing this?” All they could say was, “It’s my right to bear arms. It’s my right.”

A community service activist: If people would get more involved with their communities and government — that is, to lead by example — then more folk would know how to solve their problems and get their needs met.

Opinion

Some Black people: “They” are out to get us.

After 400 years of slavery and mistreating Black people, no one, not even Black people, understand that Black Lives Matter.

They say this because police reported the MSU shooter was a Black man, and one of three deaths was a Black, woman student.

Feminists: Men! They don’t know how to channel their emotions, and until this last generation men couldn’t even cry. Their every emotion is a blast of violence. Start adulting.

Much of the talk spotlights mental health.

As a whole, our nation ignores mental health. In 1992, then-Michigan Gov. John Engler closed most of the state-funded mental hospitals, including the Lafayette Clinic in Detroit. Affiliated with Wayne State University, itself the largest single-campus medical school in the nation, Lafayette was a major training institution. With its closure went the most of the state’s supply of psychiatrists and psychologists. Mental health care dried up. It is tremendously difficult for caring family to get through the resulting maze to get help for their stricken loved ones. I know.

Now the mentally ill are back. With guns.

Some other voices.

Gun apologists: Guns don’t kill people; people kill people.

Gun owners: To have an intelligent conversation about guns, please learn something about guns. How they work. Please.

Gun enthusiasts: We need more guns. If everyone had a gun, people could defend themselves. And targets like schools need to be hardened. More locks. Barricaded doors and windows. Make it harder to get into schools. Also, arm the teachers.

Teachers: I am an educator, but you also want us to feed students and clothe them. I paid for my own college. Taught 30 years. Then, you tax my retirement. There’s a teacher shortage, so you invite me back to the classroom. Now you

want me to train as a commando-marksman-sniper. Get the f*** outta here.

Revolutionist: This country was born in violence. It was maintained by violence.

Canada’s CKLW commentators: From here in Windsor, Ontario, looking across the Detroit River into Michigan, we wonder, what is wrong with you people? Why do you need all those guns? Aren’t you tired of killing each other yet?

Capitalists: I have a bulletproof vest, door or desk I can sell you.

Universal Studios, owner of the film franchise “The Purge,” I have a film for YOU! In a seemingly normal, crime-free America of the near future, there’s an annual 12-hour event known as The Purge. During The Purge, all crime is decriminalized, especially murder. No punishment. How does that strike you?


Film viewers: Love it! Here’s 450 million of my hard-earned dollars so I can see “The Purge” (2013), “The Purge: Anarchy” (2014), “The Purge: Election Year” (2016), “The First Purge” (2018) and “The Forever Purge” (2021).

Rapper Ice Cube: “Today, I didn’t even have to use my AK. I got to say, it was a good day.”

Wouldn’t we all?

As long as random killings by self-appointed, deranged executioners are allowed to continue, an abundance of not-good days lie ahead. Mental health care was

See Opinion, Page 12



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: Variance Request 23-03
 2292 E. Lake Lansing Road
WEDNESDAY, March 15, 2023


CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Variance Request 23-03
 2292 E. Lake Lansing Road
Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI, 48864 to hear all persons interested in a variance request from Susan Luks & Edward Clayton. The applicant is proposing to construct a carport that does not meet the front yard setback requirement at 2292 E. Lake Lansing Road. The approximate 2.9-acre subject site is zoned RR (Rural Residential). Information may be examined at the Department of Community Planning and Development (phone 517-853-4560), 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Charter Township of Meridian, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864, or by email to chapman@meridian.mi.us, or at the public hearing.

Deborah Guthrie
 Township Clerk **CP#23-043**

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: TOWNSHIP BOARD
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2023

The Charter Township of Meridian Township Board will be holding a study session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at the Municipal Building Town Hall Room at 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI. The Township Board will be discussing upcoming recreational marijuana text amendments. 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#23-042**

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Gimme Shelter: Poems about Home

Spoken Word Performance by Voices of the Revolution

**THURSDAY MARCH 2 2023 @ 7 PM
CAPITAL AREA DISTRICT LIBRARY
401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing**



Join us for an evening of spoken word focused on the concepts of home and housing. We'll explore through poetry and prose, what it means to have and be at home and what it means to be without housing.

Voices of the Revolution is an eclectic collective of feminist voices telling truth through spoken word. Performing at this event are Kim Griffin, Susan Harris, Laurie Hollinger, Tari Muñiz, Lisa Sarno, and Ruelaine Stokes.

Sponsored by Red Cedar Writing Project and Capital Area District Libraries.
Funding by NEH "More Perfect Union" grant.

Opinion

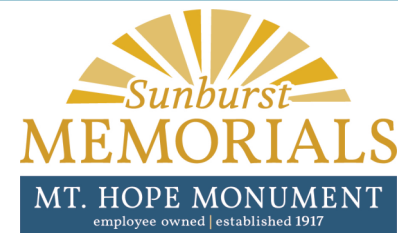
from page 11

abandoned by government — and should be brought back by government.

Government has regulated guns, but as President Biden said in his State of the Union address, it left that job half done. So, get on it, Congress. Raise your voice in the only way that matters: make law. That's your job.

We can't hire enough police to keep tabs on every American, but call them, people, if police are your only option when you see someone in your sphere slipping. Help them get help. If your government representative is non-functioning and ineffective on this issue, vote different next time.

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



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Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

(From left) Justice League of Greater Lansing President Prince Jerold Solace, founder Willye Bryan and Lansing First Presbyterian Pastor Stanley Jenkins form the nucleus of a faith-based group building a reparations endowment for Lansing-area African Americans in the key areas of education, business and housing.

The real Justice League

Faith-based Lansing group builds reparations endowment

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

“This world’s a ship on its passage out; and not a voyage complete; and the pulpit is its prow,” Herman Melville wrote in “Moby Dick.”

A growing group of faith leaders in greater Lansing hope to lead the community on the incomplete voyage to racial equity and reconciliation.

The Justice League of Greater Lansing, a nonprofit formed by members of Lansing’s First Presbyterian Church and its pastor, the Rev. Stanley Jenkins, in summer 2021, is well on its way toward building a faith-based reparations endowment program.

“We’re trying to normalize the discussion on reparations,” Jenkins said. “It’s time. It’s been time since the beginning of slavery.”

Beginning with local churches, they are fanning out into the community, preaching the moral imperative and the practical feasibility of building a fund to close the shocking gap in household wealth, income, education and health outcomes that divides the nation by race — the legacy of centuries of slavery, segregation, discrimination and systemic racism.

And they are practicing what they preach. First Presbyterian has pledged \$100,000 to the League’s reparations fund from its endowment over the next 10 years. Another predominantly white greater Lansing church, Sycamore Creek United Methodist, has pledged 1% of its endowment each year for the next three years. A dozen other churches have met with the Justice League and are pondering whether to follow

“Our grandparents could buy a home and pass it on because the G.I. loan allowed that to happen. Where the lights go on is where people realize the G.I. loan wasn’t accessible to Black people.”

The Rev. Stanley Jenkins
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Lansing

suit.

“One of our goals is to set a bar, an example,” Jenkins said. “I’m sure the fact that we’ve pledged \$100,000 is part of their discussions.”

An eight-member board of local African-American leaders will manage and distribute the funds, focusing on scholarships, job training and housing assistance.

The Justice League’s plan impressed Pastor Tom Arthur so much that he and his congregation made Sycamore Creek United Methodist the first church outside of First Presbyterian to climb on board.

“Who doesn’t want people to thrive in education, housing and business?” Arthur said. “I love it that they are focusing on that. If you look at the inequities in these areas based on race, it’s horrible.”

The Justice League’s ship is launching into unknown seas. Reparations plans and studies are getting

traction in some cities and states across the nation, but they are patchy, limited and rare. Action at the federal level is on hold for the foreseeable future.

But it’s not the first time churches have vaulted into a moral vacuum. Arthur is quick to point out that the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was a pastor before he was an activist and a civil rights leader.

“Everything he did was always based, very specifically, in the church tradition,” Arthur said. “He was a master at communicating it in a way that built bridges with the wider white majority. So it’d be great — it’s fun to even think about how we can lead in that way.”

The League’s goal is to raise \$1 million by the end of 2023.

“A million dollars would be great,” Justice League President Prince Jerold Solace said. “But it’s more about changing people’s notions that this is a possibility, to get those who can commit their time and energy to start investing in what we’re doing.”

Calm spaces

Preachers come in many forms. The founder of the Justice League, First Presbyterian church elder Willye Bryan, has the calm and focused air of a scientist.

She is, in fact, a retired entomologist and researcher with the U.S. Agriculture Department and Michigan State University. Her favorite order of insects is

Justice League

from page 13

ephemeroptera — mayflies. She's also First Presbyterian's point person in a growing movement that is anything but ephemeral.

"We see the huge racial wealth gap," Bryan said. "We feel it. But we don't talk about the reasons that happened, and that it can be repaired. That's the bold step. We don't want to talk about it like pie in the sky. We want to address it."

The year-and-a-half-old League has made about 30 presentations on its reparations plan to predominantly white congregations so far.

The League's pitch relies more on clear, inexorable logic than thunderbolts of sin and guilt.

"There was never a blueprint for African Americans to live outside of slavery," Solace said. "Yes, there's a faith behind this, but there's also a science to human nature, about trying to re-engineer how our nation looks at the legacy of slavery and understands active ways to help repair it."

The Presbyterian Mission Agency's charismatic national spokesman on reparations is the Rev. Jermaine Ross-Allam, director of the newly established Center for the Repair of Historic Harm.

Ross-Allam spoke at a unique convocation in Lansing Jan. 28 at Reachout Christian Center, a predominantly Black church on the south side.

Over 100 white clerics and members of Lansing-area Presbyterian churches, and allies from 10 more predominantly white area churches, gathered that afternoon to offer an apology to the African-American community of Lansing "for the sin of slavery and its aftermath."

Ross-Allam is determined to set a respectful, purposeful tone in the church's work on reparations. He called on the church to create "calm spaces" where communities could talk about reparations and bring an end to the nation's "cycle of outrage."

"Our work is not to try to find a way to make people feel guilty, so that out of their guilt and shame, they will engage, all of a sudden, in some feverish activity," Ross-Allam said in an interview for the online Presbyterian Mission last October. "That cycle ends when people say, 'It doesn't matter if I'm personally guilty, but my personal honor and my love for God and my love for humanity will not allow me to see others suffer from legacies that prop me up.'"

First Presbyterian's Pastor Jenkins loves to watch Bryan win skeptics over at meetings with white churches. The Justice League has also hosted community events at the downtown library and the Socialight Bookstore at the Lansing Mall.

"Sometimes you can see it in the frowns on their faces, or the eyebrows going like this," Jenkins said, wrinkling his brow. "Willye is very good at con-

necting the dots, to show that the racial wealth gap is a direct result of slavery and specific policies."

"I swear that at every presentation, we've seen the light go on for someone," Bryan said. "They'll come and say, 'What can I do?'"

At a recent meeting, a church member raised the question of whether reparations would "create dependency" in the Black community.

Before Bryan could respond, another member stepped in with a ready answer.

"We never asked that question about people who received the G.I. Bill," the member said.

The G.I. Bill, a federal program begun in 1946 to help returning veterans with education and housing, benefited millions of veterans, but its benefits largely bypassed Black Americans, owing largely to discriminatory policies in the banking, real estate, business and insurance sectors.

"Our grandparents could buy a home and pass it on because the G.I. loan allowed that to happen," Jenkins said. "Where the lights go on is where people realize the G.I. loan wasn't accessible to Black people."

"It's good to see people say, 'Now I understand. My father got the G.I. Bill and I didn't realize Black people didn't get it,'" Bryan said.

'That's just crazy'

Sycamore Creek Pastor Arthur said he's been on a "journey" with the idea of reparations.

"As a white person, when you first come across the idea of reparations — at least I did — I'm thinking, 'That's just crazy,'" Arthur said. "How do you even — how do you figure the mechanics of it? It seems ridiculously impossible."

Like many Americans, Arthur got a quick and convincing education from Ta-Nehisi Coates' influential 2014 article in *The Atlantic* magazine, "The Case for Reparations."

In the essay, Coates cogently argued that after 250 years of slavery, 90 years of Jim Crow, 60 years of "separate but equal" and 35 years of racist housing policy, "until we reckon with our compounding moral debts, America will never be whole."

The average Black household earns about half as much as the average white household and owns only about 15% to 20% as much

wealth, according to an October 2021 report from the Federal Reserve, and the gap has "widened notably over the past few decades." The Centers for Disease Control reports a breathtaking range of racial disparities in health outcomes, from life expectancy (four years longer for white people than for Black people) to maternal mortality. (Black women are three times more likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women.) The difference in standardized test scores between Black and white students, while narrowing, is still equivalent to about two years of

Who runs the Justice League?

The Justice League of Greater Lansing has set the goal of raising \$1 million toward a reparations endowment fund to support business, education and housing for Lansing-area African Americans. A nine-member board will determine how the funds will be used. The board comprises:

David Foreman, pastor, Reachout Christian Center Church
Terrence King, pastor of Kingdom Ministries; vice president, Cornerstone University
Sean Holland, pastor, Epicenter of Worship Church
Tony Willis, chief equity development officer, Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP)
Cheryl Smith, retired senior bulk power controller, Lansing Board of Water & Light
Betty Sanford, former Michigan State University student adviser
Nakia Parker, faculty member, Michigan State University History Department
Oprah Jrenal, assistant director, Michigan State University Gender and Sexuality Campus Center
Willye Bryan, founder, Justice League of Greater Lansing



Creative Commons

The First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St. in downtown Lansing, is ground zero for a Black reparations movement that aims to raise \$1 million locally this year.

schooling, according to a 2022 report from Stanford University.

When Arthur delivers one of his "talk show/TED talk" sermons, he often sums it up with a simple metaphor from Latasha Morrison's 2019 book, "Be the Bridge."

Halfway through a football game, the referees confess that they've been deliberately calling the plays in favor of one team all along, allowing them to rack up an insurmountable lead. They apologize and vow to call the game fairly from now on.

"The team that's down 50 to nothing would say, 'Thank you for admitting it, but what about the score?'" Arthur said. "That seems like a very simple metaphor getting at what this is about. There's got to be something to fix the score."

Fire from the Queen

Sometimes, all it takes is a chance encounter to turn aspirations into action.

For the past three years, Sycamore Creek Church has hosted a staged reading of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter From a Birmingham Jail." At last year's performance, Arthur met a dynamic young community leader and longtime Lansing resident, Prince Jerold Solace.

For about 13 years, Solace was coordinator of the Lansing Black College tour, a 25-year-old program that takes Lansing students to historically Black college and university campuses. Solace also led the African-American Employee Research Group at the MSU Federal Credit Union for three years.

"I've been volunteering in Lansing since I was 13," Solace said.

Solace credits his zeal for communi-

ty service to his mother, known in the family as Queen Darlene Rhodes, a 4'11" "fireball" who raised Prince and his two brothers to do good in the world.

"She understood the reality of raising three Black sons in America," Solace said. "She often told us that one in three Black men in America are in prison and she didn't want that for us."

It was the perfect time for Arthur and Solace to meet. Arthur was planning a sermon on reparations for the next week's service. Solace had just joined First Presbyterian Church as director of congregational life and outreach and impressed Arthur with the fire he brought to the church's mission.

At the same time, Sycamore Creek Church was in talks to "adopt" the shrinking Asbury United Methodist Church, across from the Eastwood Town Center.

Unlike Sycamore Creek, a young church established in 2001, Asbury had an endowment.

"This felt like a bit of intergenerational wealth transfer," Arthur said.

Around the same time, Arthur inherited money after the death of his parents. He and his wife donated part of it to the Black Seminarian Union at their alma mater, Duke Divinity School at Duke University.

"This felt like the same thing," Arthur said. "Here we are, getting this big inheritance from a church that was basically dying, and we ought to pass some of that on, because that doesn't happen often in churches that are not white."

Arthur found it serendipitous that

See Justice League, Page 15

B/23/095 SCALES FOR FRONT END LOADERS as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept sealed bids electronically online at www.mitn.info or at the City Of Lansing Purchasing Office, at 124 W. Michigan Ave 3RD Flr, Lansing, MI 48933 until 2:00 PM local time in effect on MARCH 7, 2023 at which time bids will be opened and read. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Stephanie Robinson at (517) 483-4128, or Stephanie.robinson@lansingmi.gov go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from all vendors including MBE/WBE vendors and Lansing-based businesses.

CP#23-048

Justice League

from page 14

Solace and his colleagues were launching the Justice League at about the same time. Sycamore Creek's leadership team was receptive to the idea of committing funds to the League.

"There was little to no discussion about whether we should do it," Arthur said. "It was how much."

Arthur said he expects the church's commitment to extend beyond three years and "become more generous" after that.

Consult and console

It's only fitting that the Justice League's members have different, and complementary, super-powers. They spend a lot of time marveling over their timely convergence.

"We consult each other. We console each other, if needed. I don't know if this is divine intervention or what," Bryan said.

"I'm pretty sure it is," Jenkins shot back.

Solace and Bryan characterized Jenkins' superpower in different ways.

"He has the leverage, the network, the background in the seminary, that adds a tremendous amount of value when we go into predominantly white spaces and have them open up with a theological and spiritual perspective," Solace said.

"Pastors can preach and go home," Bryan said, "but Stan put his body in this struggle. He's the only white minister that goes to the Black ministerial lodge, and they've become brothers. He has decided that he will be a part of the healing."

A native of Illinois, Jenkins moved to New York to attend theological school in the 1980s and ended up leading Presbyterian churches in in the borough of Queens. He found the divide between wealthy, mainly white churches in Manhattan and diverse, middle-income churches in outer boroughs nearly insurmountable.

"It was very discouraging," Jenkins said.

In 2020, he and Bryan launched a series of meetings with First Presbyterian Lansing church members, "Conversations on Race."

The germ of the Justice League began to form in February 2021, when the discussion group studied a substantive blueprint for reparations, "From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the 21st Century," by William Darity Jr. and A. Kirsten Mullen.

The book lays out a comprehensive historical case for reparations, precisely assesses the cost of slavery and the subsequent phases of systemic discrimination against African-Americans and offers a roadmap for a real-world program.

"What can I do?" was a frequent question in the discussion group. Bryan decided the time was ripe to move things to another level.

"Let's move on this, let's see what the community is ready to hear," she urged Jenkins. The nationwide reckoning on racial justice that swept the nation in summer 2021 made the timing even more propitious.

"I was thinking that we should, and we can, do something," Bryan said. "We don't have to be just travelers."

Not that Bryan has ever been "just a traveler." In rural Mississippi, where she



Courtesy photo

Willie Bryan (left) considers the Justice League to be a culmination of a lifetime of activism. In 2021, she visited Freedom Village, a settlement she helped build in the 1970s to house displaced agricultural workers in rural Mississippi, and found that some of the same people were still living there. Others in the photo are unidentified.



David Winkelstern/City Pulse

Sycamore Creek Church Pastor Tom Arthur was skeptical about the idea of reparations, but after studying the issue and talking with Justice League members, he and his congregation have committed to contributing a portion of the church's endowment to the reparations fund.

grew up, she helped build the Freedom Village community in 1970 to house farm workers who were displaced from their homes for registering to vote.

"We built 20 homes for those folks," Bryan said.

On a return visit to Freedom Village in 2021, Bryan spotted a group of people in a park, stopped the car, rolled down the window and asked if they knew the name of a man she helped settle there 50 years ago, Clay Miller.

"My name is Clay Miller," a man said. "Clay Miller Jr."

"It was fantastic to run into descendants of the people we built those houses for," Bryan said. "I've been a community activist all my life. The Justice League is kind of a culmination of that drive to see change happen."

To manage organization and finances, Bryan called upon Solace. The two had known each other from working together on several community projects. The church had a staff vacancy. Solace was looking for a job.

"It was just magic," Bryan said. "I love Prince and his youth. His approach as a young professional is real encouraging to me. You don't want to think something will go away when you go away, or when you can't do it

anymore. I feel that we are in good hands."

National strategy

How far can the Justice League go?

"We're very intentional about a national strategy," Jenkins declared. "For reparations to be really effective, it's got to come from the U.S. government. If we can show that there's a groundswell of support for that, and spread it out across the country, then it becomes a little bit harder to say that we can't have reparations at the national level."

Churches across Michigan, and outside the state, have already contacted the League, to learn more about starting their own reparations projects.

But outside the sanctuary of the church, the landscape is uncertain.

A major breakthrough took place in May 2022, when 16 Black residents of Evanston, a suburb of Chicago, each

received \$25,000 for mortgages, down payments or home repairs, to compensate for discriminatory housing practices Black residents faced between 1919 and 1969. A month later, the town council of Amherst, Massachusetts, approved the creation of a \$2 million reparations fund over the next 10 years. The Evanston and Amherst funds will be paid for largely by cannabis tax revenue.

Detroit's City Council has assembled its first reparations task force in May 2022.

"The grassroots plans that are springing up now, many have different models," Bryan said. "Our model, the faith-based piece, is different from Evanston's model."

"We're not going to start selling cannabis," Jenkins added.

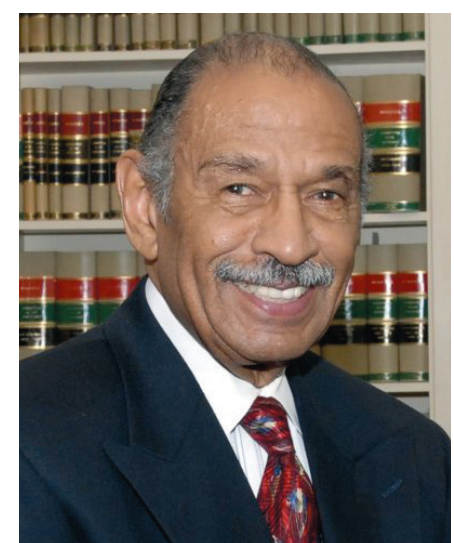
The state of California set up the nation's first state reparations task force in 2020. In summer 2022, the task force's sweeping, 500-page interim report called for "a detailed program of reparations for African Americans," but no one knows yet what form that will take.

There is little prospect of action at the federal level anytime soon.

Legislation sponsored by U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Texas Democrat, would establish a commission to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans.

In a historic April 2021 vote, the House Judiciary Committee voted to advance a reparations bill to the House floor for a vote, with 215 House members committing to vote "yes."

But further action on the bill is unlikely, especially since the House reverted to a Republican majority in 2023.



Courtesy photo

John Conyers, a longtime congressman from Detroit who died in 2019, introduced a reparations bill in Congress every session for three decades.

"John Conyers tried for 30 years," Bryan said. "We all know that story." The longtime Detroit congressman, who died in 2019, introduced a reparations bill every year for 30 years, beginning in 1989, to no avail.

"Nobody wants to touch it," Bryan said. "But the determination we have in this group is palpable. We can do this, we just have to not be afraid."

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READ JOAN NELSON



on the first
Wednesday of every
month.
CityPULSE

Signed bills need to become law quicker ... much quicker

If Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed a bill today that not a single Michigan Republican legislator supported, when do you think it would officially be on the books as a law?

The type of bill doesn't matter. It could be the state budget. It could be the next presidential primary date. Whatever.

Assuming the Legislature adjourns when it typically does in late December, the state Constitution has the new law taking effect in late March ... of 2024.

Not this March, next March. More than a year will pass before that law takes effect.

In order for any Michigan law to take effect immediately, the Constitution requires a special, non-recorded vote in which two-thirds of the House and Senate say "yes."

For at least 20 years, the House (whether it's a Republican or Democratic majority) has played fast and loose with this rule. The presiding officer takes a sloppy voice vote for immediate effect. Nearly every time, he or she estimates that two-thirds of the members are in support, even when the "nays" are clearly louder than the "yeas."

The Democrats sued over it about 10 years ago. The courts said the Legislature can determine how it counts these votes. So, no relief there.

Over in the Senate, the chamber has always taken a vote on its electronic voting board so the Lord and everybody can see if two-thirds of the chamber (26 senators) really supported giving the bill immediate effect.

Like the filibuster rule in the U.S. Senate, this immediate-effect rule allows the minority party to hold up the immediate implementation of whatever the majority wants.

The subject is relevant as the Democratic majorities in the House and Senate start pushing through their long list of reforms and Republicans push back.

For such subjects as the governor's tax plan, which I wrote about two weeks ago, none of the 18 Senate Republicans want it because it likely holds up an income tax rate rollback from 4.25% to 4.05%.

Until this is settled, everything is on ice. Those \$180-per-household checks? The immediate implemen-

tation of a larger Earned Income Tax Credit? Both are in jeopardy.

The Democrats could change the rules and count votes in a raucous, see-what-we-want-to-see matter. They'd need 20 votes for that, and they don't have them. Sen. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, was a lead plaintiff in that aforementioned lawsuit challenging immediate effect when he was in the House. He isn't about to change his strict adherence to the Constitution, even though the shoe is on the other foot.

At some point, once Democrats publicly ridicule Republicans for stopping these \$180 checks, the two sides will negotiate a final deal on the governor's tax plan.

In the meantime, the two sides should negotiate a constitutional amendment that ends this foolishness.

Michigan's current law that stops signed bills from becoming law until 90 days after the final session day (except if they get an immediate effect) comes from the horse-and-buggy era. Back then, it took days for news to travel to the Upper Peninsula or other far-flung locations.

Also, back then, the Legislature adjourned for the year in late May or June. Ninety days from June 1 is Aug. 30.

When former Speaker Will Ryan started the modern-day trend of the Legislature's meeting all year in about 1969, lawmakers should have asked voters to change when newly signed laws should be allowed to take effect.

A reasonable proposal by Sen. Ed McBroom, R-Waucedah Twp., would allow all bills to go into effect 90 days after the governor's signature.

If a real two-thirds vote of the Legislature gives a bill immediate effect, the new law can go into effect quicker.

Under this scenario, most bills wouldn't need immediate effect anymore. The minority couldn't hold up a new law for a year.

It could stop the House from chronically breaking the Constitution with its ridiculous immediate-effect votes.

More important, it could prevent the state Senate from even thinking about it.

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



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS

A day that changed the lives of 50,000 more students

By JOSH COWEN

(The writer is a professor of education policy at Michigan State University. This piece was first published by Bridge Magazine.)

Three students at Michigan State University are dead. Five more students have been shot. Fifty thousand more students are now victims of trauma, only the latest to occur at a place of American education.

How many more? Students have already painted the question onto our famous campus rock, across the street from my office at the MSU College of Education. Normally, it's a place to celebrate an event or mark a social or political moment. Today, the words "how many more" also mean: "It happened here."

The shootings occurred at Berkey Hall and the MSU Student Union. These are spaces of community. Before the shootings started, after 8 p.m., these were places of education and fellowship. Life building and enriching. Young people were there working. Grabbing coffee or snacks. Maybe a study session with friends or a study date with someone who might be more.

That's a university. We're aspirational in these communities. We're looking for more. If in our younger elementary and secondary classrooms, education is about development, universities are about experience. The start of living — not in the sense of heartbeats and breaths, but in the sense of making one's life one's own.

And that's what the alleged shooter targeted. Current reporting holds that he has no known ties to MSU. Which means he had to make a point of being here. For those unfamiliar with campus, it is self-contained. To its north, Grand River Avenue divides the local bars and restaurants from MSU buildings — including Berkey and the Union. If it were strictly carnage the shooter was seeking, he could have more easily found victims at places like Raising Cane's or Starbucks. They're only across the street from where he did choose, and at that time of night may have been more crowded.

Instead, he made a point of murdering at MSU itself. That little

word, "at," makes the distinction for reporting and jurisdiction. And also intent. Not near, at. In. There. And here.

Speaking to the press, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said, "We should not, we cannot, accept living like this." For a person who is also a parent of college-age students, and whose own life was threatened with a particularly ugly and invasive violence, that refusal means more than the nonsensical thoughts and prayers usually offered by public officials with little interest in creating a solution. The governor knows, perhaps not literally but certainly in a human sense, what it means to run for her life. Now, so do our students.

So, how many more?

I walked by a cluster of residence halls the morning after the shooting, not far from the shootings themselves. I saw a number of students packing luggage into cars with what appeared to be parents who'd come to get them. A handful more crying and walking alone. What these shootings do when they target young people is also a target possibility.

The 50,000 different stories on campus on Feb. 13 converged into one shared, terrifying detour. And for them, what was going to be is no longer. For the five students who are in the hospital, that shattering is literal, and it is too soon to talk of anything but healing. Too soon but to pray.

And then there are those three young people who died. What were their possibilities, ending with the age they will always now be? What of their parents, wherever they are, who woke with a right to see their children alive at the end of the day?

How many more, yes, but how much has already been lost? We had the answer on that Monday with those who began their day, on their way to learn and engage and experience, with only a few hours left to live.

To publish a letter or an opinion piece in City Pulse, please email publisher@lansingcitypulse.com. Letters may be up to 250 words. Opinion pieces must be 625-650 words with a photo of the writer. All submissions are subject to editing.



Opinion

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Bidding farewell to a beloved Lansing institution

Earl Nelson Singers to hold final concert this weekend

By **NICOLE NOECHEL**

Mary Anne Larzelere was introduced to the Earl Nelson Singers in 1967, two years after she began teaching in the Lansing School District. Her colleague Ruby Frazier, the mother of Lansing artist Brian Whitfield, was a member.

“We went to the big teachers’ meeting that they always have before school starts, and the Singers presented a wonderful concert, and I thought they were so good,” Larzelere said. “I said to Ruby later, ‘I just loved your choir,’ and she said, ‘Well, come and sing with us,’ and I said, ‘I would love to.’ So, I joined them in the fall of 1967, and I’ve been a member ever since.”

After 56 years in the group, like other members, music has become a mainstay of Larzelere’s life. In fact, she is president of the Singers.

“Someone asked us, ‘How many songs do you know?’ she said. “I think we all have hundreds of songs in our heads. If someone mentions a song, many of us can just start singing it because we’ve been singing for so long.”

The choir has been sharing Black spiritual music with the people of Lansing and beyond for 60 years but has reached its end. It will host its final concert at 3 p.m. Sunday (Feb. 26) at Friendship Baptist Church in Lansing.

“We just can’t go on anymore because our director, Verna Holley, is going to be 87 in April, and her husband, Melvin, is 90, and it’s just too much, and we don’t have anyone ready to step in,”

Larzelere said. “She’s a fabulous pianist and a fabulous director, and there’s really no one who can take her spot. So, we decided it’s time to look at this group as a wonderful memory. We’re grateful for the 60 years we’ve had together.”

The group was founded in the early 1960s by Earl Nelson, who began gathering friends to sing spirituals with him while studying music education at Michigan State University.

“He realized, as they were singing, that spirituals were not really known or appreciated or sung very much anymore,



Courtesy photo

Members of the Earl Nelson Singers have prepared some of their favorite songs for its farewell concert, 3 p.m. Sunday at Friendship Baptist Church in Lansing. “It’s really a goodbye to the community and the end of a wonderful 60 years of singing together,” said President Mary Anne Larzelere.

so he decided that he needed to start a group that would preserve the dignity of the Negro spiritual,” Larzelere said. “He went on to become a music teacher at Otto Middle School in Lansing and started a group called the Earl Nelson Singers, which is composed of friends and people that he knew.”

It was an integrated choir, comprising both Black and white members. Its first concert was in 1963, just after the death of President John F. Kennedy.

“That was at Friendship Baptist Church in Lansing. That was 60 years ago this year,” Larzelere said. Nelson “directed the group until about 1978, when he left his teaching job and got involved in politics as a state representative.”

Holley, Sexton High School’s choir teacher at the time, took over as director following Nelson’s departure.

“She strives for authenticity and excellence, and she wants us to sing Negro spirituals in the spirit and the way in which they were written,” Larzelere said. “She’s an incredible director, and we give the credit and the glory to her for keeping us together as a pianist and director.”

The group comprises Lansing-area residents who share one common passion: singing Black spirituals in their original format, a cappella.



Courtesy photo

Earl Nelson, who was a Michigan State University graduate and music teacher at Otto Middle School, founded the choir in the early 1960s to bring attention to and preserve the dignity of Black spiritual music.

“A lot of gospel and other music that was out there would try to make it more instrumental, but (Nelson) wanted to keep it as it was in the fields, where it was just the raw slaves who were singing,” said Chelsea Hare-West, the group’s secretary and treasurer.

Larzelere said members have come from all walks of life, including “teachers, physicians, scientists, blue-collar workers and retirees.”

“When Earl was the director, there was an audition process, but by 1978, when Verna took over, people just came and joined,” she said. “It was really word of mouth. We never advertised anywhere, but people would invite their friends.”

The group has performed at countless events throughout Michigan and has traveled to New York, Washington, D.C., and beyond.

“We’ve sung everywhere. I remember concerts where we traveled on buses to Detroit. We drove to Flint. We’ve sung at college events. We’ve traveled to Battle Creek and sung at auditoriums and churches there,” Larzelere said. “When I think of our most memorable concerts, I think a concert that we did in Washington, D.C., in front of the World War II Memorial was very touching. I also think our concert at Carnegie Hall was definitely memorable. Just to stand on the stage was incredible.”

The upcoming concert will be the

group’s first since 2020, and members are excited to share their passion for singing with the community one last time.

“For this final show, we’re singing some of our favorite songs that we all know by heart. It’s really a goodbye to the community and the end of a wonderful 60 years of singing together,” Larzelere said. “This whole thing has enriched the lives of everyone who’s been a part of it.”

Though she’s sad to see it end, she’s thankful the Singers have been able to bring attention to the importance of Black spiritual music.

“I have great gratitude for being able to be a part of this group. I have a great appreciation for the Negro spiritual and the incredibly

painful experience that people went through. We don’t want to ever forget that,” she said. “I would have to say that the important thing I think we’re all gonna miss is the connection, and we will continue to sing together as often as we can, but we will not be performing anymore.”

The choir’s ending is bittersweet for everyone. Hare-West looks back on her 24-year tenure fondly.

“It was one of those things where you’d get tired after working or being in school all day, and Monday night you didn’t want to go to practice, but you’d leave like you’d just been invigorated and shot with some tremendous energy. You didn’t want it to end,” she said.

She hopes the Singers’ work won’t soon be forgotten. She’s been uploading recorded songs to SoundCloud to preserve its music and legacy for years to come.

“They’ve had 60 years, I know they’ve been recording albums at least the last 40. Probably the last 15 or so albums are on SoundCloud. We have some of the older albums from some of our members that we still have to get loaded,” she said. “I would just love to ensure that people in the Lansing area see how important this is, and perhaps, somehow, there would be a way that we can revitalize it or bring the choir back if we have enough exposure or interest.”

Up in smoke: RAW rolling papers lawsuit

By LUCAS HENKEL

HBI International, the Arizona-based manufacturer and distributor of rolling papers like RAW, Elements and Juicy Jays, has been ordered by a federal court in Illinois to stop making false claims about the RAW company, its products and associated charity organization. There's a lot going on here, so I'm going to break it down.

First things first: for those unfamiliar with RAW's packaging, almost every product, from rolling paper booklets to prerolled cones, has a stamp that boldly claims it's made in Alcoy, Spain, known as the birthplace of rolling papers. There isn't a lot of information online about exactly where in Alcoy RAW's products are produced, or if they're actually made in Spain at all. The court stated HBI may not promote, sell, distribute, ship or deliver products from RAW or its other brands in packaging that includes an Alcoy stamp.

The court also prohibited RAW from making any more claims about its charity organization, the Raw Foundation, in

text or images. In its Dec. 6, 2022, ruling, the court found that no such foundation existed despite HBI's prior promotional claims. Forbes interviewed Joshua Kesselman, HBI and RAW founder, back in 2021, and he said the RAW Foundation had "given away millions of dollars to charity" and added, "You can't ask what's the return on investment. If your goal is actually to save as many lives as possible, you've got to do it right. Humanitarian work is addictive, and it helps motivate me and my staff to keep pushing forward for the sake of every life we can help."

He went on to list the multiple char-



Courtesy photo

RAW rolling papers and its parent company, HBI International, are under fire for claiming its products are made in Alcoy, Spain; advertising a false charity; and making unfounded claims toward Republic Brands, the distributor of rolling papers such as OCB.

ities the foundation has worked with: Trees for the Future, a Maryland-based nonprofit that trains farmers around the world in agroforestry and sustainable land use; Wine To Water, a nonprofit committed to "supporting life and dignity for all through the power of clean water"; Carbonfund.org, a nonprofit that provides carbon offsetting and greenhouse gas reduction options to individuals, businesses and organizations; and Home Fur Good, a no-kill animal rescue in Phoenix, Arizona, just to name a few.

On Feb. 12, the Raw Foundation posted a screenshot of a message from Doc Hendley, Wine To Water's founder and CEO, who thanks the folks at RAW Giving.

"Since our relationship began over 10 years ago, your community has given Wine To Water a total of \$870,034,"

Lansterdam
in Review:

he wrote. "This includes direct program support from RAW Giving, such as the \$50,000 you recently gave to support our Indigenous Peoples Project, as well the money you continue to raise for us through the website and at special events and trade shows."

As of Thursday (Feb. 16), the RAW Giving website was under construction, with a message saying, "We're updating our website and packaging to give you the most RAWesome rolling experience ever! Be sure to check back soon!"

On RAW's main website, however, there's a picture of a smiling Kesselman in a tan RAW hat among a group of young Black boys with text that says, "RAW Giving: Because of you, RAW has helped save thousands of lives."

In addition, Republic Brands, the Illinois-based distributor of rolling papers such as OCB and E-Z Wider, obtained a permanent injunction in a federal lawsuit against HBI. During the trial, RAW's previous statements that OCB Organic Hemp papers are knockoffs, or "RAWnabees," of RAW rolling papers and Kesselman's claims that RAW Organic Hemp rolling papers were the world's first and only organic hemp rolling papers came to light.

Any further statements from HBI and its employees are prohibited, but I don't think we've come to the end of this story just yet.



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Courtesy of rawhentic.com

The Raw Giving website is under construction after a federal court found RAW rolling papers' philanthropy division, the Raw Foundation, does not exist, but the homepage of RAW's main website still advertises the charity.

A musical fairy tale for the ages

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Lansing author Erin Bartels' sixth book, "Everything Is Just Beginning," tugs at the heart in all the right places.

It's a rags-to-riches, rise-to-fame plot. Michael, a young man who lives in a trailer with his estranged father's twin brother, finds his soulmate across the street when he stumbles into a New Year's Eve party at a nearby gated home. The homeowners, aging rockers who have put together a primo home recording and listening studio, are friends of his uncle.

As the clock nears midnight, Michael meets one of the hosts, legendary rocker Deb Wheeler, who was a chart-topper in the '60s before dropping out of the music scene. She introduces him to her daughter, Natalie, who is home from Julliard for the holidays.

While jamming with Deb's husband, Dusty, Michael learns that Natalie is blind. That hasn't stopped her from playing almost every instrument imaginable, however. Michael and Natalie begin to bond over music and soon form a duo.

Bartels said she's tried to stretch her writing skills in each of her previous books; in this one, she tells the story from an "insecure" male point of view.

The book, about music, relationships and acceptance, generally follows the themes of Bartels' previous releases.

"All my books touch on elements



Courtesy of Erin Bartels

Lansing author Erin Bartels took inspiration from her father and husband, both music enthusiasts, for "Everything Is Just Beginning," a rags-to-riches story of overcoming hardship to find love and success in the music industry.

dealing with things you can't change, but you have to come to grips with them and move forward," she said.

For Natalie, it's her blindness; for Michael, it's a lifetime of being down and out and estranged from his father.

Bartels said writing about music was "natural" for her.

"I grew up in a household where music is very important. My dad made listening to music a 'thing,'" she said. "He always had the best equipment, and he would come home from

work and decompress by listening to music very low. He had very good speakers, and there was no talking in the listening room. I learned you don't talk during movies or music playing."

Music continued to be a mainstay of her life as she began dating her husband, Zachary, who was in a band and worked for a radio station.

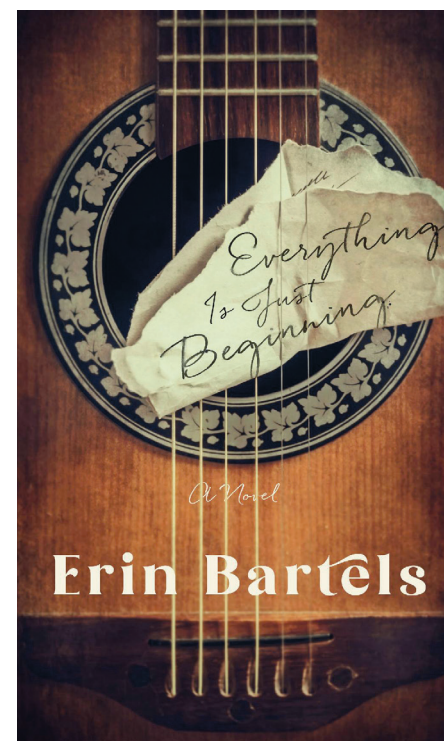
"We still have eight guitars in the house," she said. "I got my first mixtape from my husband, and when we were dating, he got me into punk music."

In an author's note, Bartels acknowledges both her dad and husband for helping make music so important to her life.

"I channeled my dad ... and I was drawing on my own life to fill in all the details of the world of 'Everything Is Just Beginning,'" she wrote.

She drew extensively from friends and books to learn more about the Detroit music scene of the late '80s. Her descriptions of Detroit's St. Andrews Hall ring true, right down to the "crappy bathroom."

Bartels said even in the digital age, she still likes the physical aspect of vinyl and visits record shows to secure the albums she had growing up. She's also building her guitar skills and wrote all the lyrics and melodies for



the book's songs, which are critical to the plot development.

With the help of local musician Wil Pruitt, she created Spotify playlists of Michael and Natalie's original songs that can be accessed with a barcode and clever password from the book.

Bartels' new book isn't just a fluffy love story; it confronts death and dying and a complicated father-son relationship. It also explores the challenges of making it in the music industry and exactly what that means to Michael and Natalie's relationship.

Now that this book is released, Bartels is on to the next. She just completed a new story about women painters whose art may be overlooked or misattributed as men's.

ART BY NEVIN

As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

Illustrations • Murals • Graphic Design
Signs • Banners • T-Shirts • Logos

nevin@nevingraphics.com

517-703-4655

f ArtByNevin i Art_By_Nevin

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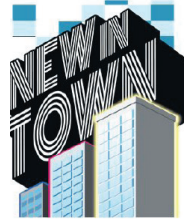
487-6603

1223 Turner St., Ste 333, Lansing
www.stushafer.com

Traverse City eats in the capital city

By **NICOLE NOECHEL**

When presented with the opportunity to host a pop-up restaurant at In KinD Bakery in Williamston, The Ugli Pi Co. owners Carrie Ballou and Ray Priebe decided to focus on breakfast, lunch and brunch.



That New Place

Through Feb. 26
Thursday-Saturday:
8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m.-2:30
p.m.

In KinD Bakery
146 W. Grand River
Ave., Williamston
[facebook.com/uglipi](https://www.facebook.com/uglipi)

“We’ve got a lot of friends that do brunch-type restaurants, and they’ve really charted an amazing path and shown the way to do this and still have a life — not being up until 2 a.m. and in at 5 a.m. trying to do prep,” Priebe said. “They lead a beautiful life, and we kind of wanted to emulate the same thing.”

The result is That New Place, which opened two weeks ago, serving pastries, breakfast classics, soups, sandwiches and salads, among other dishes. It will close Sunday (Feb. 26).

“It’s been a treat,” said Priebe. “The response and the support we’ve had in the community has been overwhelming and very sweet.”

Ballou and Priebe met at Great Lakes Culinary Institute in Traverse City. Ballou, a pastry chef, worked at the Grand Traverse Resort and Martha’s Leelanau Table in Suttons Bay, and Priebe worked at Trattoria Stella and Black Star Farms.

They began dating after graduating and moved to Williamston in 2013, cooking independently for sorority houses.

When COVID-19 hit and sororities were shut down, the couple was left looking for a new venture. They founded The Ugli Pi Co. in fall 2020, serving Priebe’s savory pies and soups and Ballou’s pastries. They started off catering and eventually found a home at the Meridian Township Farmers Market.

“We got popular, we got a following, people came out, and things have gone really well,” Priebe said.

The couple was originally using the kitchen at St. Katherine’s Episcopal Church in Williamston but felt they needed a more personal space. In KinD

Bakery, open Thursday through Saturday, was looking for someone to use the kitchen on its off days.

“It’s perfect for us because it allows us to do all of our fillings and frozen pies there. They close at 2 p.m., so we can always do our Friday night bakes for the farm market without interfering with their business,” Ballou said.

When In KinD gave them a chance to return to their restaurant roots for a few weeks, they jumped at the opportunity.

“I think there was a hole in what we like to do,” Priebe said. “I kind of missed cooking for large groups of people, and we kind of missed the restaurant life a little bit.”

They put together a breakfast menu for Thursdays and Fridays featuring frittatas, a quiche of the day, granola and overnight oats and a lunch menu featuring soups, sandwiches and salads. They also compiled a brunch menu for Saturdays and Sundays featuring the same breakfast dishes as well as eggs benedict, root vegetable waffles, biscuits and gravy, meatloaf, rosemary honey grits, succotash and baked French toast. Ballou’s homemade pastries, such as fruit galettes, cookies, brownies and toaster strudels, are available every day.

“The nicest thing, I think, is that we’re bringing a little bit of Traverse City food here,” Priebe said. “There are quite a few foodies who have come out and said, ‘We don’t have any food like this,’ and they’re excited. We’ve had people come back three days in a row. They bring their grandparents, their family. It’s crazy.”

“I’ve been able to work the dining room



Courtesy photo

The Ugli Pi Co. owners Carrie Ballou and Ray Priebe decided to focus on breakfast, lunch and brunch for their pop-up restaurant, That New Place, closing after this weekend.

a little bit more than Ray has, and it’s been humbling to have people gush over your food,” Ballou added. “I put out a cake on Saturday morning, and I think it was gone in two hours, so I stayed late Saturday and baked again, and I put it out, and it was gone in about an hour on Sunday.”

When asked if they would consider hosting another pop-up, Priebe said, “It’s worth discussing.”

“We’ve even been approached by another restaurant to help them do something like this. I think we need to look at the math and a lot of the expenses,” he said. “The food service industry’s pretty hard right now, and we’re paying the servers and the kitchen people a lot more than other people because we’re just trying to have fun and make sure everybody does well.”



**Do you love to travel and need inspiration for your next trip?
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or familiar places?**

**Lansing Parks and Recreation invites you to their Travelogue series!
Join us each Friday as a new presenter shares their experiences from
travels near and far.**

Feb 24
Isle Royale National Park

7:00-8:30 PM
Foster Community Center

One of Michigan’s two national parks, a UNESCO biosphere, 450 island archipelago, Native American cultural site, copper mining, and a Lake Superior fishery. Join R.J. Chulski for backpacking, camping and a no-cell service journey. Established in 1940, Isle Royale is America’s best visited and most revisited national park.

200 N. Foster Ave Lansing, MI 48912
For more information call 517-483-4233

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider an ordinance of the City of Lansing Michigan, to amend Lansing Codified Ordinances by Chapter 1212, to add Section 1212.01 that provides for the renaming of the City Planning Board to the “Planning Commission” pursuant to Section 11 of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, being MCL 125.3811.

For more information, please call Lansing City Council at 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk’s Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

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

CP#23-044

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

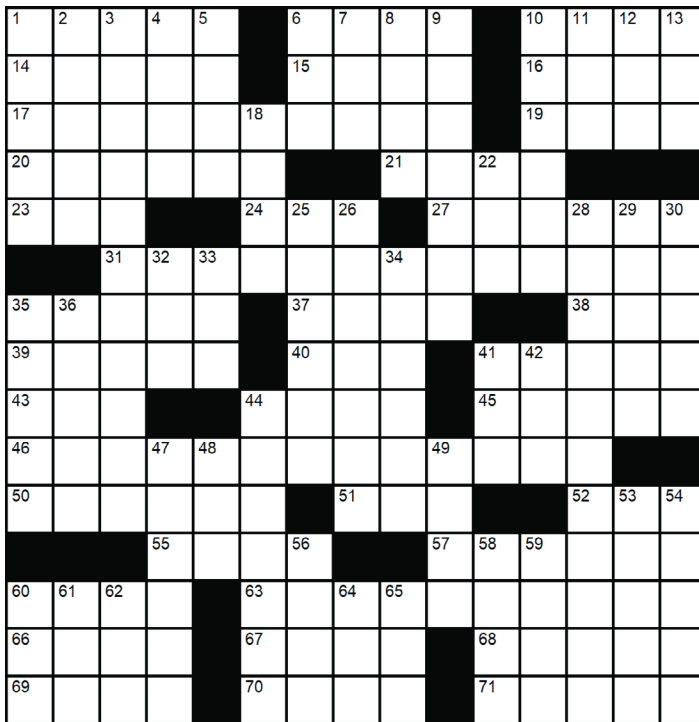
"Just Visiting" -- a monopoly on two initial letters.

by Matt Jones

© 2023 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Kama ___ Records (Lovin' Spoonful label)
- 6. Frittata ingredients
- 10. Aeration
- 14. "It's worth ___!"
- 15. Actress Petty of "Orange Is the New Black"
- 16. "Garfield" drooler
- 17. Fictitious "100% Colombian Coffee" farmer in an old ad campaign
- 19. Clue weapon
- 20. Sculptor, e.g.
- 21. Sailor's hook
- 23. Mil. mess duties
- 24. Acorn, later
- 27. Beastly sorts
- 31. Musician such as St. phane Grappelli (and not many others in that genre)
- 35. Ooze with
- 37. Award named for a TV network
- 38. Sch. with a campus in Atlanta
- 39. Fundamental physics particle
- 40. They'll get to U afterwards
- 41. Religious crusade
- 43. CN Tower's prov.
- 44. Conditional suffix?
- 45. Courtroom figs.
- 46. Business partnerships
- 50. Eventually
- 51. "I ___ a lot of problems with you people!" (Festivus "Airing of Grievances" line)
- 52. Move like a toad
- 55. Nest builder
- 57. Pooh's morose friend
- 60. Nursery rhyme pet



- 63. French science fiction novelist who's the second most-translated individual author in the world
- 66. Like the goateed twin, it's said
- 67. Shimmery gem
- 68. Fur tycoon John Jacob
- 69. Stare intently
- 70. Trees used for archery bows
- 71. Some Wikipedia entries
- DOWN
- 1. "Wheel of Fortune" host since 1981
- 2. Unlawfully take over
- 3. "I'm as surprised as you ..."
- 4. Pasta ___ (boxed dinner)
- 5. Dune buggies, briefly
- 6. Pipe bend
- 7. Pan, for one
- 8. Actor Kinnear
- 9. In a rather large way
- 10. Not seriously
- 11. Altar-ed statement?
- 12. Five-digit address ender
- 13. Tappan ___ Bridge
- 18. The whole gamut
- 22. Part of TGIF
- 25. Disinclined (to)
- 26. Word spelled out after "sitting in a tree"
- 28. Cyclist's wear (for aerodynamic purposes)
- 29. Test type
- 30. Small earrings
- 32. Fuss
- 33. Type of garden with rocks
- 34. Decides on
- 35. Smiley face, for example
- 36. Element in strobe lights
- 41. Pasta sauce container
- 42. "Graph" ending
- 44. Make way happy
- 47. Just a bite
- 48. Initials for an oversharer
- 49. Sporty trucks, for short
- 53. "Ripley's Believe It ___"
- 54. Jury's makeup
- 56. Deceive
- 58. Performance assessment, for short
- 59. "Oh ___ can!"
- 60. One way to get your kicks
- 61. Director DuVernay
- 62. "Les ___" (Broadway musical, casually)
- 64. Congressional creation
- 65. Golfer Ernie

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

February 22-28, 2023

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In 1993, I began work on my memoirish novel "The Televisory Oracle." It took me seven years to finish. The early part of the process was tough. I generated a lot of material I didn't like. Then one day, I discovered an approach that liberated me: I wrote about aspects of my character and behavior that needed improvement. Suddenly everything clicked, and my fruitless adventure transformed into a fluidic joy. Soon I was writing about other themes and experiences. But dealing with self-correction was a key catalyst. Are there any such qualities in yourself you might benefit from tackling, Aries? If so, I recommend you try my approach.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Two Taurus readers complained that my horoscopes contain too much poetry and flair to be useful. In response, I'm offering you a prosaic message. It's all true, though in a way that's more like a typical horoscope. (I wonder if this approach will spur your emotional intelligence and your soul's lust for life, which are crucial areas of growth for you these days.) Anyway, here's the oracle: Take a risk and extend feelers to interesting people outside your usual sphere. But don't let your social adventures distract you from your ambitions, which also need your wise attention. Your complex task: Mix work and play; synergize business and pleasure.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Astrologer Jessica Shepherd advises us to side up to the infinite source of life and say, "Show me what you've got." When we do, we often get lucky. That's because the infinite source of life delights in bringing us captivating paradoxes. Yes and no may both be true in enchanting ways. Independence and interdependence can interweave to provide us with brisk teachings. If we dare to experiment with organized wildness and aggressive receptivity, our awareness will expand, and our hearts will open. What about it, Gemini? Are you interested in the charming power that comes from engaging with cosmic contradictions? Now's a favorable time to do so. Go ahead and say, "Show me what you've got" to the infinite source of life.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): "Only a lunatic would dance when sober," declared the ancient Roman philosopher Cicero. As a musician who loves to dance, I reject that limiting idea — especially for you. In the upcoming weeks, I hope you will do a lot of dancing while sober. Singing while sober, too. Maybe some crying for joy while sober as well as freewheeling your way through unpredictable conversations while sober and cavorting and reveling while sober. My point is that there is no need for you to be intoxicated as you engage in revelry. Even further: It will be better for your soul's long-term health if you are lucid and clearheaded as you celebrate this liberating phase of extra joy and pleasure.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Poet Mary Oliver wondered whether the soul is solid and unbreakable, like an iron bar. Or is it tender and fragile, like a moth in an owl's beak? She fantasized that maybe it's shaped like an iceberg or a hummingbird's eye. I am poetically inclined to imagine the soul as a silver diadem bedecked with emeralds, roses and live butterflies. What about you, Leo? How do you experience your soul? The coming weeks will be a ripe time to home in on this treasured part of you. Feel it, consult with it, feed it. Ask it to surprise you!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): According to the color consultant company Pantone, Viva Magenta is 2023's color of the year. According to me, Viva Magenta is the lucky hue and power pigment for you Virgos during the next ten months. Designer Amber Guyton says that Viva Magenta "is a rich shade of red that is both daring and warm." She adds that its "purple undertone gives it a warmth that sets it apart from mere red and makes it more versatile." For your purposes, Virgo, Viva Magenta is earthy and exciting; nurturing and inspiring; soothing yet arousing. The coming weeks will be a good time to get the hang of incorporating its spirit into your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you aren't working to forge a gritty solution, you may be reinforcing a cozy predicament. If you're not expanding your imagination to conjure up fresh perspectives, you could be contributing to some ignorance or repression. If you're not pushing to expose dodgy secrets and secret agendas, you might be supporting the whitewash. Know what I'm saying, Libra? Here's a further twist. If you're not peeved about the times, you have wielded your anger unproductively, and you may not use it brilliantly in the near future. And I really hope you will use it brilliantly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Storyteller Martin Shaw believes that logic and factual information are not enough to sustain us. To nourish our depths, we need the mysterious stories provided by myths and fairy tales. He also says that conventional hero sagas starring big, strong, violent men are outmoded. Going forward, we require wily, lyrical tales imbued with the spirit of the Greek word "metis," meaning "divine cunning in service to wisdom." That's what I wish for you now, Scorpio. I hope you will tap into it abundantly. As you do, your creative struggles will lead to personal liberations. For inspiration, read myths and fairy tales.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Many astrologers don't give enough encouragement to you Sagittarians on the subject of home. I will compensate for that. I believe it's a perfect time to prioritize your feelings of belonging and your sense of security. I urge you to focus your energy on creating serenity and stability for yourself. Honor the buildings and lands you rely on. Give extra appreciation to the people you regard as your family and tribe. Offer blessings to the community that supports you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you are like 95% of the population, you weren't given all the love and care you needed as a child. You may have made adaptations to partly compensate for this lack, but you are still running a deficit. That's the bad news, Capricorn. The good news is that the coming weeks will be a favorable time to overcome at least some of the hurt and sadness caused by your original deprivation. Life will offer you experiences that make you feel more at home in the world, at peace with your destiny and in love with your body. Please help life help you! Make yourself receptive to kindness, charity and generosity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The philosopher Aldous Huxley was ambitious and driven. The author of almost 50 books, he was a passionate pacifist and explorer of consciousness. He was a visionary who expressed both dystopian and utopian perspectives. Later in his life, though, his views softened. "Do not burn yourselves out," he advised readers. "Be as I am: a part-time crusader, a half-hearted fanatic. Save the other half of yourselves for pleasure and adventure. It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it." Now I'm offering you Huxley's counsel, Aquarius. As much as I love your zealous idealism and majestic quests, I hope that in the coming weeks, you will recharge yourself with creature comforts.

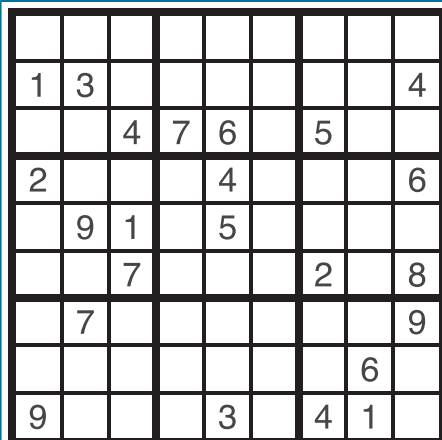
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Piscean author and activist W. E. B. Dubois advised us to always be willing to give up what we are. Why? Because that's how we transform into a deeper and stronger version of ourselves. I think you would benefit from using his strategy. My reading of the astrological omens tells me that you are primed to add through subtraction, to gain power by shedding what has become outworn and irrelevant. Suggested step one: Identify dispiriting self-images you can jettison. Step two: Visualize a familiar burden you could live without. Step three: Drop an activity that bores you. Step four: Stop doing something that wastes your time.

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Answers on page 24

SUDOKU

Intermediate



Fun By The Numbers

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

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!

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. 22

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

After-School Enrichment Time - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

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

Becoming A First-Time Home Buyer - A home inspector and a title company representative will review their processes. Experts will explain the process of shopping for a house and mortgage lending. Registration req. 6 p.m. Astera Credit Union, 111 S. Waverly Road, Lansing. 517-321-5142. americasdreamrealty.net.

"Blind Spot: Stephanie Syjuco" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Do You Feel Anger? - Recommended for adult audiences only. 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. 517-483-1122. lcc.edu.

Festival of Listening: An Evening of Untranslated Poetry - Untranslated poetry in a variety of languages other than English. 7 p.m. RCAF Theater, Snyder Hall, 362 Bogue St., East Lansing. 517-884-1932. poetry.rcah.msu.edu.

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

Handmade Pasta, Session Three: Colorful Pasta - Learn to make your own beet, carrot and spinach pasta. Enjoy noodles with a choice of sauces (both vegetarian and meat). 6 p.m. Brady's HG, 319 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. 517-999-0399. bradlyshg.com.

James Madison College Black History Month Symposium featuring National Book Award Winner Jason Mott - 6:30 p.m. Kellogg Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. 517-353-6750. jmc.msu.edu.

Kids & Teen Paint Party - 6 p.m. Sam Corey Senior Center, 2108 Cedar St., Holt. 517-694-1549. delhitownshipmi.gov.

Live Music at the Monk - Charlie Richardson. 7 p.m. EagleMonk Pub and Brewery, 4906 W. Mt. Hope Hwy., Lansing. 517-708-7350. eaglemonkbrewing.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.

MSU Theater Presents: Charlotte's Web - 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu.

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.

Open Mic Hosted by Rick Hansel - Family-friendly, welcomes singers and musicians. No cover! 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

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

Thursday, Feb. 23

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

"Blind Spot: Stephanie Syjuco" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Detroit '67 - 7:30 p.m. Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

DIY Monogram Stick Ornaments - Registration required. Intended for adults 18+. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

Do You Feel Anger? - Recommended for adult audiences only. 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. 517-483-1122. lcc.edu.

Good Morning, Mason! - February Edition - Quick-paced agenda of local news and community updates. 7:15-8:15 a.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds Community Building, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-1046. masonchamber.org.

High Caliber Karting - Go-kart racing, pocket soccer and arcade. Ages 8-18. \$45. 1:30-5:30 p.m. Meet at Holt Junior High School, 1784 N. Aurelius Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov.

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

MSU Theater Presents: Charlotte's Web - 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu.

Six Voices in Winter: Poets Speak - Come enjoy coffee, conversation and audience participation for a night of poetry, fun and ideas. Registration req. 6:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge.

2023 Michigan Nordic Fire Festival

5-11 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24

10 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 25

11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26

Eaton County Fairgrounds

1025 S. Cochran Ave., Charlotte

This year's Michigan Nordic Fire Festival, featuring a blend of cosplay, live entertainment, historical reenactments, food, drinks and vendors, will be bigger than ever before.

The festival will open Friday (Feb. 24) with a Viking ship burning and bonfire. Throughout the weekend, attendees can enjoy attractions such as axe throwing, beard and costume contests, organized group side quests, live sword fights, melees by historic reenactors and foam fighting for kids.

Visit Corvus Cohort's traveling swordsmanship museum and view its historical demonstrations to learn more about the art of sword fighting or stroll through recreations of Viking encampments to see what life was like for the burly sailors.

There will be plenty of vendors and a new, larger Mead Hall with four different brands of mead as well as beer, cider and food. Bands such as Pictus, Wakefire and Belfast Gin will perform live Celtic music as you dine.

The Daredevil Circus, Ring of Steel, Gwyd the Unusual and The Swords of Valor will also present live performances.

Guests are encouraged to dress in Viking garb, which should include at least a coat and boots.

A weekend pass is \$25 for adults and \$10 for kids ages 10 to 16, and day passes are \$15 for adults and \$5 for kids ages 10 to 16. Kids under 10 are free. Visit michignordicfirefestival.com to purchase tickets and learn more.



517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Wild Horses - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Wine about Winter - 4:30-6:30 p.m. Midtown Brewing Co., 402 S. Washington Square, 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.

Friday, Feb. 24

2023 Nordic Fire Festival - Cosplay, live entertainment, historical reenactments, food, drinks, vendors and more. Dress in Viking garb. 5-11 p.m. Eaton County Fairgrounds, 1025 Cochran Ave, Charlotte. 517-290-2691. michignordicfirefestival.com.

Abrams Planetarium February 2023 Public Feature Show - "Skywatchers of Africa." 8 p.m. 755 Science Road, East Lansing. 517-355-4676. abramsplanetarium.org.

After-School Enrichment Time - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

"Blind Spot: Stephanie Syjuco" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

Craft Club - Making diamond paintings. Grades 4-12. Registration req. 4 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Detroit '67 - 8 p.m. Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Do You Feel Anger? - Recommended for adult audiences only. 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. 517-483-1122. lcc.edu.

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

From Nova Scotia, Cassie & Maggie - 7:30 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. 517-337-7744. tenpoundfiddle.org.

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Live & Local CityPULSE

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
A Night at the Soul Lounge: Redwood, DJ Kaely Keltz, DJ Cutt-Nice
 Fri., Feb. 24, 9 p.m.

The Dark Art of Michigan Presents: 5th annual Black Hearts Ball
 Sat., Feb. 25, 8 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Russ Holcomb
 Fri., Feb. 24, 7 p.m.

Krista Cady
 Sat., Feb. 25, 7 p.m.

Ellison Brewery & Spirits

4903 Dawn Ave., East Lansing
Tony Thompson
 Sun., Feb. 26, 5 p.m.

The Exchange

314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Off The Ledge
 Fri., Feb. 24 and Sat., Feb. 25, 9 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Mix Pack
 Fri., Feb. 24, 8:30 p.m.
From Big Sur
 Sat., Feb. 25, 8:30 p.m.

Horrocks Beer Garden

7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Tony Thompson & Friends
 Sat., Feb. 25, 5 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
Darin Larner Jr.
 Sat., Feb. 25, 7 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Chirp, Jenny Kush
 Fri., Feb. 24, 8 p.m.
The Dead Lennies, DJ Patino
 Sat., Feb. 25, 8 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Carl Pawluk
 Fri., Feb. 24, 8 p.m.

University United Methodist Church

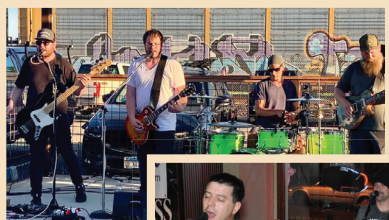
1120 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
From Nova Scotia, Cassie and Maggie
 Fri., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner Road, Lansing
Absolute Music Chamber Series: Nermis Mieses, oboe; Xavier Suárez, piano; Richard Sherman, flute
 Thurs., Feb. 23, 7 p.m.
Time2Play, Soul Garden
 Fri., Feb. 24, 8 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston
Peggy Nusz
 Wed., Feb. 22, 7 p.m.
Potts Road
 Sat., Feb. 25, 7 p.m.



TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

'GOTHIC PROM' RETURNS TO THE AVENUE



Courtesy photos

Tiesha King (left), aka Secretia Noxious, will host the 5th annual Black Hearts Ball at The Avenue Café. Detroit-based band VAZUM will perform a set of "deathgaze" alongside a long roster of drag performers and more.

Black Hearts Ball is dark yet fun

When asked to recommend a couple of songs to check out, Tiesha King, aka Secretia Noxious, was quick to shout out "Strangelove," by Depeche Mode, and "Lucretia My Reflection," by Sisters of Mercy. For those familiar, it should make perfect sense that she's the host and mastermind behind the Black Hearts Ball.

The event, which returns for its fifth year Saturday (Feb. 25) at The Avenue Café, is yet another facet of The Dark Art of Michigan, a growing collective dedicated to keeping things both spectral and festive.

King suggests attendees don "party wear, prom, goth or avant-garde fashion — but it's not required attire at the ball." She describes the shindig as a "gothic prom." Aside from drag performers and vendors, the dance party will also serve up live music from VAZUM, a Detroit-based "deathgaze" band.

"We'll also have our performance art show and an assortment of Dark Art vendors set up selling all kinds of local art and more," King said. "Every year, we crown a prom king and queen, which is open to anyone attending. Triple Goddess is also open for business and (paid) readings."

While King, who also owns Thrift Witch, a spooky shop located at 108 César E. Chávez Ave., is the curator of the ball, she has a team of locals behind her helping the evening come together, including house DJ Mary X, photographer Kendall D. Lartigue, sound engineer Nell Brando and stage managers Jacob Nevin and Sally Hecksel. King said this support and supernatural synergy has led to rapid growth in the local arts community over the last few years, thanks to a string of ongoing events.

"When we started doing The Dark Art of Michigan shows at The Avenue Café, shows were quickly selling out, and we knew we should add more," King said.

"Every show we plan has a subgroup within our umbrella in mind. We started with Halloween. Then came the Dark Art Bizarre to showcase darker-themed artists. We started the Black Hearts Ball because we have a large goth and industrial crowd who attend."

Since then, King and her crew have added the Heavy Metal Holiday Meltdown for the metalhead sect and a yearly Dark Art of Michigan Ambassador Pageant. (The ambassadors, including drag queen Tater Tot Noxious, will perform at Black Hearts Ball.)

"Even though all of these subgroups participate at every show, it's been successful showcasing each group individually," King said of the diverse yet united community.

It's a tight-knit scene she's been part of for more than a decade. She co-founded The Dark Art of Michigan alongside her partner, Sean Peters, a metal fixture whose resume includes stints in Lucifer's Hammer, Summon, Wastelander, Dark Psychosis and Cavalcade.

"I've always helped put on local events where I live," she said. "When I moved to Michigan in

2006, I started helping my boyfriend book shows under the name Beyond Dead Productions. When we changed venues and names, we added the art show as well as vendors and, finally, drag and burlesque. It's unfolded very organically."

As for her retail shop? It's still stocked with new-to-vintage clothing, collectibles, jewelry and oddities.

"Thrift Witch is doing great," she said. "We work with 40 local artists and makers and The Dark Art Market, which houses three small businesses: Re.Vamp.Fashion, Rainbow Riot! and Rosalarian. Customers have described it as going shopping in a time machine on Halloween."

The Dark Art of Michigan presents: 5th annual Black Hearts Ball

Saturday, Feb. 25
 The Avenue Café
 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
 8 p.m. – 2 a.m.
 21+, \$10
facebook.com/darkartmichigan

Events

from page 22

Graduation of 2022 Middle Village Micro Market Merchants - Hear about the businesses' next steps and growth into new spaces throughout the Lansing area. 3-4 p.m. Middle Village Micro Market, 112 S. Washington Square, Lansing. 517-487-1661.

Heart Awareness Seminar - Cardiovascular disease is the world's leading cause of death — learn how to keep your heart healthy. Featuring Bilky Joda-Miller from All Body Kneads. 6 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

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. Takeout available. 4:30-7 p.m. 1010 S. Lansing St., Mason. masonknights.org.

MSU Theater Presents: Charlotte's Web - 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu.

REST with Frederick Engram Jr. - A conversation about various topics relating to rest in our communities. Hosted by James Bell, moderated by Dr. Octavia Cannon. Performances by Shai and saxophonist Craig Beacham. 6 p.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing.

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

Time2Play - 8 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Travelogue – Isle Royale National Park - Join R.J. Chulski for backpacking, camping and a no-cell-service journey. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center room 213, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. 517-483-4233.

Wild Horses - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

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

Saturday, Feb. 25

10th Annual Pancake Palooza - All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast! Funds go to support programs, operations and services for homeless families in your community! 8-10 a.m. 2142 Community Church, 2600 Bennett Road, Okemos. 517-337-2731. havenhouseel.org.

2023 Nordic Fire Festival - Cosplay, live entertainment, historical reenactments, food, drinks, vendors and more. Dress in Viking garb. 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Eaton County Fairgrounds, 1025 Cochran Ave, Charlotte. 517-290-2691. michigan-nordicfirefestival.com.

Abrams Planetarium February 2023 Public Feature Show - "Skywatchers of Africa." 8 p.m. 755 Science Road, East Lansing. 517-355-4676. abramsplanetarium.org.

"Blind Spot: Stephanie Syjuco" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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.

Children's Cultural Concert Series – African Drumming with Kefentse Chike - 11 a.m. Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing. 517-319-6888. Cityofeastlansing.com.

Darin Larner Jr. - 7 p.m. Lansing Brewing Co.,

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. lansingbrewingcompany.com.

Do You Feel Anger? - Recommended for adult audiences only. 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. 517-483-1122. lcc.edu.

Film in the Community: A Night of Movies and Jazz - Showing "Stormy Weather" (1943). Music from live jazz quartet. 5-8 p.m. St. Stephen's Community Church, 1007 Kimberly Drive, Lansing. 517-355-4597. cal.msu.edu.

Greater Lansing Orchid Show and Sale - Learn how to grow orchids and brighten up your home with some of the spectacular flowers on sale! 11 a.m.-5 p.m. MSU Plant and Soil Sciences Building, 1066 Bogue St., East Lansing. greaterlansingorchidsociety.com.

MSU Theater Presents: Charlotte's Web - 2 and 7 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu.

Owl Prowl Campfire - Roast marshmallows, learn all about Michigan owls and enjoy a guided walk in the woods as we search for signs of owls along the nature trails. 7 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866.

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

We Laugh Comedy Show 2023 - Support the Women's Center of Greater Lansing with laughter and a silent auction. Tickets include dinner and a non-alcoholic beverage. 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeat-events.com.

Wild Horses - 3 and 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.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.

Sunday, Feb. 26

2023 Nordic Fire Festival - Cosplay, live entertainment, historical reenactments, food, drinks, vendors and more. Dress in Viking garb. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Eaton County Fairgrounds, 1025 Cochran Ave, Charlotte. 517-290-2691. michigan-nordicfirefestival.com.

Abrams Planetarium February 2023 Public Feature Show - "Skywatchers of Africa." 4 p.m. 755 Science Road, East Lansing. 517-355-4676. abramsplanetarium.org.

Baklava - Test different fillings from various cultures. Hands-on demonstration, recipe card and fresh-baked goods. Wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes and have long hair tied back. 1 p.m. Brady's HG, 319 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. 517-999-0399. bradlyshg.com.

"Blind Spot: Stephanie Syjuco" - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Do You Feel Anger? - Recommended for adult audiences only. 2 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. 517-483-1122. lcc.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.

Drumming/Minister Ordination - Metaphysical church service with drumming and spiritual messages. Potluck meal after. 11 a.m. Lighthouse Chapel, 1501 Windsor St., Lansing. 517-394-2080.

Grand Solar Spreads with Clarity Trü - See connections between the people in your life, take a look at your year ahead or use different arrangements to look into both past and future trends. 3 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

Film in the Community: A Night of Movies and Jazz

Saturday, Feb. 25

5-8 p.m.

St. Stephen's Community Church
1007 Kimberly Drive, Lansing

In celebration of Black History Month, Michigan State University's College of Arts & Letters, in partnership with St. Stephen's Community Church and the Lansing Public Media Center, is hosting a showing of the 1943 Black musical "Stormy Weather," starring Lena Horne and Bill "Bojangles" Robinson, among other musical greats.

A jazz quartet will provide live music for the event. "In the aftermath of the tragedy on the MSU campus, this Black History Month Film in the Community program will now also serve as a needed gathering for the broader MSU and Greater Lansing community — one that is filled with a spirit of grace and uplift," said Jeff Wray, MSU's Timnick chair in the humanities.



Greater Lansing Orchid Show and Sale - Learn how to grow orchids and brighten up your home with some of the spectacular flowers on sale! 11 a.m.-4 p.m. MSU Plant and Soil Sciences Building, 1066 Bogue St., East Lansing. greaterlansingorchidsociety.com.

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

Main Stage Comedy & Burlesque - 7:30 p.m. Omar's Showbar, 316 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-371-4500.

"Millennial Day!" with Brian and CJ - Discuss what's important to the millennial generation. 9:30 a.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

MSU Theater Presents: Charlotte's Web - 2 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-355-6690. theatre.msu.edu

Museum Tour: Architecture - Learn more about our unique building and the architect behind it. All ages welcome. 1 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Red Cedar Organ Recital – Hae Won Jang - 3 p.m. Alumni Memorial Chapel, 636 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Unity's Monthly Euchre and Games! - Bring your favorite board games and potluck snack foods and organize a euchre table. Noon-2 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 517-371-3010. unitylansing.org.

Wild Horses - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

S	U	T	R	A	E	G	G	S	F	I	Z	Z	
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J	U	A	N	V	A	L	D	E	Z	R	O	P	E
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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

See Events, Page 27

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Value and freshness satisfy at Bread Bites

By **LIZY FERGUSON**

I won't bury the lead: Bread Bites is my favorite restaurant I've discovered since emerging from my height-of-the-pandemic isolation cave. I've sampled its food on three occasions now, and each time I'm blown away by the freshness and home-cooked level of care.

I was thrown off for a long time by its name, which does not suggest the Middle Eastern delights on offer. Upon closer inspection, the name refers to its signature menu item — bite-sized envelopes of bread with your choice of delectable fillings. My dining companion ordered an olive and cheese bite to accompany her entrée, and my stolen nibble was superb.

For my dinner, I went with one of the “pies,” pizza-like configurations cooked in a brick oven with a variety of toppings to choose from. I got the Armenian pie, which was covered

in a layer of succulent ground beef seasoned with (I'm guessing) a blend of allspice, garlic, onion and roasted red pepper, which lent a surprising sweetness. It came with lemon to squeeze on top as well as tahini to drizzle, which only heightened the already dazzling flavor.



Armenian pie with two sides

\$12.25

Bread Bites
Mediterranean

5100 Marsh Road,
Okemos

Tuesday-Saturday: 11:30
a.m.-8 p.m.

Sunday: noon-7 p.m.
517-708-7112

breadbitesokemos.com

The pie's bread base is excellent, but it's important to try it on its own to appreciate it fully. Thankfully, my meal came with seemingly just-baked rounds of the stuff to accompany my sides of hummus and the house salad. The hummus is smooth, creamy and milder than most varieties, perfectly combined with bites of the mouthwatering, fuchsia-hued house dressing on the salad. I'm trying to resist being superlative, but that dressing would be convincing to the most ardent salad denier.

When my loaded tray of food was set before me, I thought, “Certainly, I'll have leftovers.” But it was just too good.



Lizy Ferguson/City Pulse

Bread Bites' Armenian pie, covered in a layer of succulent, well-seasoned ground beef, is most notable for its perfectly chewy, seemingly just-baked bread base.

And for only \$12.25, I can't be mad about it. Not pictured is the baklava cheesecake I had to get after seeing it all over social media. (Shoutout to the Lansing Foodies Facebook group, an indispensable resource.) It was as delicious as it sounds — a layer of cheesecake covered in crushed, honeyed pistachios, drizzled with a not-too-sweet, house-made strawberry sauce, capped with a flaky layer of phyllo dough.

I didn't order one this time, but I must also recommend the soups. (I've tried two.) What I can't get over is how homemade everything looks and tastes and how reasonable the prices are. Bread Bites has all the greatest hits you'd expect at a Middle Eastern restaurant as well as new things to try. If you're anything like me, you'll probably find yourself going back until you've tried it all.

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Sprouting makes all the difference



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Sprouted quinoa, which has a cleaner, more flavorful taste than its unsprouted counterpart, fits perfectly in an elevated potato salad.

By ARI LEVAUX

One of my favorite snacks is sprouted almonds. I start by soaking a cup of raw almonds in a Mason jar of water. After about two hours, I'll change the water, then let them soak overnight. By morning, the sprouting has begun.

When most people think of sprouts, they think of pale green, leggy alfalfa sprouts you get on a sandwich or bean

sprouts in a bowl of pho. But you don't have to wait for visible growth to appear in order to enjoy the many benefits of sprouting.



My soaked, germinated almonds are buttery soft, and the skins easily slip off, which makes for a cleaner, less bitter mouthful.

They taste fuller than ungerminated almonds, with a distinct coconut flavor. Over the next day or so, I keep

changing the water. After a few days, if they last long enough, I can see the beginnings of change as they prepare to grow into almond trees.

Almonds are just one household food you can sprout, which unlocks many flavor and nutritional benefits. In addition to nuts, which must be raw, unroasted and non-irradiated — alive, as it were — one can sprout lentils and other legumes, wheat and other grains and grain-like seeds such as quinoa.

Quinoa has more protein than any cereal or grain and contains all nine amino acids. Sprouting makes these nutrients more available by activating enzymes in the seeds that break down phytic acid, which binds to minerals and other nutrients, making them unavailable to your body. Sprouting also shortens its cooking time and reduces its bitterness by washing away molecules called saponins found in its seed coat.

Quinoa begins to sprout in about 24 hours. The difference between sprouted and unsprouted quinoa is like that between raw and soaked almonds. The sprouted version tastes cleaner, with sharper flavors.

I have a recipe for quinoa-potato salad that I can't stop eating. I included potatoes in my quinoa recipe as both come from the Andes and added parsley, onions, garlic and lemon because they're wintertime staples. It's also good with bacon bits or cheese if you wish to add them. You can serve it warm or cold — this time of year, I prefer warm.

To sprout quinoa

One cup dry quinoa makes two cups sprouted.

Place quinoa in a large bowl. Cover with water by at least an inch and soak for an hour.

Rinse, drain and transfer to a Mason jar. Cap the jar with a sprouting lid or cheesecloth and a rubber band.

Rinse quinoa every few hours, making sure to drain off all water.

Sprouting will occur in 24 hours, but you can continue to sprout for two days, if desired, for a softer consistency. The sprout itself will emerge after about 36 hours, curling and waving around the little seed, resembling a sperm doing yoga.

You can store sprouted quinoa in the fridge for about a week.

To cook, put equal quantities sprouted quinoa and water in a pot with a lid and cook on high for five minutes, then turn the heat to low until the water is all gone, about 10 minutes.

Sprouted quinoa potato salad

Start this recipe the day before by sprouting 1 cup of quinoa and, if possible, 1/2 cup of raw almonds — or more, if you snack like I do.

2 cups sprouted quinoa
2 large potatoes (about a pound), cut into 1/2-inch chunks
1 large carrot, cut into 1/2-inch rounds
1/4 onion (about 4 ounces), minced
1 clove garlic, minced or pressed
1 bunch parsley, leafy side chopped and stem side minced
5 tablespoons olive oil
3 tablespoons lemon juice
Salt
Pepper
Chili flakes

Optional: 1/2 cup germinated almonds, skins slipped off and slid in half

Set the oven to 400 degrees.

Toss the potatoes and carrots in 1 tablespoon of olive oil and a half teaspoon each of salt and pepper. Put them on a baking sheet and bake for 30 minutes. Stir once, about halfway through.

Add the quinoa to a pot with 2 cups of water. Cover and cook for five minutes on high, then turn down to low for another five minutes. Let it sit with the lid on for 20 minutes.

In a large bowl, combine the potatoes, quinoa, onion, garlic, parsley, lemon juice and remaining olive oil. Season with salt, pepper and chili flakes. Mix. Season again. Let it sit for an hour or more, then serve.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

TOP 5 BURGERS

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

1. Weston's Kewpee Sandwich Shop

1920s diner with a collection of antique Kewpie dolls that serves burgers, homemade root beer and shakes
118 S. Washington Square, Lansing
517-482-8049
westonskewpee.com

10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday

10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday

2. Dagwood's Tavern & Grill

Casual American mainstay featuring

handcrafted burgers and grill fare and sports on TV
2803 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing
517-374-0390
dagwoodstavernandgrill-alternate.com
11 a.m.-11 p.m. daily

3. Crunchy's

Watering hole in old-school digs famous for burgers, buckets of beer and karaoke
254 W. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
517-351-2506
crunchyseastlansing.com
11 a.m.-midnight Sunday-Wednesday
11 a.m.-1 a.m. Thursday-Saturday

4. The Peanut Barrel

American bar & grill featuring burgers, sandwiches, beer and an outdoor patio
521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
517-351-0608
peanutbarrel.com

11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday

11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday (kitchen ceases an hour prior to closing)

5. Olympic Broil

Casual fast-food outpost with hefty burgers, coney dogs, wraps and sandwiches
1320 N. Grand River Ave., Lansing
517-485-8584
olympicbroil.com

10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday

A Lenten meal kids will love

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Religious Christians make the commitment to avoid meat on Friday for the duration of Lent, signifying a sacrifice that recalls the ultimate sacrifice Jesus Christ made during his crucifixion.

Vegetables and pasta dishes are a staple of the Lenten season, and seafood also serves as a popular substitute for

meat and poultry. As parents of picky eaters can attest, though, encouraging children to dig into a seafood meal can be a struggle. However, fish sticks can make a fish dinner more attractive to youngsters. You don't need to buy the frozen variety at the store — this recipe for fish sticks with fries and tartar sauce from “Danielle Walker’s Eat What You Love” is a crunchy, homemade alternative.

Fish sticks with fries and tartar sauce

Makes 12

Tartar sauce

1/2 cup mayonnaise

1 tablespoon minced cornichons (gherkin pickles)

1 tablespoon chopped capers

1 teaspoon champagne vinegar

1 teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 teaspoon coarse-grain mustard

1 teaspoon chopped fresh parsley

1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

Fries

1 large parsnip, peeled

1 white-fleshed sweet potato (such as Hannah), scrubbed but unpeeled

3 tablespoons avocado oil

Kosher salt

Fish sticks

1 pound haddock or cod fillets

4 ounces plantain chips

Fine sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

2 egg whites, beaten until frothy

2 teaspoons Dijon mustard

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees.

To make the tartar sauce, mix the mayonnaise, cornichons, capers, vinegar, lemon juice, mustard, parsley and pepper in a small bowl. Place in the refrigerator to chill while you make the fries and fish sticks, or for up to three days.

To make the fries, cut the parsnip and sweet potato into matchstick-size pieces. In a bowl, toss the vegetables with the oil. Spread in a single layer on a large, rimmed baking sheet. Bake until browned (about 20 minutes), turning once.

To make the fish sticks, cut the haddock into 3-inch strips. Place a wire rack on top of a clean kitchen towel and brush the rack lightly with avocado oil.

In a food processor, or using a mortar and pestle, pulse the plantain chips a few times until they resemble coarse sand. Pour the ground chips into a shallow bowl and combine with 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. In a separate bowl, whisk together the egg whites and mustard.

Pat the fish dry with paper towels and season generously with 3/4 teaspoon sea salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. One at a time, dip the fish strips into the egg mixture and shake gently, allowing any excess to drip back into the bowl, then dip the fish into the plantain chip mixture, turning to coat each strip and shaking off any excess. Place the fish strips on the prepared wire rack.

Remove the baking sheet from the oven and move the fries over to one side. Position the rack with the fish sticks on top of the baking sheet and return to the oven. Bake the fish and fries together for 10 to 12 minutes, until the fish is crisp and cooked through. Season the fries generously with kosher salt. Serve immediately with tartar sauce on the side.

Events

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Tuesday, Feb. 28

Artifex Consort, Early Music Series - French Baroque viol music, featuring both of Marin Marais' decadent “Pièces a 3 Violos” from “Pièces de Viole, Livre IV” (1717). 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

The Black Violin Experience - 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Conversation: Art and Artificial Intelligence - 5 p.m. STEM Learning and Teaching Facility, 642 Red Cedar Road, East Lansing. 517-355-2370. museum.msu.edu.

HIPPITY HOP - Assortment of lyrical performers, visual artists creating live art, vendors and fire dancers. 7 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. 517-574-4214. thejunctionmichigan.com.

One More Chapter Book Club - Chat, eat snacks and have book-related fun. Grades 2-4. Registration req. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

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

Wednesday, March 1

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

After-School Enrichment Time - Kids can get their homework done, use the computers, eat snacks and have a great, safe time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Higher Ground Community Development Center, 3637 W. Jolly Road, Lansing. 517-894-1633.

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

“Blind Spot: Stephanie Syjuco” - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

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

Handmade Pasta series, Session Four: Orecchiette - Put your skills to the test with this hand-shaped semolina pasta. Pay homage to this Puglia classic with spicy sausage, rapini and fennel. 6 p.m. Brady's HG, 319 E. Cesar E. Chavez Ave., Lansing. 517-999-0399. bradlyshg.com.

It's Elementary! - Discover science in the world around you with experiments, crafts, activities and more. Snack included. Grades 3-6. Registration req. 2:45 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

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

March Movie Event - “Leap Year” in our Spartan Room. Rated PG. Popcorn provided. 5:30 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

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

New Interface of The USC Shoah Visual History Archive: Genocide Testimony Database - Demonstration of the new interface and sophisticated searching features. 4 p.m. MSU Main Library, 366 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-0901. lib.msu.edu.

Open Mic Hosted by Rick Hansel - Family-friendly, welcomes singers and musicians. No cover! 6 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Weaving the Web: Invocation - 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.



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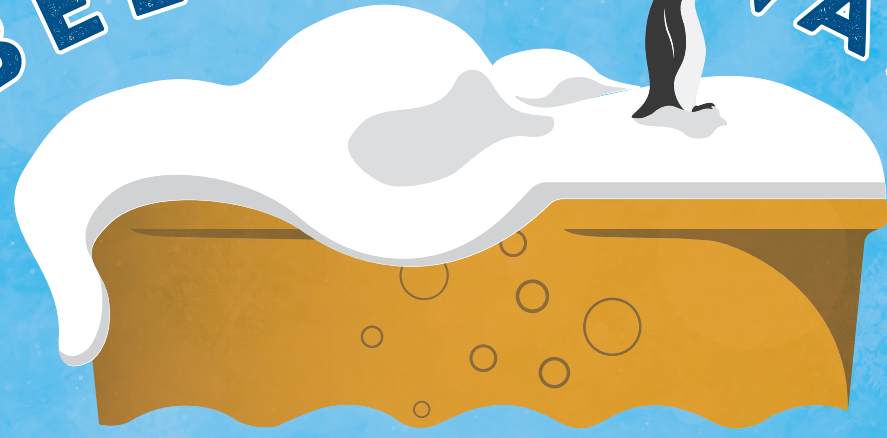


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