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Worship

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Carnival

April 9
10:00 AM
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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

‘Caesarization’ of MSU athletics: Secret deal promotes online gambling

In September 2021, 18 months into the COVID pandemic, Michigan State University’s athletic program faced dwindling coffers. A USA Today public records request found the department had lost \$15.4 million during the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the impact of the pandemic having shuttered much of the department’s revenue-generating activity.

The department’s social media and brand managing partner, PlayFly, brought a deal to the table that could plug some of the financial woes. Caesars Sportsbook was offering MSU an exclusive deal worth \$8.4 million over five years.

“Caesars Sportsbook will gain significant exposure through MSU’s sports properties and access to a wide range of hospitality assets and VIP experiences, which will be available to Caesars Sportsbook players, as part of the wide range of benefits offered through the industry-leading loyalty program, Caesars Rewards,” a January 2022 press release from Caesars Entertainment declared.

“Assets include broadcast and digital content across MSU athletics, TV-visible signage across basketball, football and hockey, naming entitlement for a new premium seating area inside Spartan Stadium set to debut during the 2022 football season along with an outdoor tailgating area, and access to unique alumni and fan engagement opportunities surrounding varsity sports seasons currently underway. Spartan fans can also soon enjoy special emperor-worthy promotional offers on mobile sports betting, iGaming, and The World Series of Poker (WSOP®) product offerings.”

MSU had been effectively “Caesarized.”

The evidence couldn’t be clearer than at Spartan Stadium, where an endzone-wide digital billboard shouts “DOWNLOAD THE CAESARS

SPORTBOOK & CASINO APP” alongside an image of the iconic green and white Spartan helmet and the declaration: “Official Sports Betting Partner of Spartan Athletics.”

The deal was negotiated in secret, The New York Times reported, because the contract was with PlayFly, an MSU vendor and private company not subject to Michigan’s Freedom of Information Act, shielding the details from prying eyes.

MSU spokesman Dan Olsen declined to discuss the deal or the process with City Pulse. The branding partner to MSU did not respond to media inquiries.

MSU sophomore Connor Li, 19, said he noticed the “Caesarization” of MSU immediately last autumn on his way to football games.

“I thought it was interesting that MSU would make a deal with companies that deal with an addictive property when we have like strict rules against like making brand deals with alcohol, making brand deals with nicotine and all that,” said Li, a Lansing-area native who majors in history and political science. “So, I thought it was a very interesting choice to make a deal with gambling.”

While Li has been inundated by marketing schemes of the online gambling platforms, he said he has not been tempted or interested in engaging with them. At 19, it would be illegal for him to use the platforms, but he said he has discussed online gambling with some of his acquaintances who are gambling.

His attitude is that the money his friends are gambling with is theirs to do with as they wish. It’s an uncomfortable topic to broach, because of his own value system. When asked if he would have the same response if an acquaintance came out of a bathroom talking about doing a line of cocaine, he said the danger and difference between the



two potential addictions were so broad it was difficult to compare them.

Li said the revelations that MSU had been assured the details of the deal would remain secret was “really concerning.”

The concern stretches beyond the secrecy for Michael Burke, a board member of the Michigan Association on Problem Gambling. The 77-year-old has spent 25 years making amends for his own gambling addiction that landed him in Jackson prison for three years and earned him an order to pay back \$1.6 million he had stolen from his law clients. The money he stole went to pay off his gambling debts at Michigan casinos.

“It’s just going to create major problems for kids who should be working on their studies, working on getting their life started and all that,” he said. “This is what they’re gonna be faced with. We know that 7% of the kids are going to be predisposed to a gambling problem, and then you just give them free plays.”

He said that when gambling was constrained to physical spaces like casinos, developing deep debts and depression from gambling addiction took years, sometimes decades to reveal itself in a gambler’s life. But online gambling platforms have accelerated that crisis point to as little as five months.

In the last year, 75% of college students engaged in gambling, according to data from the National Association on Problem Gambling. It shows that overall 67% of college students bet on

sports.

The NCAA prohibits college athletes and athletic employees from engaging in gambling. But their own data shows student athletes are gambling. According to the NCAA, 24% of male athletes and 5% of female athletes were gamblers, with 9% of men and 1% of women gambling monthly. And online gambling platforms have enticed many male athletes, NCAA data shows. Of male athletes, 26% said their first exposure to gambling was an online gambling platform. Astonishingly, many of the gambling athletes started placing wagers before they were even in college: 90% of men and 82% of women, which means while they were under the age of 21.

Last month, the American Gaming Association released new, stricter guidelines governing partnerships and promotion of online gambling to colleges. The problem? Caesars is not a member of the organization — it cut ties in 2020.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Connecticut, told The New York Times last month that the move was a “major step.” But he expressed skepticism that self-regulation would work and is pushing a federal law that would enshrine the AGA rules in law, forcing even the giants like Caesars to bow to regulations to protect students.

Li said he would support federal regulation.

“If colleges have strict rules against other addictive substances and properties, why can’t we have another rule against this?” He asked.

And Li also has concerned that online gambling could lead to risks to the safety of athletes as well.

“If people bet on a game and then the team loses, the hate that the players will receive because they lost a game and because that person lost money — that’s a concern for me,” Li said.

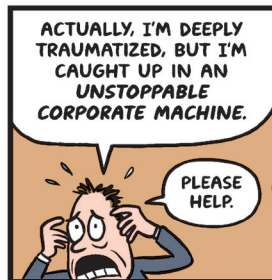
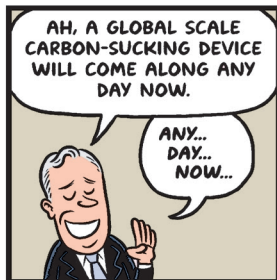
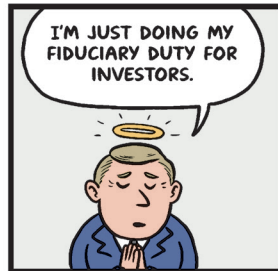
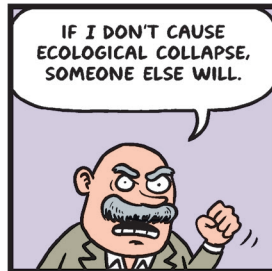
— TODD HEYWOOD

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We asked fossil fuel executives: "How do you sleep at night?"

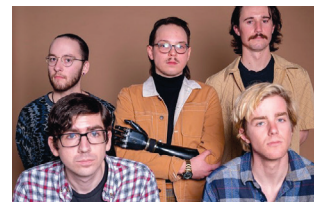


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PAGE 19

Help select the best of the best in Michigan cannabis



PAGE 22

Lee Cleaveland & the Lefhand Band joins local emo acts for rowdy Mac's show



PAGE 26

A one-pan breakfast dish to utilize old tortilla chips
Cover illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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OUR TOP STORY TONIGHT, AND TOMORROW, AND FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE--DONALD TRUMP HAS BEEN **INDICTED!**

FOR INSIGHT AND ANALYSIS, WE'RE JOINED NOW BY OUR REGULAR COMMENTATOR, THE **RIGHT WING NUTJOB!**



BIFF, THIS IS AN **OUTRAGEOUS** ABUSE OF POWER! WE NOW LIVE IN AN AUTHORITARIAN POLICE STATE, CONTROLLED BY WOKÉ DEMOCRATS WHO WANT TO DEFUND THE POLICE!

I--WAIT, WHAT? I'M STILL WORKSHOPPING HERE, JUST GO WITH IT.



LOOK, I SAW A VIDEO OF A BLACK PERSON DOING SOMETHING THAT LOOKED ILLEGAL! WHY ISN'T ALVIN BRAGG PROSECUTING **HIM**, INSTEAD OF HARASSING DONALD TRUMP, A MAN OF **IMPECCABLE** CHARACTER? I AM JUST ASKING THE **QUESTION!**

THAT DOES TECHNICALLY QUALIFY AS A QUESTION!



IF A FORMER PRESIDENT CAN BE INDICTED FOR CRIMES, IT WILL INSPIRE FUTURE CRIMINAL PRESIDENTS TO TRY TO HOLD ON TO POWER AT ANY COST! CAN YOU EVEN **IMAGINE** THAT HAPPENING? IN **AMERICA?**

I--WELL, NOW THAT YOU **MENTION** IT-- THE CORRECT ANSWER IS **NO!** YOU **CANNOT!**



BUT ALSO--THIS IS **GREAT!** THEY'VE JUST HANDED TRUMP THE NOMINATION, AND PROBABLY THE PRESIDENCY! NOTHING GUARANTEES ELECTORAL VICTORY LIKE A **CRIMINAL INDICTMENT!**

HE'S NOT MAD, HE'S **LAUGHING**, ACTUALLY!

I DON'T KNOW, HE SEEMS PRETTY MAD. **LAUGHING, DAMMIT!**



WELL, THANK YOU FOR YOUR FASCINATING PERSPECTIVE! COMING UP NEXT: OUR FRIEND THE SENSIBLE MODERATE WONDERS IF THIS INDICTMENT IS **SENSIBLE** ENOUGH!

ALSO: REPETITIVE SPECULATION AND BLATHER LASTING FOR ENDLESS **HOURS!** IF NOT THE REST OF OUR NATURAL LIVES!

FIRST THESE MESSAGES!



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REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

BY NICOLE NOECHEL



Lansing marijuana entrepreneur Michael Doherty was sentenced to 93 days in jail after he called 30th Circuit Judge Joyce Draganchuk “corrupt.” Doherty’s business, Rebel Industries, was placed in receivership last year. Doherty, who was representing himself, was in court to defend himself against criminal contempt allegations made by the court-appointed receiver.



As he approached the bench as a witness, he accused the judge of corruption and called on her to recuse herself for judicial conduct. Draganchuk warned him to behave himself. Once sworn in, he called the judge’s actions “corrupt and unacceptable” — at which point Draganchuk sentenced him. Sheriff’s deputies handcuffed him and removed him from the courtroom. *(For more on this story, including a video, see lansingcitypulse.com)*

The MSU Board of Trustees released the results of a third-party Title IX review. The board commissioned Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP to review progress within the school’s Title IX office and the circumstances surrounding former business school dean Sanjay Gupta’s forced resignation by then-Provost Teresa Woodruff, which he is suing the school over. The investigation found Woodruff’s discipline to be “disproportionate.” She dismissed him for a number of reasons, but the investigation found that his only error was his initial failure to report that a business school administrator was allegedly drunk and inappropriately touched a student at an off-campus event. The investigators also discovered that former President Samuel Stanley Jr. may not have approved Woodruff’s action. The report listed 14 policy recommendations, including refining training materials for policies and protocols, establishing factors for determining the discipline that violators of the reporting protocol should receive, implementing a policy to govern alcohol consumption at MSU-sponsored off-campus events, implementing a policy requiring at least two mandated reporter employees to stay for the entire duration of MSU-sponsored events and expanding resources for the Office for Civil Rights, which would help the Office of Institutional Equity with reports.



The board commissioned Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP to review progress within the school’s Title IX office and the circumstances surrounding former business school dean Sanjay Gupta’s forced resignation by then-Provost Teresa Woodruff, which he is suing the school over. The investigation found Woodruff’s discipline to be “disproportionate.” She dismissed him for a number of reasons, but the investigation found that his only error was his initial failure to report that a business school administrator was allegedly drunk and inappropriately touched a student at an off-campus event. The investigators also discovered that former President Samuel Stanley Jr. may not have approved Woodruff’s action. The report listed 14 policy recommendations, including refining training materials for policies and protocols, establishing factors for determining the discipline that violators of the reporting protocol should receive, implementing a policy to govern alcohol consumption at MSU-sponsored off-campus events, implementing a policy requiring at least two mandated reporter employees to stay for the entire duration of MSU-sponsored events and expanding resources for the Office for Civil Rights, which would help the Office of Institutional Equity with reports.

Part of MSU’s Student Union has reopened. The first-floor lounges, Sparty’s mini-market and computer labs are open to the public, as is a gallery featuring memorials and tributes sent by alumni and community members in the third-floor Lake Huron Room. There are therapy dogs to welcome guests as well as staff from counseling and psychiatric services for students and the employee assistance program for faculty. The food court remains closed for the time being. Berkey Hall will remain closed through the end of 2023.

In other related news:

The final student hospitalized after the Feb. 13 shooting

at MSU was released from Sparrow Hospital. John Hao, who is paralyzed from the chest down, was the fifth of five students to be discharged. Troy Forbush, Nate Statly, Guadalupe Huapilla-Perez and an unnamed fourth student were previously released.

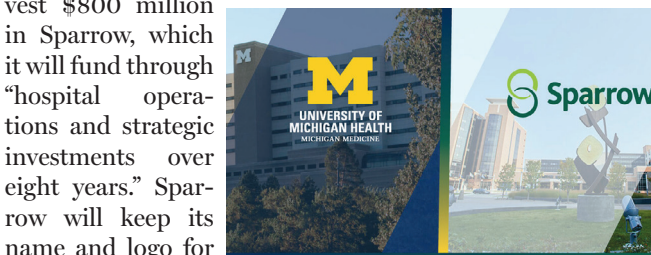


Anthony Fauci, former chief medical adviser to the president, will address graduates at MSU’s spring commencement. Fauci, who conducted vital research during the global HIV/AIDS epidemic while working for the NIH, oversaw further research as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, developed the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and spearheaded the country’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, will address doctoral candidates and receive an honorary doctor of humanities degree from the school. Additionally, Jill Hruby, undersecretary for nuclear security for the U.S. Department of Energy and administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, will address master’s and educational specialist degree candidates and receive an honorary doctor of science degree, and Lisa Cook, an MSU faculty member and the first Black woman to serve on the Federal Reserve, will speak to undergraduate degree candidates and receive an honorary doctor of humanities degree. The ceremony will take place May 5 at the Breslin Center and will be livestreamed via the school’s commencement website.



of Allergy and Infectious Disease, developed the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and spearheaded the country’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, will address doctoral candidates and receive an honorary doctor of humanities degree from the school. Additionally, Jill Hruby, undersecretary for nuclear security for the U.S. Department of Energy and administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration, will address master’s and educational specialist degree candidates and receive an honorary doctor of science degree, and Lisa Cook, an MSU faculty member and the first Black woman to serve on the Federal Reserve, will speak to undergraduate degree candidates and receive an honorary doctor of humanities degree. The ceremony will take place May 5 at the Breslin Center and will be livestreamed via the school’s commencement website.

Sparrow Health System officially became a part of University of Michigan Health. Government regulators approved the merger, which was announced in December 2022. The merger will allow Sparrow “to accelerate the expansion of services, build greater breadth and depth of clinical expertise and seamlessly integrate leading-edge technology and other updates into facilities,” according to U-M Health. It added, “The combined organization is creating a clinical care network that builds upon the strengths of the world-class University of Michigan Health academic medical center and Sparrow’s successful community-based health system.” U-M Health will invest \$800 million in Sparrow, which it will fund through “hospital operations and strategic investments over eight years.” Sparrow will keep its name and logo for now, and though U-M Health expects it to transition to more appropriate branding over time, it will ensure Sparrow’s legacy is “appropriately honored.”



1020 Woodbine Ave., Lansing

This property was gutted by fire in May 2022. The two-story home is covered in soot. The vinyl siding is drooping where it melted during the fire. The windows and door are covered in plywood. In the front yard are multiple plastic Christmas trees. On the side yard, indoor-outdoor imitation grass carpet fills the area. The only open window is on the second floor, through which a smoke-stained bed is visible.

The property was a rental featuring 1,050 square feet. It was built in 1929, according to city records.

City spokesperson Scott Bean said the property has been under review since Jan. 23. He said the property owner, Cao Lupin of Fullerton, California, has told the city he wants to rebuild, but no permits have been requested or paid for. The city has referred the property to the City Council to move forward with the make-safe or demolish process. The process could take months of public hearings and final actions by the City Council before the burned-out shell is torn down.

— TODD HEYWOOD

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

PARK BOARD MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Meeting will be held at Foster Community Center located at 200 N. Foster Avenue, on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of receiving public input for the 2023 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant projects: Land Acquisition of 1624 E. Cavanaugh; Land Acquisition of Parcel 23-50-80-01-282-004; Development Grant for Pickle Ball Courts at St. Joseph Park; Recreation Passport for fitness facility at Davis Park; Land and Water Conservation Fund for Tennis at Letts. All interested persons are invited to attend this public meeting.

BRETT KASCHINSKE, DIRECTOR, PARKS AND RECREATION – 483-4042. **CP#23-069**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING
NOTICE OF POSTED MEETING MINUTES**

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

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

Maggie Sanders, Supervisor
Cortney Lighthart, Clerk

CP#22-276

**CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1312**

An Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending 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.

Effective date: Upon Publication

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

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

CP#23-070



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: Special Use Permit #23011 (Herbana)
MONDAY, April 24, 2023**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LEGAL NOTICE
Special Use Permit #23011 (Herbana)
Notice of Application**

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., in the Meridian Township Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, to hear all persons interested in a request from Haslett Gallery Inc. to construct a medical marijuana provisioning center in the existing building at 2119A Haslett Road, Haslett, MI 48840. The approximately 1.92-acre parcel is zoned C-1 – Commercial.

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

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

CP#23-074



**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 10, 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, Chapter 812, Section 812.02, to increase the number of members of the Principal Shopping District Board from eight to nine and clarify the requirements for board composition.

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#23-073

**City of Lansing
Notice of Public Hearing**

The City Council of the City of Lansing will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, Lansing, Michigan, for the purposes stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all owners of real property within the proposed Industrial Development District, assessor, representatives of affected taxing units, residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing and other interested persons to appear and be heard on the creation of Lansing Industrial Development District (IDD-01-23) and application for a New Personal Property Exemption (PPE-01-23) as requested by the applicant, pursuant to Public Act 328 of 1998, for the location indicated below:

Applicant: Consumers Energy Company
Parcel Number: 080-010-100-010-01
IDD Location/Commonly Known as: 7000 N. Canal Rd, Dimondale, MI 48821

Legally described as:

A parcel of land in the North 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 10, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Windsor Township, Eaton County, Michigan described as follows: Beginning at the North 1/4 corner of said Section; thence South 00 degrees 44 minutes 21 seconds East, on the North & South 1/4 line of said Section, 1332.08 feet to the North 1/8 line of said Section; thence North 89 degrees 46 minutes 39 seconds West, on said North 1/8 line, 2646.67 feet to the West line of said Section; thence North 00 degrees 13 minutes 11 seconds West, on said West Section line, 325.28 feet; thence North 89 degrees 46 minutes 49 seconds East, perpendicular to said West Section line, 60.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 13 minutes 11 seconds West, parallel with said West Section line, 459.79 feet to a point of curvature; thence 246.15 feet on a curve to the left, having a radius of 878.51 feet, a central angle of 16 degrees 03 minutes 13 seconds, and a long chord which bears North 08 degrees 14 minutes 47 seconds West, 245.35 feet to the beginning of an existing Limited Access Right of Way; thence North 23 degrees 05 minutes 11 seconds East, on said Limited Access Right of Way line, 127.96 feet; thence North 64 degrees 59 minutes 25 seconds East, on said Limited Access Right of Way line, 66.86 feet to the end of said Limited Access Right of Way; thence continuing North 64 degrees 59 minutes 25 seconds East, 45.87 feet to a point of curvature; thence 332.12 feet on a curve to the right, having a radius of 758.51 feet, a central angle of 25 degrees 05 minutes 15 seconds, and a long chord which bears North 77 degrees 32 minutes 03 seconds East, 329.47 feet; thence North 00 degrees 04 minutes 40 seconds East, perpendicular to the North line of said Section, 60.00 feet to said North Section line; thence South 89 degrees 55 minutes 20 seconds East, on said North Section line, 2133.55 feet to the point of beginning.

Creation of IDD-01-23 as requested by Consumers Energy Company will make certain property investments within the District eligible to be included in the application for a New Personal Property Exemption (PPE-01-23). Further information regarding this matter may be obtained from Kris Klein, Lansing Economic Development Corporation, 230 N. Washington Sq., Ste. 212, Lansing, Michigan, 48933, (517) 599-1136.

For more information, please call 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
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CP#23-071

A clean, safe place to live is the single most important material need for human beings, following close behind the biological imperatives of air, water and food. Yet for many Lansing residents, this basic necessity of life is hard to find and even harder to afford. People of limited financial means have limited housing options, usually as renters, and too often have to deal with one of the city's numerous unscrupulous landlords.

In the past 18 months, fires have erupted at three different rental units in Lansing causing two deaths, including a 23-month-old toddler last June, who lived in an unlicensed, uninspected rental with no smoke detectors. Fires and fatalities are the most visible and tragic examples of the consequences of substandard housing and predatory property owners, but scores of Lansing tenants are forced to deal every day with myriad lesser indignities, from vermin and black mold to broken appliances and flooded basements.

The state of Lansing's rental housing stock and plethora of vacant, red-tagged properties has once again hit the radar of city officials, prompted in part by an enterprising investigation by City Council newcomer Ryan Kost, who earlier this year launched a door-to-door investigation of red-tagged houses on the city's east side. Of the 180 First Ward properties visited by Kost, more than one-quarter of them appeared to be occupied, in violation of the city statute that only allows people to enter an unsafe structure to work on fixing it.

An unfortunate side effect of Kost's field work, and enforcement of Lansing's housing code in general, is that people end up being evicted from their unsafe homes, illustrating the double-edged sword of trying to keep people safe but taking actions that could make them homeless.

That's exactly what played out last week at the Holmes Apartments in South Lansing. According to news reports, the 29-unit building was in such a sorry state of repair that the entire building was shuttered and every resident evicted. It isn't the first time a multi-unit apartment building in Lansing has been evacuated and padlocked due to unsafe living conditions. If the city's current code enforcement practices continue, it won't be the last.

The controversy over unsafe housing took an unexpected turn last month when Scott Sanford, the city's long-time and beleaguered code compliance manager, suddenly retired from his job. On his way out the door, Sanford

blamed city politics for the sorry state of Lansing's rental and vacant housing stock. He's not wrong, but there's plenty of blame to go around. Successive mayoral administrations and city councils dating back to the Hollister era have failed to crack the code of effective housing enforcement. Despite her confession at Monday night's special Committee of the Whole meeting that "all of us are culpable," Council President Carol Wood has been busy spitting nails and pointing fingers. Having served on the Council for nearly 24 years, we think Wood can take more responsibility than most for failing to solve Lansing's code enforcement conundrum during her lengthy tenure on City Council.

Sanford also pointed out that problem properties are but a small fraction of Lansing's housing stock. He's not wrong about that, either. But to us, it begs the question: Why is it such a struggle to manage the city's portfolio of red-tagged properties to ensure that people aren't living in them, that timely repairs are being made, and that the city's monthly monitoring fee is being properly assessed and collected?

We appreciate the forthright admission by Barb Kimmel, interim director of the city's Department of Economic Development and Planning, that her department's enforcement of the housing code leaves much to be desired. We support her call for an independent, external review of the code enforcement unit's policies and procedures.

We also are encouraged by Mayor Andy Schor's commitment to take action, belated though it is, and City Attorney Jim Smiertka's recent moves to file suit against the Holmes Apartment owners and bring misdemeanor charges against landlords who allow people to occupy unsafe houses. We're less impressed by City Council's resurgent interest in the issue, but we remain hopeful that meaningful reforms will come out of its deliberative process.

City Pulse has reported for more than a decade on the state of the city's rental and red-tagged housing stock and the intermittent efforts to do something about it. Yet here we are, wringing our hands once again over a perpetually thorny issue that appears to be virtually immune from effective government intervention. It is long past time for meaningful action.

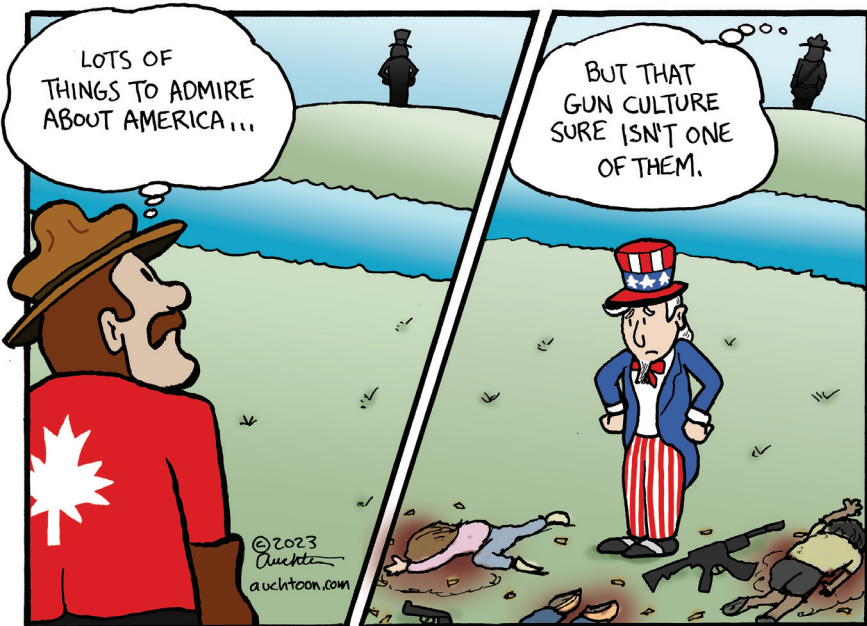
So, what is the solution? We don't have all the answers, but we think it's always a good idea to review best practices in other places for guidance on how to tackle intractable problems. We've done that in this space, on this topic, on more than one occasion.

We'll reiterate here: It's time to create a system that truly holds bad landlords accountable. It's time for an escalating scale of punishments for property violations that endanger the health and safety of tenants. The goal should be to create a strong financial disincentive for failing to maintain rental properties to appropriate standards or risk losing them to receivership. That's how they roll in Ann Arbor. Lansing would do well to take a close look at their approach.

Lansing renters at risk

The CP Edit

Opinion



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

Now you have two ways to sound off:

1 Write a letter to the editor:

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

2 Write a guest column.

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

We need more Greene interviews on '60 Minutes,' not fewer

I didn't put Marjorie Taylor Greene in Congress and neither did you.

But she's there. Not only is she there, but the Georgia pol with a history of supporting QAnon conspiracies has House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's ear, which makes her views — regardless of whatever else they are — newsworthy.

CBS and "60 Minutes" were roasted this week in some circles for airing Lesley Stahl's interview with Greene for giving the member a "platform" to proclaim such head-scratching hyperbole as Democrats' being a bunch of pedophiles.

Personally, I want to hear the rhetoric. I want to hear what she's thinking. I want to hear her views on current events.

You should, too, because she isn't the only one who harbors them. Pretending Greene and other like-minded individuals are going to disappear or have a change of heart if everyone would only squirrel away into their respective echo chambers to rant is foolish.

Shaming others into believing the opinions of a government leader isn't worth hearing is what you're advocating by saying CBS shouldn't have aired a Greene interview. You're saying your views are better than someone else's. You're saying our freedom of speech is limited to those whose speech you find agreeable.

It's condescending, elitist, pompous and, as recent history is playing out, completely ineffective and counterproductive to advancing your viewpoint.

Silencing someone isn't winning an argument. It doesn't change hearts and minds. It does the opposite. It makes the person being shushed resentful. It hardens their beliefs.

More snide comments on social media or politically driven media outlets only make the wall between us thicker. It drives more people into the safety of their keyboards and disturbingly deeper into their own minds and imaginations.

Like it or not, Greene is a U.S. government leader. "60 Minutes" and Stahl are doing their job by informing the public about the rhetoric she's using. Thanks to their work, we know she's distancing herself from QAnon. She's not publicly advancing delusions that the Parkland school shooting was

staged.

We understand that Greene believes that many Democrats are pedophiles because they believe gender-affirming therapies for teenagers are effective in helping them become their true selves. She sees such approaches as inappropriate sexualization.

Stahl gasped at the statement.

Would it be better if "60 Minutes" hadn't aired it?

If this is what a Republican member of Congress truly believes, my answer is no.

Having this admission stated in public gives us all an opportunity to talk it out. It opens the door to conversation, listening (which is something everybody could improve on) and learning.

Have you noticed how politicized our country has become?

You believe this, you're a Republican. You believe that, you're a Democrat.

The vanishing number of independents are increasingly being recruited or manipulated by both sides.

Political actors are lobbying the news media — historically more motivated by ratings, clicks, readers and profits — to portray their talking points in a way that is flattering for their side, and not the other.

The media is pressured into having the courage of other people's convictions. When the impartial media refuses, it's often accused as being biased, corrupt or "fake."

Some outlets have caved in. They've turned advocacy journalism into a business model. Apparently, there's money in feeding this insatiable appetite of looking at the world through a particular shade of light.

It releases the dopamine. Makes us feel good that others are wearing the same-colored glasses.

But not everybody is staring through the same tint. They never will.

That's where "60 Minutes" and other credible news outlets come in.

We need to expose ourselves to the world around us. Understand where others are coming from. That's where we learn. Begin conversations. Find some consensus. Move forward. Repeat.

We need more Stahl interviews with Marjorie Taylor Greene, not fewer.

Otherwise, we're all just spinning our wheels. Our respective ruts get deeper, and nobody is moving.

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



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: Special Use Permit #23010
(Connector Trail – Phase 2)
MONDAY, April 24, 2023

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LEGAL NOTICE Special Use Permit #23010 (MSU to Lake Lansing Connector Trail – Phase II) Notice of Application

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., in the Meridian Township Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, to hear all persons interested in a request from Meridian Township's Engineering Department to construct Phase II of the MSU to Lake Lansing Connector Trail in a floodplain within easements and Township owned property along the south side of the C&N Railroad corridor between Campus Hill Drive and Okemos Road.

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

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

CP#23-075

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

Request from BL Mash East Lansing, LLC for site plan and a special use permit approval to open a restaurant which serves alcohol in the white box space at 212 Albert Avenue. The 4,755 square foot space is zoned B-3 (City Center Commercial District).

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may participate electronically in all meetings. Please contact the Director of Planning, Building, and Development or visit the City's public meeting portal for electronic meeting access information:

Tim Dempsey Director of Planning, Building, and Development
410 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823
517.319.6887 or tdempsey@cityofeastlansing.com
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

For more information on the request please contact Director Tim Dempsey at the contact info above. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelplanningcommission@cityofeastlansing.com.

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

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

Marie E. Wicks
City Clerk

CP#23-076



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS

Walkability, affordability, diversity are features of a ‘15-minute neighborhood’

By **JOAN NELSON**

“The quality of the neighborhood, affordability and proximity to friends and family” were the three most important considerations for new home buyers, according to the 2022 National Association of Realtors’ “Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers.” I’ve been thinking about these key factors in determining where one chooses to live, and would like to share my (little-bit-biased) thoughts.

Quality of the Neighborhood I – Walkability

A dear friend once remarked to me that she appreciated that her suburban neighborhood was walkable — that is, that it had sidewalks. While it is certainly nice to have sidewalks, it’s even better to have sidewalks that take you somewhere: to eateries, parks, clinics, bookstores, fitness studios, markets, bars, coffee shops and more — without the use of a car.

What I love about Lansing’s east side, for instance, is its access to just about everything I need. Indeed, several spots on East Michigan Avenue and East Kalamazoo Street have some of the highest “walk-scores” in the city. Friends living in downtown Lansing, Old Town and REO Town also enjoy a long list of walkable destinations!

The walk score for your home is a calculation of how easily you can do things on foot — that is, how accessible various public destinations and amenities are to you. Calculate your walk score at: <https://www.walkscore.com/methodology.shtml>

My heart (from regular walking), pocketbook (from keeping my car in my garage) and the environment (the car again) all benefit from living within



walking distance of routine destinations. An additional benefit is running into friends and neighbors on my walking routes — something that would not happen if I were driving. As place-making pioneer Jane Jacobs noted, “Lowly, unpurposeful, and random as they appear, sidewalk contacts are the small change from which a city’s wealth of public life must grow.”

Jacobs was cited as inspiration by European Professor Carlos Moreno, who, along with a number of new urbanists, is leading the charge on implementation of the Fifteen Minute City (FMC) urban planning concept. An FMC is one in which “work, shopping, education, healthcare, and leisure can be reached by a 15-minute walk or bike ride from any point in the city.”

Climate change and COVID have heightened interest in FMCs; and wide-ranging conversations are taking place in urban centers on every continent about how design, transportation planning, green space, job centers, mixed use buildings and multicultural neighborhoods can create accessible, walkable, entrepreneurial and resilient FMCs. Portland, Oregon, is one

American city that has embraced the concept. So have Paris, Lagos, Melbourne, Bogota, Shanghai, Singapore, and more.

Quality of the Neighborhood II – Diversity

The diversity of uses, buildings and, most important, people in urban neighborhoods makes for a rich and stimulating environment. My son, a graduate of Eastern High School now living as a musician in Brooklyn, N.Y., once said to me that attending a high school where 26 languages are spoken by people from all socioeconomic backgrounds prepared him for “engaging with the world”.

Affordability — The already built (and hence, greenest) old craftsman, four-squares, farmhouses and bungalows in Lansing’s core neighborhoods

Two meet-ups with the City of Lansing’s principal planner

Continuing the recent focus in this column on shared-use housing strategies (granny flats, duplexes, co-ops, etc.) as a partial solution to low housing inventory and lack of affordable rentals, we invite you to join us for an informal conversation about potential changes to the Lansing Zoning Code that would make these strategies possible. **Andy Fedewa, principal planner for the City of Lansing, will be available at two different meet-ups to explain the current zoning code, discuss possible change and hear from you about your thoughts on the topic.**

The first meet-up is 4:30–5:45 p.m. Wednesday (April 12) in the Allen Neighborhood Center conference room, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. (Drop in to the meet-up during your weekly shopping at the Farmers Market!)

The second meet-up is 10:30–11:30 a.m. April 15 at Eastside Lansing Food Co-op, 1605 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. Stop by to chat and then take a moment to discover this new gem in the neighborhood.

If you plan to attend either meet-up, please RSVP to joannelsonlansing@gmail.com. Thanks!

are certainly more affordable than most suburban choices. As Jonathan Lum, owner of EXIT Realty Home Partners, notes, “These older homes have great ‘bones’ and beautiful craftsmanship. A more affordable purchase price allows new homebuyers to invest money they’ve saved on their purchase into energy efficiency and other improvements to modernize these century-old houses up to current standards.”

Proximity to friends and family — I can’t promise that buying a house in urban Lansing will land you closer to your family. However, I would bet that the physical and social conditions that shape daily life in many urban neighborhoods will result in myriad opportunities to forge new friendships and relationships with neighbors. We say on the east side that “more than a place, community is an experience.” And that experience includes frequent mingling and connecting with neighbors in local parks and at the weekly farmers market; enjoying lunch at the local eateries, coffee shops, or side-

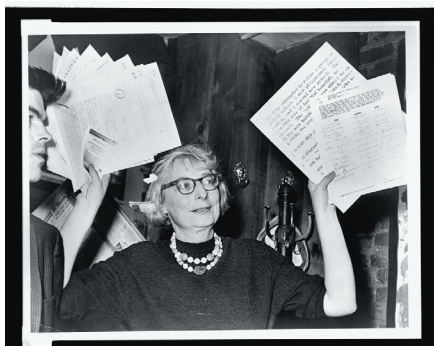
walk cafés; strolling to the local bookstore or library; and meeting dozens of other dog owners on twice daily excursions into the neighborhood. It may involve joining the local neighborhood association or neighborhood watch; participating in Neighborhoods in Bloom, tree planting days, porch parties, Stoopfest, or Neighbors Night Out. Knowing and celebrating a rich mix of neighbors makes for a nourishing environment in which to grow, live, work, play and age.

So consider investing in a Lansing home in one of the city’s 15-minute neighborhoods. Spend the money saved from a lower purchase price to create precisely the house that you want from the house that you buy.

Keep in mind that you are investing in and contributing to the life of a community. To paraphrase the slogan in the Sunday real estate ads: Enjoy the House; Love the Neighborhood.

(Joan Nelson was the founding executive director of the Allen Neighborhood Center. Her column appears in the first issue of the month.)

Opinion



Courtesy Creative Commons

As urban activist and author Jane Jacobs wrote: “Lowly, unpurposeful, and random as they appear, sidewalk contacts are the small change from which a city’s wealth of public life must grow.”

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to amend the Lansing Codified Ordinances by amending Chapter 206, Section 206.16 to increase the maximum contract amount for which a Lansing-based bidder has an opportunity to match the lowest bid from a non-Lansing based business.

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

For more information, please call 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, MMC/MiPMC
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#23-072

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

The arduous process of planning a theater season

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

Chad Swan-Badgero, the founder and artistic director of Peppermint Creek Theatre Co., has a stack of scripts he picks up and begins reading each fall.

“When I read a play and love it and feel like it’s something that we could do, I just put it into a stack of ‘I want to do these someday,’” he said. “So, that exists in my house — sometimes smaller, sometimes larger stacks of plays.”

As Peppermint Creek begins revving up for its season in the fall, Swan-Badgero dives into the stack of shows and starts reading, evaluating and trying to weigh which shows will work best for the next season.

“It’s like a Rubik’s cube,” he said.

Not only does he re-read pieces he found compelling, but he also solicits new scripts from directors who have worked with the company in the past. In addition, he has to figure out directors’ schedules so he can plug shows into a given time frame.

Throughout the process, Swan-Badgero isn’t just looking for a blockbuster musical. He’s seeking shows that fulfill the company’s mission.

“We’re really looking at social justice issues, which I think probably is a good way to boil down what our mission is about,” he said. “It’s really tackling topics that we’re grappling with both in our community in Lansing and in Michigan but also nationwide.”

Even if a show makes the first cut of landing a coveted

spot in the season, there are still more stumbling blocks. Shows are licensed by various agencies for performances. They’re generally released for professional performance rights first, then for amateur performances a year or more later. Some also have regional restrictions, preventing the show from being performed within a certain number of miles of another performance or within certain time frames. Each show’s rights and licensing are

different.

If the rights aren’t available, Swan-Badgero and his team have to return to the reading room and find another show to fit the bill.

For years, Lansing-area theater companies have refused to share what shows they’re producing with each other. This often leads to double bookings, as was seen this season with the Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts producing both “Kinky Boots” and “Misery” in the fall, followed by the Riverwalk Theatre performing both shows in the winter.

That changed this year. The companies have created a shared document to build their seasons and try to avoid double bookings and overlapping production dates.

Swan-Badgero credits the turnaround to Lansing’s Renegade Theatre Festival and its years of bringing people together.

“Before, we were talking when the season was about to start,” Swan-Badgero said. “We’re always so busy that we never had the time to be together, and Renegade provided the opportunity for us to do that and start to say, ‘Oh, look, we can share stuff, guys.’”

Another component of scheduling for Swan-Badgero and his team is where the show will happen. The company has been without a permanent space since residents gave the City of Lansing a green light to sell the Miller Performing Arts Center in 2019.

Swan-Badgero called the loss of the performing arts center a “wound in my soul.” But a salve for healing that wound is coming, he said.

“I’m so excited about what we’re going to be doing for space next season,” he said. “I can’t tell you yet because we’re arranging for an announcement — a big announcement because it also involves two other organizations in town. We’re hoping in the next three to four weeks to actually make a formal announcement together.”



Courtesy of Ariniko Artistry

Riverwalk Theatre produced “Kinky Boots” (pictured above) in March, just months after the Lebowsky Center for Performing Arts held its run of the musical. Chad Swan-Badgero, founder and artistic director of Peppermint Creek Theatre Co., said Lansing-area theater companies are collaborating for their upcoming seasons to avoid double bookings and overlapping production dates.

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



APRIL THEATER PRODUCTIONS

“Mrs. Harrison”

Williamston Theatre
Through April 23
8 p.m. Thursday–Saturday
3 p.m. Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
122 S. Putnam St., Williamston
williamstontheatre.org

Studio 60 Theatre
542 Auditorium Road, East
Lansing
theatre.msu.edu

April 13–16 and 20–23
7 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday–Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
riverwalktheatre.com

“Tartuffe”

Lansing Community College
Performing Arts
April 12–16
8 p.m. Wednesday–Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
LCC Black Box Theatre
411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
lcc.edu/showinfo

“Bright Star”

MSU Department of Theatre
April 19–23
7:30 p.m. Wednesday–Thursday
8 p.m. Friday–Saturday
2 p.m. Saturday–Sunday
Wharton Center Pasant
Theatre
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
theatre.msu.edu

“Precious Winners All (Shakespeare Shooketh Up!)”

MSU Department of Theatre
April 5–8
7:30 p.m. Wednesday–Thursday
8 p.m. Friday–Saturday

“Steel Magnolias”

Riverwalk Theatre

'Back up to full speed'

Capital City Film Festival returns for a 'fully revamped' bash

By **NICOLE NOECHEL**

"It's always our goal to find some sort of unused or vacant space to transform into a festival venue, and we always try to do a new one of those each year. Someplace different," said Capital City Film Festival co-director Dominic Cochran.

This year, the old Sears building in Frandor will serve as the festival's headquarters. The store and warehouse closed in 2020, and the Gillespie Group plans to turn it into a mixed-use entertainment, dining and housing development called "ROE-CO."

"This was something that was on our radar. I was personally born and raised in Lansing, so I had been going there my entire life, and I knew that it was currently empty. I also heard news of the future development plans, so we thought we'd kind of hit the sweet spot where it might be available for that sort of thing," Cochran said. "So, we reached out to the owners, and they were receptive, and now it's the perfect space. We're using about 30,000 square feet of the retail space for an art exhibit that has art from all seven continents, and we're using the warehouse space for music and films."

The festival, which starts today (April 5) and runs through April 15, is ramping back up to full scale this year after the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be a large art exhibit focusing on creativity during the pandemic as well as music, poetry, opportunities to meet filmmakers and, of course, a jam-packed schedule of film screenings.

"In terms of our programming, I would say what's really different this year is we have a massive highlight on Michigan films," said co-program director William Corbett. "We're opening with a movie called 'Hundreds of Beavers,' and that's a tale that could have been set in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in the 1800s. It's not made in Michigan — they're from Wisconsin — but it's a Midwest film. 'Hayseed' is going to be the closing night film, and that's an Eaton Rapids murder mystery. We've also put a lot into the Fortnight Film Contest this year to revamp it. There's a massive push for that, I think. The Michigan connections."

The festival has also invited many of

the films' creators to attend so guests and other filmmakers can network and gain a deeper understanding of the movies they're viewing.

"Almost all the films have live Q&As attached to them. If people want to have that connection with the filmmaker and meet filmmakers, almost every event is going to have a filmmaker present," Corbett said. "We've also established a new networking event. About an hour or so after the Fortnight Film Contest happens, after our awards show, all the filmmakers will have time to hang out and network with each other, so we're really hoping that goes well."

"If there's one other thing I could highlight this year, it's that we have a big link between the films and poetry," Corbett added. "We have a project going on called the CCFP Poetry Project. We've designated specific poets to come to film screenings, and they'll take in the film and write a poem about it. They'll all recite their poems at the start of the afterparty, and it'll kick off the afterparty with this retrospective of every day of the festival through all their different perspectives."

Poet-in-residence Nancy DeJoy said this year's larger festival has allowed the Poetry Project, which took shape in 2022, to blossom.

"This year, we actually have a jazz band doing some backup for the poets, so that'll be fun," she said. "We also have a big surprise. One of our visiting artists is also a poet, and he's been watching the videos that are going to be playing around the art exhibit, and he's written a poem inspired by one of those."

DeJoy is also the curator of the "Creativity in the Time of COVID-19: Art for Equity and Social Justice" exhibit, which will be on display at the Sears building, Impression 5 Science Center, REACH Studio Art Center, the Refugee Development Center and the Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center throughout April.

"The idea was to invite people from around the globe to send us creative artifacts they'd been making to cope with COVID, particularly people disproportionately affected by the pandemic. There are groups of people in the world who have much more lim-



Nicole Noechel/City Pulse

The old Sears building in Frandor will serve as this year's Capital City Film Festival headquarters. "We're using about 30,000 square feet of the retail space for an art exhibit that has art from all seven continents, and we're using the warehouse space for music and films," festival co-director Dominic Cochran said.

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

"Democracy is a pain in the ass, by the way," quips one interviewee in the documentary "Join or Die." Featuring an impressive range of interviewees, from community organizers to politicians such as Hillary Clinton (and even a glimpse of the pope), the movie delivers a host of reasons to join a club amid America's decline in civic participation. The main character of the story is

"Join or Die"

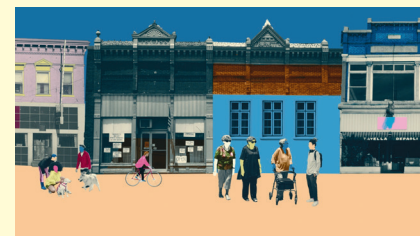
Saturday, April 8
5 p.m.

Frandor Sears building
3131 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Robert Putnam, an acclaimed social scientist who published "Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community,"

about the decline of social capital in the U.S. since 1950. The documentarian, Pete Davis, is one of Putnam's acolytes who recently graduated from Harvard Law School.

The title of the movie presents a clear mandate to join the fight for democracy or watch it perish, and the central conceit of the film is that the way to make our country stronger couldn't be more fun: Just join a club! The film presents a plethora of overlapping and even contradictory arguments through a collage aesthetic that represents the messy, creative processes of community building. Scientific lines of inquiry are interspersed with B-roll of old movies about detectives or animations about planting seeds.



If you're looking to be convinced of Davis' ideas through auteur editing and cinematic sleight of hand, you'll need to watch a different doc. But if you want to watch a new filmmaker discover what to do with so much story while refusing easy conclusions, you're in store for a crash course on all things community and many things America.

You'll walk away with plenty of interesting information, like how Italy decentralized its government in the 1970s. You'll be introduced to compelling characters like the woman who leads Atlanta's Black cycling community. If you're like me, you'll want more from each interviewee up and down the list, especially their theories of wealth iniquity, race, trust and how material conditions influence our ability to hold onto democracy and ourselves.

This documentary is an introduction to a highly relevant way of thinking about clubs: Our social experiences are incredibly valuable to us as individuals, but it is, in fact, our relationships that hold together the big, unwieldy thing that makes us Americans.

See Festival, Page 12

Festival

from page 12

ited access to resources — healthcare, food security, home security. Those people are disproportionately affected by things like pandemics,” DeJoy said. “We wanted to find a way to help to add their voices — their stories of despair and their voices of hope — to the stories that we’re telling about the pandemic. Not artists, but everyday people who are using creativity. Although some artists did respond to the

call. Many artists were disproportionately affected by COVID.”

The exhibit will feature a host of events at the Sears building, starting with the opening reception on Thursday (April 6).

“There will be music. There will be cash bars. There will be free food. There will be live painting. There will be lots of interactive, fun things for people to do,” DeJoy said of the reception.

On Saturday (April 8), Aztec dancers will perform a Mexican Indigenous dance ceremony from 2 to 3 p.m., and from 1 to 2 p.m. April 16, two of the ex-

hibit’s contributing artists, Emily Kray and Alexander Arce, will talk about the large poetry scroll they created.

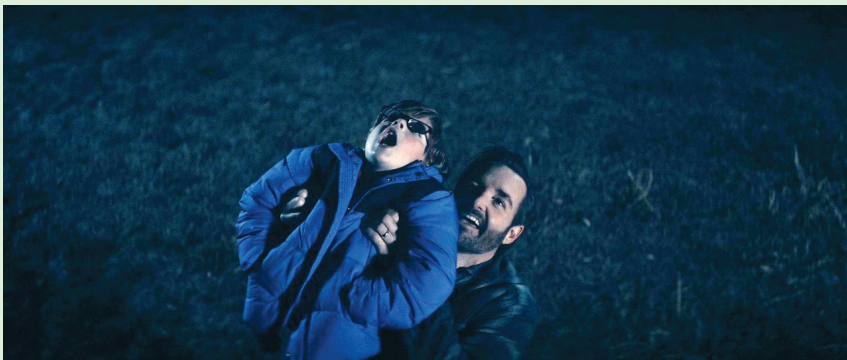
“There’s going to be a lot of flexibility in the fact that we’re going to have a lot of artists coming in and live painting,” co-curator Fatima Konore said. “We might have a violinist come in and play as people walk around and immerse themselves in this environment, so we really just want a community-based space.”

The staff has worked tirelessly to ensure the exhibit is accessible to anyone who wants to enjoy it. There will be a lounge area in the middle of the space with comfortable furniture, a trauma counselor in a closed-off room, a sensory-overload room, breastfeeding and diaper-changing rooms, a room with toys for children and a room with water, snacks and additional seating.

“We’ve done everything we can to

make all the members of our community feel invited. We have American Sign Language interpretation at all our main events. We’ve all worked with an organization called DisArt, so we understand neurodivergent needs and some physical needs and things like that,” DeJoy said. “We’re all really committed — all the students that have been working with us and who will be here as guides have had training and will be getting more training from DisArt and an organization called STQRY, which did all of our QR codes. Every piece of art has an audio description, in case somebody has a visual impairment, that you can access through the QR code on the label. The labels are in English, but the QR codes on the labels link to four other languages: Hindi, Mandarin, French and Spanish.”

See Festival, Page 17



By MARY CUSACK

“Aliens Abducted My Parents and Now I Feel Kinda Left Out,” which

“Aliens Abducted My Parents and Now I Feel Kinda Left Out”

Friday, April 7
8 p.m.
Frondor Sears building
3131 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing

premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January, will be the opening night feature at this year’s Capital City Film Festival. It’s a feel-good choice

for families who want to munch popcorn together while sharing the festival experience.

The Levan family moves from New York City to a small town in Utah to renovate and flip a house. Teen daughter Itsy (Emma Tremblay) wants nothing more than to get back to the city and decides to enter a writing contest to win a spot at a summer journalism workshop at New York University by writing an article about the strangest thing in her town. Her new friend Heather convinces her that the story should be about their classmate Calvin (Jacob Buster), the town weirdo who shows up to school in a spacesuit.

Itsy soon discovers that Calvin believes his parents were abducted by aliens and that they will be back to get him soon, as the comet the aliens’ ship follows is approaching Earth again. She becomes torn between her desire

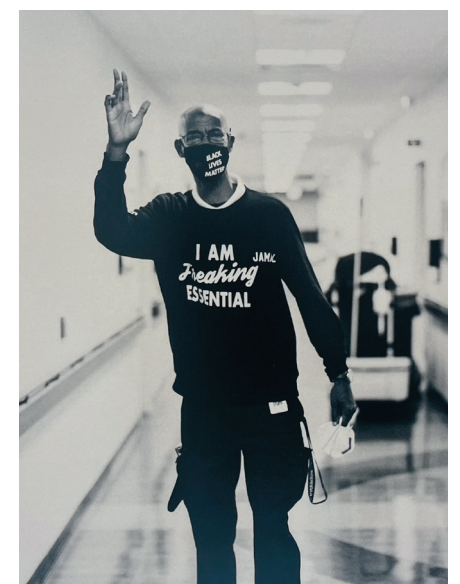
to win the contest and her growing affection for Calvin.

The plot is formulaic and predictable but executed well. It’s a story about family, friendships and young love with some sci-fi thrown in. The production value is high, including the cinematography and judicious use of special effects, but this cute, comforting story needs few such enhancements to effectively deliver its message.

Perhaps the most entertaining element of the story is Itsy’s precocious little brother, Evan (Kenneth Cummins). While characters like this can be grating, writer Austin Everett gave Evan some of the best lines, and Cummins delivers them with perfect timing.

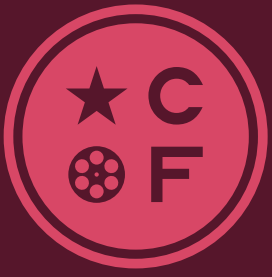
“Saturday Night Live” alumnus Will Forte does a fine job as Calvin’s father, but the other adults in supporting roles shine bright. As Itsy’s parents, Matt Biedel and Hailey Smith are a hoot. Elizabeth Mitchell, known for her roles on “Lost” and, recently, “The Outer Banks,” grounds the plot in the reality of a mother suffering an identity crisis.

In an interview with IndieWire, Everett and director Jake Van Wagoner noted that they wanted to create a family movie that harkened back to 1980s film fare. Although the film lacks the gravitas of “WarGames” or “ET the Extra-Terrestrial,” it does emulate the atmosphere of lighter teen adventure flicks of the era.



Nicole Noechel/City Pulse

“Creativity in the Time of COVID-19: Art for Equity and Social Justice,” on display at the Sears building, Impression 5 Science Center, REACH Studio Art Center, the Refugee Development Center and the Lansing Art Gallery and Education Center throughout April, tells the story of people disproportionately affected by the pandemic and the methods of creativity they used to cope.



Capital City Film Festival

April 5-15

A Home for the
Wild and Wonderful



APRIL 5-15, 2023



CCFF.CO / SCHEDULE

A Home for the Wild and Wonderful

The Capital City Film Festival is a showcase of artists from around the globe. The festival highlights independent films, live music, and interactive media over eleven days in five venues across Lansing, Michigan.

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA: @CAPCITYFILMFEST
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Passes & Tickets

- Film Events \$5 (AT DOOR ONLY)
- Special Events \$10 (AT DOOR ONLY)
- Red Carpet Premiere Party FREE
- All-Access Pass \$50
- Patron Pass \$100
*INCLUDES A DONATION & FREE POPCORN!

The CCFF all-access pass includes admission to all film screenings, special events, and parties. Snag yours now at capitalcityfilmfest.com.

2023 Schedule of Events

Wednesday, April 5

6:30 PM	PREVIEW NIGHT FEATURE: HUNDREDS OF BEAVERS *FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE*	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
8:45 PM	MUSIC VIDEO & POETRY SHORTS	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING

Thursday, April 6

6:00 PM	RED CARPET PREMIERE PARTY *FREE // UNTIL 10 PM*	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
7:00 PM	'JUST A VIBE' SHORTS	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING

Friday, April 7

6:00 PM	EVERYBODY WANTS TO BE LOVED *FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE*	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
6:00 PM	THE SUN RISES IN THE EAST *FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE*	LANSING PUBLIC MEDIA CENTER
8:00 PM	OPENING NIGHT FEATURE: ALIENS ABDUCTED MY PARENTS AND NOW I FEEL KINDA LEFT OUT	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
8:00 PM	JACK HAS A PLAN	LANSING PUBLIC MEDIA CENTER

Saturday, April 8

9:30 AM	FAMILY FUN SHORT FILMS *FREE // UNTIL 4:30 PM*	IMPRESSION 5 SCIENCE CENTER
12:00 PM	ONLY I CAN HEAR	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
12:00 PM	GOOD GUY WITH A GUN *DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE*	THE FLEDGE LANSING
2:30 PM	'FILM IMITATES LIFE' SHORTS *DIRECTOR IN ATTENDANCE*	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
2:30 PM	DOCUMENTARY SHORTS	THE FLEDGE LANSING
5:00 PM	JOIN OR DIE *DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE*	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
5:00 PM	SYMPHONIC CINEMA *FREE*	LANSING PUBLIC MEDIA CENTER
7:15 PM	GO THROUGH THE DARK *FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE*	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
7:15 PM	CHASING THE GHOST *FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE*	LANSING PUBLIC MEDIA CENTER
7:15 PM	GLOBAL SHORTS	THE FLEDGE LANSING
9:45 PM	ANIMATED SHORTS	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
9:45 PM	ELA VEEZHA POONCHIRA *DIRECTOR IN ATTENDANCE*	THE FLEDGE LANSING



Scan to see film trailers and more details here



Scan to see festival venues and directions here

Aliens Abducted My Parents and Now I Feel Kinda Left Out



Miserable after her family moves to a small town, teenage aspiring journalist Itsy befriends Calvin, her strange, space-obsessed neighbor who believes his parents were abducted by aliens, and joins him on his journey to find them. Winner of the “Best of Fest” award at the 2023 Sundance Film Festival; catch the Michigan premiere at CCFF.

Join or Die

Director in Attendance



JOIN OR DIE is a film about why you should join a club — and why the fate of America may depend on it. What makes democracy work? Why is American democracy in crisis? And, most importantly: What can we do about it? Join the director in attendance for Q&A at CCFF.

Tuesday, April 11

6:00 PM	WE ARE STILL HERE *FREE*	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
8:00 PM	RECIPROCITY PROJECT	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING

Wednesday, April 12

6:00 PM	THE BROKEN PROMISE *FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE*	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
8:00 PM	'HEAVY HITTERS' SHORTS	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
8:00 PM	SMOMID *FREE*	THE ROBIN THEATRE

Thursday, April 13

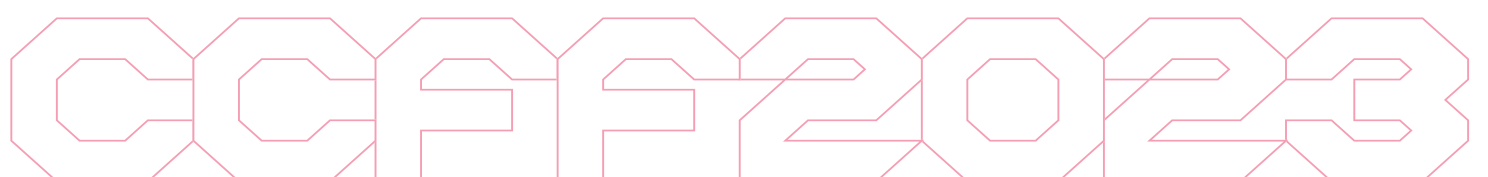
5:30 PM	FORTNIGHT FILM CONTEST: SCREENING & AWARDS	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
8:15 PM	FILMMAKER/ARTIST AFTERGLOW *FREE*	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
9:30 PM	DEPRAVED MIND *WORLD PREMIERE // DIRECTOR IN ATTENDANCE*	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING

Friday, April 14

5:30 PM	'COMEDY ODDITIES' SHORTS *FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE*	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
6:00 PM	KASHA	THE FLEDGE LANSING
8:00 PM	QUALITY SCARY PRESENTS: THIRTEEN GHOSTS	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING
8:00 PM	DEAR AUDREY *FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE*	THE FLEDGE LANSING
9:55 PM	'WICKED THRILLERS' SHORTS	THE FLEDGE LANSING
10:00 PM	AFTERGLOW FEATURING THE CORZO EFFECT *FREE*	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING

Saturday, April 15

12:00 PM	AFI SHORTS *FREE*	LANSING PUBLIC MEDIA CENTER
12:00 PM	FIRST VOICE GENERATION *FILMMAKERS IN ATTENDANCE*	THE FLEDGE LANSING
2:30 PM	THE BANALITY *FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE*	LANSING PUBLIC MEDIA CENTER
2:30 PM	KUMINA QUEEN *FILMMAKER IN ATTENDANCE*	THE FLEDGE LANSING
5:00 PM	CLOSING NIGHT FEATURE: SOFT	LANSING PUBLIC MEDIA CENTER
5:00 PM	'REALITY BENDERS' SHORTS	THE FLEDGE LANSING
7:00 PM	CLOSING NIGHT FEATURE: HAYSEED *CAST & CREW IN ATTENDANCE*	LANSING PUBLIC MEDIA CENTER
9:00 PM	DISSONANCE: OFFICIAL AFTERPARTY	FRANDOR SEARS BUILDING





Capital City Film Festival

April 5-15

A Home for the Wild and Wonderful

Free Global Art Exhibit



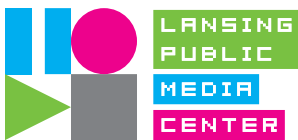
Presented by MSU and supported by the Mellon Foundation, CREATIVITY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19: ART FOR EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE represents a variety of voices, perspectives, and experiences during the pandemic. See the main exhibit at the Frandor Sears Building. Visit artequitylansing.org for details.

Dissonance: Afterparty



Lace up your combat boots or pop out the summer rave gear a little early for an evening of untraditional sights and sounds in Frandor. DISSONANCE opens with the CCFF Poetry Project Readings Symposium backed by afrofuturist quartet Cash & The Loud Pack. Just before midnight, the Detroit-based techno punk trio Decliner takes the main stage. DJ sets by Lodazz, Ganja Girl, Ace Deville, and DatGuyBlue.

SPONSORS



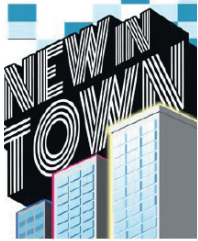
TRAC TION



Coffee trailer owners dock in DeWitt

By **NICOLE NOECHEL**

Since late 2020, Alex Crippen and her husband, Cody, have been selling coffee, ice cream and baked goods



Tin Cup Cafe & Creamery

121 E. Main St., DeWitt
7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Tuesday–Friday
8 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday
tincupcafecreamery.com

out of their iconic mint green trailer throughout the Lansing area. The roaming shop has become beloved by many, especially in DeWitt, so it's no surprise they chose to open up their first brick-and-mortar storefront there.

"This past November, we'd been looking for a place to open up a shop, and something opened up in DeWitt, so we jumped on it and did a lot of renovating and opened in February," Alex Crippen said.

Crippen said she's had a lot of hospitality jobs in the past, including working at a restaurant and hotel on Mackinac Island, but she always dreamed of opening her own business.

"I like how much everybody loves coffee, and ice cream, of course, so we just thought we would incorporate those things to make people happy and serve the community," she said.

The couple started with the trailer as a stepping stone toward opening a more permanent location. They amassed a following, and people began asking when they would open a storefront.

"We just kept an eye out, and it all worked out," Crippen said.

The cafe offers brewed coffee and tea, lattes, flavored lemonade, milkshakes, ice cream, bagels, waffles, smoothie bowls, gelato from Palazzolo's Artisan Dairy in Saugatuck and, on Saturdays, Groovy Donuts.

The coffee comes from Grounds & Hounds Coffee Co., which donates 20% of all the profits it earns to animal rescue and welfare organizations throughout the country. Apart from supporting that initiative, Tin Cup sells "Pup Cup" drinks for dogs and donates the proceeds to Happy Feet Pet Rescue in Lansing.

Crippen says business at the new location has been great so far. The couple is considering opening on Mondays

starting next week, and the cafe will expand its hours to later in the evenings starting in May.

"DeWitt has just been an awesome spot for us. Everybody's been super supportive and excited about it, so that definitely helps us with the day-to-day, and we've met a lot of awesome people, so it's just really cool to be there," Crippen said.

With the brick-and-mortar space, the couple has also been able to start hosting events.

"We want to support the community and do different things to get people out of the house and doing some fun things around town. We have a couple artists that are coming in to do pop-up shops, we've got some painting events coming up, and we have Cocoa Confections coming in and selling cookies this weekend," Crippen said. "We're hoping to do live music in May. We want to incorporate all the other local businesses and artists and talent and have a place for them to come and share their gifts with the community."

For now, Crippen said she and her husband are working on getting the new store fully up and running before



Courtesy of Tin Cup Cafe & Creamery

Tin Cup Cafe & Creamery, which opened a brick-and-mortar shop in DeWitt in February, combines its fan-favorite milkshakes and Groovy Donuts, which it sells on Saturdays, to create its hefty Monster Shakes.

branching out and growing the business.

"We'd love to grow, whether that looks like more coffee shops around the Lansing area, maybe another coffee truck, things like that. We're just waiting to see where everything falls to know what to do next," she said.

Festival

from page 17

Overall, DeJoy hopes the exhibit "inspires people to expand the story they know about the pandemic and its effects on people's lives."

"It's easy for some of us to forget that the pandemic is raging in many parts of the world. We want to add the voices of people who sent us creative work to that story. Everybody that comes here will take away not the whole picture, but a bigger picture at least," she said. "The other thing we're really hoping is that they're inspired to do something creative themselves. People are going to be able to draw on some of these walls, we'll have markers and paint around, we'll have sketchbooks people can take with them or leave us a page, and we'll be pasting all of that up and adding it to the exhibit."

Corbett hopes this year's festival as a whole will encourage community members to "buy in" and become more involved in the future.

"I hope they come every year and tell all their friends about it and volunteer and make a Fortnight Film and just get involved in the whole process and the whole community," he said. "There's an active community that talks about this film fest year-round, and it's very fun to be a part of. The more people put into it, the more they get out of it."

He's especially excited to showcase all the festival crew has done to transform the Sears building into a venue worthy of hosting one of Lansing's biggest events.

"You drive past Sears, but then there's something going on inside, and you can go and revisit that and see that nostalgia. I've been in there, I bought a coat with my mom, and then 10 years later I'm here and they're painting the walls," he said. "It's just really cool to be a part of an event that's like the last handprint on the building before they turn it into something else."

By **LIZY FERGUSON**

"Chasing the Ghost" centers on drug-addicted anesthesiologist Clay Huxley, who must battle demons, both real and figurative, in order to save those closest to him. Huxley's demanding job, personal losses and family history of addiction all make it seem nearly impossible for him to kick his habit despite its continued and ravaging effects.

"Chasing the Ghost"

Saturday, April 8
7:15 p.m.
Lansing Public
Media Center
2500 S.
Washington Ave.,
Lansing

When Dion, a mystical top-hatted figure, offers him an addict's dream proposition — remaining constantly high until death — he's naturally intrigued. There is, of course, a catch, which hints at the all-or-nothing nature of addiction while turning the usual narrative on its head: If he doesn't manage to stay high, he'll lose those he loves one by one. Dion's proposition is a curse disguised as a blessing (a suitcase of drugs).

As Huxley navigates the absolute head job of betraying his family and friends by using — and by doing so, saving their lives — the audience meets a delightful and diverse collection of supporting characters. My favorite is the quirky, cartoonish rehab



director, Angel, who proves integral to the inevitable end-of-thriller twist. The viewer is taken all over Detroit, where the movie is clearly proud to be set, with many notable landmarks and a main character whose entire off-duty wardrobe consists of Motor City-themed T-shirts.

Positively littered with symbolism and metaphors, some transparent and many more opaque (to me, anyway), "Chasing the Ghost" is an addiction story that attempts to be funny, dark and morally instructive — a difficult web of themes to weave, but it pulls it off adequately enough to keep the viewer interested and entertained. I deducted points for a completely unnecessary sex scene, but I have to give this movie credit for putting a new spin on the tried-and-true drug abuse narrative as well as its excellent use of full-body Lycra suits.

‘Mrs. Harrison’ strikes at the heart, earns gasps and laughs

By **CHELSEA LAKE ROBERTS**

What if one person’s story had the power to impart a profound insight, to crack you open in a way that let in light? What if, upon hearing this story, you had an instantaneous and incredible creative breakthrough? You wrote, for example, an entire play in just one night, when before you had been blocked. Now, with your energetic confidence sparkling, this incredible tale not only gives you a purpose but catapults you to near stardom. This is the story of “Mrs. Harrison.”

“Mrs. Harrison”
Through April 23
8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday
3 p.m. Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Williamston Theatre
122 S. Putnam St.,
Williamston
517-655-7469
williamstontheatre.org

But consider the same story in the hands of someone else. Someone who isn’t like you. Someone who isn’t emboldened by the tale you found so much to learn from but is dragged down and suffers in purgatory because of it. The same story that inspired you haunts another woman to her core. She’s bitter. And, what’s worse, she wants her story back.

“Mrs. Harrison” comes to the Williamston Theatre from the nation-

al bestselling author and former Elle columnist R. Eric Thomas. The award-winning play has been billed as a dark comedy, but I disagree. The 75-minute drama (performed without an intermission) may contain elements of calculated humor, but what I experienced was a tense and thrilling matchup of wit and words between two old college “friends.”

Holly, a stand-up comedian turned The Moth-style storyteller, encounters her old classmate Ayesha, a now-successful playwright, in a luxurious faculty bathroom during a college reunion. Kirk Domer’s set design impresses with a technical flourish that delivers onstage running water and large, ornate mirrors. When Ayesha can’t get the water to run, Holly helps her, beginning the suspenseful rekindling of their past. The costumes, sound and lights work together seamlessly to highlight the journey both women traverse as they slowly unravel each other’s actions and their own desires.

Jasmine Rivera’s craft shines through in her deft direction of this psychologically complex script that requires equal measures of power and



Review

See ‘Mrs. Harrison,’ Page 19

East Lansing Kids Camps

See us this summer for:

- Drama Camps
- Kids & Clay Camps
- Nerf Fun Camps
- Youth Art Camps
- Tennis Camps

To register contact us at:
East Lansing Hannah Community Center
East Lansing Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Arts
(517) 333-2580, ext. 0
www.cityofeastlansing.com/classes
CALL US if you need our help to register.



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All girls are invited to register today at GirlScoutCamp.org.

High times in Michigan? You be the judge

By LUCAS HENKEL

It's springtime in the city, which means 420 is just around the corner, and folks from all over Lansing are prepping for the biggest weed holiday of the year. High Times, a monthly magazine and cannabis brand that has advocated for the legalization of cannabis and other counterculture ideas since its founding in 1974, will celebrate the holiday as it rolls out Michigan's 4th annual High Times Cannabis Cup.

The High Times Cannabis Cup is the world's leading cannabis competition, festival and trade show, celebrating all things weed through instructional seminars, expositions, celebrity appearances, concerts, product showcases and more. Hosted in states that have legalized medical and recreational marijuana, the Cannabis Cup stands as the foremost gathering place for the cannabis community.

The competition moved from assigned expert judges to crowd-sourced rankings during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, High Times is expecting to have the largest pool of judges in the history of the competition, and stoners throughout Michigan will have the chance to sample some of the best weed in the state in the newly named High

Times Cannabis Cup Michigan: People's Choice Edition.

Judging kits will be available for purchase on April 15 at exclusive dispensaries throughout the state, with more than 200 kits available for each of the recreational (referred to as Adult Use) and medical categories. The price of each kit will depend on the category. For example, in 2021, the Solvent Concentrates kit included 30 ½-gram samples (a retail value of about \$600) and was available for \$350. Meanwhile, the Edibles: Non-Gummies kit included 17 100-milligram samples (a retail value of about \$160) for \$119. If you're interested in grabbing your

own judging kit, a full list of participating dispensaries can be found on cannabis-cup.com. Lansing locals will be excited to hear that Pure Options Frandor is included on the list.

Folks who purchase a judging kit can submit their reviews through the judging portal on the Cannabis Cup website until April 25. The winners will be announced July 9. Last year's winners included Society C's Spritzer (Adult Use Indica Flower), Local-Grove's Runtz (Medical Hybrid Flower), Element x Pro Gro's Lunar Lemon live resin joint (Adult Use Infused Pre-Rolls), Glorious Cannabis Co. x

Superior Solventless' PebbleZ live rosin (Adult Use Non-Solvent Concentrates) and Afternoon Delite's Blue Lemonade gummies (Adult Use Edibles: Gummies), just to name a few.

The official list of contestants and products hasn't been announced yet, but the event sponsors have been posted. This year, the contest will be presented by House of Dank and sponsored by brands such as J's Terp House Cannabis, Dutch Girl Donuts, Banned Cannabis Edible Co., Canna Boys, Petro710, True North Collective and True North Confections, Five Star Extracts, Dutch Touch Genetics, Wellbudds, Choice Laboratories, Uplyfted Cannabis Co., Heavyweight Heads and Franklin Fields.

Category is: Ganja Ball

The world is pretty scary right now for transgender and nonbinary people. It's important that these folks, as well as other members of the LGBTQ+ community, have a safe space to celebrate 420. This year, look no further than The Fledge, which will host a Ganja Ball on April 20 that's expected to be full of music, love and light.

Hosted by Auroara Manifesto, the event will feature drag artists, burlesque, dancing, an art show and more. The star-studded lineup includes Tiffany Tite, Cocoa Caliente, DeeDee Chaunte, Phoenix Aftermath, Sapphire Shade, Aaliyah Paradisco and DJ Ace



Courtesy of High Times Cannabis Cup

Stoners throughout Michigan will have the chance to sample and judge some of the state's best cannabis products for this year's High Times Cannabis Cup Michigan: People's Choice Edition.

DeVile. In the spirit of queer culture, the Ganja Ball will also feature an old-school ballroom segment where attendees can compete in different runway categories for a chance to win cash prizes. Categories include Green Capital Carpet (best green outfit), Clowning Around (fun and creative outfits) and Leather & Lace.

Those interested in attending the Ganja Ball can snag a ticket on Eventbrite for \$10.

'Mrs. Harrison'

from page 18

restraint. Actress Alysia Kolasz plays a Holly that goes from snarky to sinister. Although talkative, her true intentions slowly creep up on the audience as her demeanor darkens.

Williamston Theatre newcomer Janai Lashon plays a nearly impenetrable Ayesha, filled with the presence and poise that come from a purpose connected to — but also greater than — one's self. Ayesha's arc is one I have been longing to see on the stage, even though her story is not mine to fully grasp. Her character's explanations to Holly are gifts sincerely given by the playwright, who undoubtedly understands the demographic makeup of America's theatergoing audience and is writing to move you — yes, you. Each woman's depth and conviction continue to unfold even after you leave the

theater. With a five-week run, I would recommend viewing the play twice.

The show tackles big ideas: race, power, belonging, history and ownership. It's also about art school. Anyone who has taken a theater or English class will resonate with the scene where Ayesha calls out Holly for glorifying a personal tragedy in an attempt to make her story important for a college class.

On my drive home, I considered my own true, sometimes tragic stories that I've tried to make important. Falling into predictable suburban categories like friends in rehab, family deaths and illicit affairs that impacted but didn't involve me, these stories feel important, yet they sit on my shelves even after rounds of revisions. Why don't they work?

As I pulled up to a spotlight, I could feel something cracking open, the slight twinge of a new thought entering my brain. The light turned green. I was still thinking about "Mrs. Harrison."



Courtesy of Chris Purchis

In "Mrs. Harrison," Holly (Alysia Kolasz), a stand-up comedian turned The Moth-style storyteller, encounters her old classmate Ayesha (Janai Lashon), a now-successful playwright, in a bathroom during a college reunion. When Ayesha can't get the water to run, Holly helps her, beginning the suspenseful rekindling of their past.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"On the Hunt"-- they've been relocated.
by Matt Jones
© 2023 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Skip levels, in early video games
- 5. Blasts with a ray gun
- 9. Part of a pasture
- 13. Standoffish
- 15. Fitzgerald of songdom
- 16. Sought damages in court
- 17. It's now just ... a bowl of hot water with roses and daisies (look to the right!)
- 19. Cribbage score markers
- 20. Jot stuff down
- 21. Bushy maze barrier
- 22. Early color TVs
- 23. Lowly, as a task
- 24. Mattress's place
- 27. "Where've you ___?"
- 29. Early 8-bit game console
- 30. Say with certainty
- 31. Philanthropic providers
- 33. They're now just ... bread and lettuce meals (look above!)
- 39. Julius Caesar's assassin
- 40. Comedian Kondabolu
- 41. Sat ___ (GPS system)
- 44. Iowa State's town
- 45. Encouraged, with "up"
- 47. Elite squads
- 49. "___ & The Edge: A Sort of Homecoming"
- 50. System of principles
- 51. Recreational noodle?

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61					62				63		

- 56. "Bus Stop" dramatist William
 - 57. It's now just ... a tree in your texts (look to the left!)
 - 58. Wet weather
 - 59. Ballet jump
 - 60. Senegal's capital
 - 61. Winter transportation
 - 62. Get snippy with
 - 63. Ceremonial flames
- DOWN
- 1. Be carried on a breeze
 - 2. "It was ___ dream"
 - 3. Kasparov piece
 - 4. Hostile takeover
 - 5. Outer parts of peels
 - 6. Succulent leaf plant
 - 7. Favorable factor
 - 8. Sugarhouse stuff
 - 9. "Trembling" tree
 - 10. Caught up to speed
 - 11. Singer Carly ___ Jepsen
 - 12. Ford fiascoes
 - 14. Boundary marker
 - 18. Type of show or warrior
 - 21. Painter Matisse
 - 23. Cat comment
 - 24. Certain college degs.
 - 25. Green of "Casino Royale"
 - 26. Toothpaste form
 - 27. Psychocheck booster
 - 28. Terminal points
 - 31. Invitation info
 - 32. It may help you find your classes on the first day
 - 34. Playhouse offering
 - 35. Adds up
 - 36. Barn bale
 - 37. "... ___ he drove out of sight"
 - 38. "Science Kid" of PBS
 - 41. Lowest points
 - 42. Discordant, as music
 - 43. Compete (for)
 - 45. Lightning flash
 - 46. Like a hungry pet, probably
 - 48. Change, as a document
 - 49. Skeleton parts
 - 51. Legal appeal
 - 52. Cheerios ingredients
 - 53. Adjective that the Addams family are "altogether"
 - 54. Slightly opened
 - 55. Spare in the trunk
 - 57. Late-night wear

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

April 5-11, 2023

ARIES (March 21-April 19): I hope that in the coming weeks, you will keep your mind bubbling with zesty mysteries. I hope you'll exult in the thrill of riddles that are beyond your current power to solve. If you cultivate an appreciation of uncanny uncertainties, life will soon begin bringing you uncanny certainties. Do you understand the connection between open-hearted curiosity and fertile rewards? Don't merely tolerate the enigmas you are immersed in — love them!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): An old sadness is ripening into practical wisdom. A confusing loss is about to yield a clear revelation you can use to improve your life. In mysterious ways, a broken heart you suffered in the past may become a wild card that inspires you to deepen and expand your love. Wow and hallelujah, Taurus! I'm amazed at the turnarounds that are in the works for you. Sometime in the coming weeks, what wounded you once upon a time will lead to a vibrant healing. Wonderful surprise!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): What is the true and proper symbol for your sign, Gemini? Twins standing shoulder to shoulder as they gaze out on the world with curiosity? Or two lovers embracing each other with mischievous adoration in their eyes? Both scenarios can accurately represent your energy, depending on your mood and the phase you're in. In the coming weeks, I advise you to draw on the potency of both. You will be wise to coordinate the different sides of your personality in pursuit of a goal that interests them all. You will also place yourself in harmonious alignment with cosmic rhythms as you harness your passionate urge to merge in a good cause.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Some scientists speculate that more people suffer from allergies than ever before because civilization has over-sanitized the world. The fetish for scouring away germs and dirt means that our immune systems don't get enough practice in fending off interlopers. In a sense, they are "bored" because they have too little to do. That's why they fight stuff that's not a threat, like tree pollens and animal dander. Hence, we develop allergies to harmless substances. I hope you will apply this lesson as a metaphor in the coming weeks, fellow Cancerian. Be sure the psychological component of your immune system isn't warding off the wrong people and things. It's healthy for you to be protective, but not overprotective in ways that shut out useful influences.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): One night in 1989, Leo evolutionary biologist Margie Profet went to sleep and had a dream that revealed to her new information about the nature of menstruation. The dream scene was a cartoon of a woman's reproductive system. It showed little triangles being carried away by the shed menstrual blood. Eureka! As Profet lay in bed in the dark, she intuited a theory that no scientist had ever guessed: The sloughed-off uterine lining had the key function of eliminating pathogens, represented by the triangles. In subsequent years, she did research to test her idea, supported by studies with electron microscopes. Now her theory is regarded as fact. I predict that many of you Leos will soon receive comparable benefits. Practical guidance will be available in your dreams, twilight awareness and altered states. Pay close attention!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You don't know what is invisible to you. The truths that are out of your reach may as well be hiding. The secret agendas you are not aware of are indeed secret. That's the not-so-good news, Virgo. The excellent news is that you now have the power to uncover the rest of the story — at least some of it. You will be able to penetrate below the surface and find buried riches. You will dig up missing information that has prevented you from understanding what has been transpiring. There may be a surprise or two ahead, but they will ultimately be agents of healing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Visionary philosopher

Buckminster Fuller referred to pollution as a potential resource we have not yet figured out how to harvest. A company called Algae Systems does exactly that. It uses wastewater to grow algae that scrub carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and yield carbon-negative biofuels. Can we invoke this approach as a metaphor that's useful to you? Let's dream up examples. Suppose you're a creative artist. You could be inspired by your difficult emotions to compose a great song, story, painting or dance. Or, if you're a lover who is in pain, you could harness your suffering to free yourself of a bad habit or ensure that an unpleasant history doesn't repeat itself. Your homework, Libra, is to figure out how to take advantage of a "pollutant" or two in your world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Soon you will graduate from your bumpy lessons and enter a smoother, silkier phase. You will find refuge from the naysayers as you create a liberated power spot for yourself. In anticipation of this welcome transition, I offer this motivational exhortation from poet Gwendolyn Brooks: "Say to them, say to the down-keepers, the sun-slappers, the self-soilers, the harmony-hushers, 'Even if you are not ready for day, it cannot always be night.'" I believe you are finished with your worthwhile but ponderous struggles, Scorpio. Get ready for an excursion toward luminous grace.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I periodically seek the counsel of a Sagittarian psychic. She's half-feral and sometimes speaks in riddles. She tells me she occasionally converses by phone with a person she calls "the ex-prime minister of Narnia." I confided in her that lately, it has been a challenge for me to keep up with you Sagittarians because you have been expanding beyond the reach of my concepts. She gave me a pronouncement that felt vaguely helpful, though it was also a bit over my head: "The archer may be quite luxuriously curious and furiously hilarious; studiously lascivious and victoriously delirious; salubriously industrious but never lugubriously laborious." Here's how I interpret that: Right now, pretty much anything is possible if you embrace unpredictability.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "I'm not insane," says Capricorn actor Jared Leto. "I'm voluntarily indifferent to conventional rationality." That attitude might serve you well in the coming weeks. You could wield it to break open opportunities that were previously closed due to excessive caution. I suspect you're beginning a fun phase of self-discovery that will teach you a lot about yourself. As you learn, I hope you will experiment with being at least somewhat indifferent to conventional rationality. Be willing to be surprised. Be receptive to changing your mind about yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): People of all genders feel urges to embellish their native beauty with cosmetic enhancements. I haven't done so myself, but I cheer on those who use their flesh for artistic experiments. At the same time, I am also a big fan of us loving ourselves exactly as we are. And I'm hoping that in the coming weeks, you will emphasize the latter over the former. I urge you to indulge in an intense period of maximum self-appreciation. Tell yourself daily how gorgeous and brilliant you are. Tell others, too! Cultivate a glowing pride in the gifts you offer the world. If anyone complains, tell them you're doing the homework your astrologer gave you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I encourage you to amplify the message you have been trying to deliver. If there has been any shyness or timidity in your demeanor, purge it. If you have been less than forthcoming in speaking the whole truth and nothing but the truth, boost your clarity and frankness. Is there anything you could do to help your audience be more receptive? Any tenderness you could express to stimulate their willingness and ability to see you truly?

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Answers on page 23

SUDOKU

Intermediate

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

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, April 5

"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.

"Blind Spot," "DIEGEST," "The Nightly News," MFA Exhibition - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Broad Underground Film Series: "Usó Justo" - Highlights filmmakers and artists of Mexican heritage who use, mobilize and experiment with found footage to rearticulate a personal, informal and just account of history. 7 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Capital City Film Festival - Showcases an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive media and more in Michigan's capital city. 6:30 p.m. Frandor Sears Building, 3131 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Visit ccff.co for a full schedule of events.

Code Club! - Learn to make websites, apps, animations and more! No coding experience necessary. Grades 3+. Register at hq.girlswhocode.com using club code MI45609. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Coloring for Adults - Supplies will be provided. 6:15 p.m. CADL - Mason Library, 145 W. Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason.

"Creativity in the Time of COVID-19: Art for Equity and Social Justice" - On display at the Frandor Sears Building, Lansing Art Gallery, REACH Studio Art Center, Impression 5 Science Center and Refugee Development Center. artequitylansing.org.

Financial Decisions for Young Adults - Learn about the options available to you after high school and things to consider about managing

your money long-term. Registration req. 5:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

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

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

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

Michigan Young Birders Network Virtual Meeting - Free, virtual networking group for individuals ages 13-18 interested in birds. 7 p.m. Meeting ID: 946 4329 0865. Password: Chickadee.

Percussion Ensemble - 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

'Performer's Workshop,' presented by James Keelaghan - Review every element needed to sculpt a marvelous performance. 6-9 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-337-7744. tenpoundfiddle.org.

"Printmaking in Full Color" - Artist Sarah Dershem uses monotype and linocut printmaking to explore a lifelong admiration of the natural world. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

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

Spring Frame Show - Huge selection of glasses frames for men, women and petites. Door prizes and giveaways. 2-7 p.m. EYES Optometry Boutique, 221 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. 517-236-7090. eyesoptometryboutique.com.

Weaving the Web: Earth - 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.

Thursday, April 6

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

All About My Body - Ages 2-4. 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Biology on Tap - Two professors, researchers or biologists discuss their favorite things about the natural world around them. Trivia, raffles and prizes! 21+. 7 p.m. Michigan Wildlife Conservancy Wildlife Pub, 6380 Drumheller Road, Bath. facebook.com/bioontap.

"Blind Spot," "DIEGEST," "The Nightly News," MFA Exhibition - 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Hippity Hop 5K

Saturday, April 8
11 a.m.
Potter Park Zoo
1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing

The Hippity Hop 5K is back for a seventh year, featuring an Easter egg hunt, children's activities and visits with the Easter Bunny.

The race will kick off near Potter Park Zoo's entrance and will take runners around the Lansing River Trail. Attendees can start any time from 11 to 11:15 a.m. There's also a virtual option for those who can't make it in person. All registered participants will receive a finisher's medal, and the winners of each age division will receive a special medal and a gift certificate to a local business.

All participants receive free same-day entry into the zoo. Additionally, children can enjoy activities provided by Impression 5 Science Center, Capital Area District Library and Home Depot's Okemos location as well as photos with the Easter Bunny and an Easter egg hunt for ages 12 and under at 10:30 a.m.

Entry into the race is \$30 for adults and \$25 for children 12 and under, but there's a \$3 discount per person if you register with three or more people. Registration for the egg hunt only is \$20. All proceeds go to the Child Benefit Fund, which assists at-risk families in Ingham County. Register by midnight on April 7 at runsignup.com/race/mi/lansing/hippityhop5k.



Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Capital Area Audubon Society April Meeting - Vice President Patricia Deventer will present highlights of her recent travel and birdwatching in Antarctica. 7 p.m. Foster Community Center room 213, 200 N. Foster Ave., Lansing. capitalareaaudubon.org.

Capital City Film Festival - Showcases an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive media and more in Michigan's capital city. 6 p.m. Frandor Sears Building, 3131 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Visit ccff.co for a full schedule of events.

"Creativity in the Time of COVID-19: Art for Equity and Social Justice" - On display at the Frandor Sears Building, Lansing Art Gallery, REACH Studio Art Center, Impression 5 Science Center and Refugee Development Center. artequitylansing.org.

Glow-in-the-Dark Egg Hunt - Find up to three eggs per child, then trade them in for a treat. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

James Keelaghan - 7:30 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. 517-337-7744. tenpoundfiddle.org.

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

Movers & Readers Storytime - Lively activities and stories for children ages 0-3 and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. CADL - Mason Library, 145 W.

Ash St., Mason. 517-676-9088. cadl.org/about/our-locations/mason.

"Mrs. Harrison" - Contains adult content and language. Please check our website for a note about trigger warnings. 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Paint Party at Ledge Craft Lane - Paint with us step by step! Grab a little sunshine with this painting of cheery yellow flowers. 6:30 p.m. 120 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. paintyourpoison.com.

"Printmaking in Full Color" - Artist Sarah Dershem uses monotype and linocut printmaking to explore a lifelong admiration of the natural world. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

Protect Your Peeps - See how many Peeps your raft can hold without sinking or Peeps falling into the water! Intended for grades K-3. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

Friday, April 7

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.

All About My Body - Ages 2-4. 10 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Meranda's Cleaning. Where Excellence is Our Habit

What Do We Clean?
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Hello, we are a new cleaning company who offer many forms of cleaning. We have 6 years of experience and would love to work for you. Please email us for a free estimate at any time.



Live & Local CityPULSE

The Avenue

2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Camp Culture, False Harbor, Soccer
 Fri., April 7, 9 p.m.
Joshua Powell, Shay Leigh and the Woodpeckers, Across the Hall
 Sat., April 8, 9 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.

204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Brian Shelley
 Fri., April 7, 7 p.m.
Copper Johnson
 Sat., April 8, 7 p.m.

The Exchange

314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
The New Rule
 Fri., April 7, and Sat., April 8, 9 p.m.

The Green Door

2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Soulstice
 Fri., April 7, 8:30 p.m.
Geech
 Sat., April 8, 8:30 p.m.

The Junction

410 S. Clippert St., Lansing
Michigan Made College Tour After Party with Sada Baby, YN Jay, Aj-Fashow, Nick LaVelle
 Fri., April 7, 10 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.

518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
The Hi-Views
 Sat., April 8, 7 p.m.

Mac's Bar

2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Lee Cleaveland & The Lefthand Band, Corduroy Pants, In a Daydream, Clipboards
 Fri., April 7, 8 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel

521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
The Wild Honey Collective Trio
 Fri., April 7, 8 p.m.

The Robin Theatre

1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
James Keelaghan
 Thurs., April 6, 7:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat

1213 Turner Road, Lansing
Michael Dease Album Release Party
 Fri., April 7, 7 p.m.
Saturn V
 Sat., April 8, 8 p.m.

Wharton Center

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
Michigan Made College Tour with Sada Baby, RGS Damedot, YN Jay, Nick LaVelle
 Fri., April 7, 7 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse

3700 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston
Jessey Adams
 Wed., April 5, 7 p.m.
Aces High
 Sat., April 8, 7 p.m.
Open Mic Night with Scott Seth
 Tues., April 11, 7 p.m.



TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

RAW POWER



Courtesy photos

Lee Cleaveland & The Lefthand Band will headline a raucous show Friday (April 7) at Mac's Bar.

Lee Cleaveland & The Lefthand Band bring Detroit to Mac's

For those searching for Motor City-made rock 'n' roll this weekend, a drive to Detroit is unnecessary because Lee Cleaveland & The Lefthand Band is rolling into town.

The high-octane outfit plays Mac's Bar Friday (April 7), along with openers Corduroy Pants, In a Daydream and Clipboards.

Like many bands from Detroit's illustrious musical past, Lee Cleaveland & The Lefthand Band combines raucous energy with blasts of infectious hooks.

The result is a diverse, well-crafted hybrid sound that blends '60s, surf and folk rock.

Born missing his left arm below the elbow, Cleaveland is a congenital amputee often equipped with a mind-controlled bionic prosthetic. (Be sure to check out his Stooges-esque "Cyborg Man" video on YouTube.) His tenacity, detailed in his 2017 TEDx talk, is unquestionable.

"It's definitely given me a different approach to problem-solving and the way I approach any task," Cleaveland told City Pulse in 2018. "I don't take myself too seriously and just have fun with it. At first, guitar was definitely tough. I thought, 'How am I going to do that?' A lot of people didn't think I could, either."

Cleaveland began performing under his own name in the summer of 2017. Back then, he mostly played tunes with his guitar and harmonica at "biker bars and punk basements." By April 2018, he added a full band for his set at Stoopfest, Lansing's DIY music festival. Afterward, the band stayed together and played five shows at the Traverse City Film Festival, opening for filmmaker and co-founder Michael Moore.

Today, the band has grown into a five-piece with the additions of a lead guitarist and saxophonist — though Cleaveland has no problem covering many bases on his own. As a touring and session musician, he plays 10 instruments, often leaning toward his guitar, trumpet and bass. Over the last eight years, he's worked everywhere from gritty clubs to musical theater orchestra pits. As a singer-songwriter, his music has been heard in feature films, independent shorts, plays and podcasts.

The band's self-titled EP, released independently in April 2019, was recorded by Mark Stewart at Raydon Studio in Keego Harbor. Since then, the band has gigged extensively throughout Michigan, the Midwest and the East Coast.

Outside of music, Cleaveland also juggles work as a filmmaker, actor and stage manager.

He graduated from Michigan State University in spring 2018, double majoring in acting and media and information and minoring in musical theater. But, come Friday night at Mac's Bar, it'll be all about rock 'n' roll.

For more information, visit facebook.com/leebcleaveland.

Lee Cleaveland & The Lefthand Band

With Corduroy Pants, In a Daydream, Clipboards
 Friday, April 7
 Mac's Bar
 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
 8 p.m.
 18+, \$10
macsbar.com



Events

from page 21

Beginning West Coast Swing Group Dance Class

- Wear casual clothing and smooth-soled shoes. Singles or couples welcome. Seven-week class. 7 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. sparrow.org.

“Blind Spot,” “DIEGEST,” “The Nightly News,” MFA Exhibition - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Capital City Film Festival - Showcases an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive media and more in Michigan’s capital city. 6 p.m. Multiple locations. Visit cccf.co for a full schedule of events.

“Creativity in the Time of COVID-19: Art for Equity and Social Justice” - On display at the Frandor Sears Building, Lansing Art Gallery, REACH Studio Art Center, Impression 5 Science Center and Refugee Development Center. artequitylansing.org.

First Fridays for College Students – Neon Fashion Night - Dress up in neon clothing, learn about the element and listen to Impact 89FM DJs. Fashion show, poetry slam and neon-themed activities. 7 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-355-2370. museum.msu.edu.

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

Friday Fish Fry - Fried fish (3 pieces), fries, coleslaw and a dinner roll. 4:30-7:30 p.m. VFW Post 701, 123 N. Rosemary St., Lansing. 517-485-1656. vfw701.org.

Learn to Curl - Get out on the ice and learn the basics before our season begins. \$35 per person, ages 13 and up. Registration req. 8-10 p.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. lansingcurls.org

LEE CLEAVELAND & THE LEFTHAND BAND - 8 p.m. Mac’s Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-484-6795. macsbar.com.

MAC- Social Ballroom Dance - Lesson from 6:30-7 p.m. Dancing from 7-8:45 p.m. Singles or couples welcome. Registration req. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. 517-364-8888. sparrow.org.

Mason Philharmonic Orchestra Spring Concert - “The Prayer” from Sager & Foster’s “Quest for Camelot,” “Rondo Alla Turca” from Mozart’s Piano Sonata No. 11 and “Libertango” by Piazzolla. 7:15 p.m. MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Road, East Lansing. masonorchestras.org.

Michael Dease Album Release Party - 7 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Michigan Made College Tour After Party (MSU) - Featuring YN Jay, Sada Baby and Nick LaVelle. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. 517-574-4214. thejunctionmichigan.com.

Michigan Made College Tour - Featuring Sada Baby, RGS Damedot, YN Jay and Nick LaVelle. 7 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

“Mrs. Harrison” - Contains adult content and language. Please check our website for a note about trigger warnings. 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Night at a Living Museum - Explore select animal exhibits, get up close and personal with our animal care staff and discover the magic of the zoo in a whole new light. 5-8 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing.

517-483-4222. sciencefestival.msu.edu.

“Printmaking in Full Color” - Artist Sarah Dershem uses monotype and linocut printmaking to explore a lifelong admiration of the natural world. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers’ Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

Students from the studios of Dr. Mingzhe Wang and Dr. Guy Yehuda - 7 p.m. Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, 640 S. Shaw Lane, Room 1300, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

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

Saturday, April 8

The 12 Teachings of Earth School with the Rev. Jim White - Four-week class. 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID: 177 417 886 Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

“Blind Spot,” “DIEGEST,” “The Nightly News,” MFA Exhibition - 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 Cafe Pop-Up - Help Lansing’s first board game cafe get its name out! 4-seat and 6-seat tables for sale (\$5 per seat, must come in a group). Selling baked goods from Honey Bun Bakery and drinks. 4-6 or 7-9 p.m. Sycamore Creek Church Asbury Campus, 2200 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing. theboardandbean.com.

Capital City Film Festival - Showcases an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive media and more in Michigan’s capital city. 9:30 a.m. Multiple locations. Visit cccf.co for a full schedule of events.

“Creativity in the Time of COVID-19: Art for Equity and Social Justice” - On display at the Frandor Sears Building, Lansing Art Gallery, REACH Studio Art Center, Impression 5 Science Center and Refugee Development Center. artequitylansing.org.

Easter Egg Hunt - FREE family fun event. Enjoy crafts, prizes and lots of candy! Ages 3-12, rain or shine. 9:30 a.m. Our Savior Lutheran Church & School, 7910 E. St. Joe Hwy., Lansing. 517-882-8665. oursaviorlansing.org

Environmental Stewardship Work Day - Restore East Lansing’s park biotic communities by removing problematic invasive plant species and replacing them with native species. 9-11 a.m. 517-319-6804. cityofeastlansing.com.

The Falling Tree Collaborative - Collaboration between scientists and composers aiming to increase scientific literacy through a combination of scientific presentation and musical performance. 8 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt - Children’s activities, carnival games, arts and crafts, music, visits with the Easter Bunny, bonfire and marshmallow roasting and egg hunt. Bring your own flashlight. Registration req. 6 p.m. Nancy Moore Park pavilion, 1960 Gaylord C. Smith Court., Haslett. 517-853-4600. meridian.mi.us.

Hippity Hop 5K - 5K run/walk, Easter egg hunt, children’s activities and visits with the Easter Bunny. All registered participants get free entry into the zoo. Registration closes at midnight on April 7. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. 517-483-6326. runsignup.com/race/mi/lansing/hippityhop5k.

Inebriated Insights - A night of intoxicated witchcraft! Variety of Tarot, oracle cards, bone readings, astrology, runes, Reiki and more. 5 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. manifestlansing.com.

Long Hair Utopia 2023 - 1970s art, lifestyle and music party, featuring local artisans and music of the ‘70s. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Keller’s Plaza, 107 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-1549. williamston.org.

New York Philharmonic String Quartet

Thursday, April 6

7:30 p.m.

Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall

750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing

Thursday evening (April 6), four musicians from the New York Philharmonic — concertmaster Frank Huang, principal associate concertmaster Sheryl Staples, principal violist Cynthia Phelps and principal cellist Carter Brey — will visit the Wharton Center to perform Mozart’s Quartet No. 19 in C major, Schubert’s String Quartet No. 14 in D minor and more.

The Palm Beach Daily News said the group performs with “romantic élan and grace ... with utmost taste and technical precision,” and The New York Times called the quartet “marvelous.” The musicians have each received countless prizes and awards and have performed worldwide as soloists and ensemble members.

Tickets start at \$27 (\$19 for ages 5 to 18) and are available at the Wharton Center Ticket Office, whartoncenter.com or by calling 517-432-2000.



“Mrs. Harrison” - Contains adult content and language. Please check our website for a note about trigger warnings. 3 and 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

“Printmaking in Full Color” - Artist Sarah Dershem uses monotype and linocut printmaking to explore a lifelong admiration of the natural world. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers’ Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

Sunday, April 9

“Blind Spot,” “DIEGEST,” “The Nightly News,” MFA Exhibition - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Collection Reframe: A Community Conversation - A series of interactive brainstorming and listening sessions about our museum’s collection and how we can present it in a new, collection-focused space that’s coming soon. Registration req. 2 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

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

Monday, April 10

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.

Artist Talk: Mia Pearlman, Albert Marqués, and Keith LaMar - Roundtable discussion, including an opportunity for audience members to engage directly with the artists and delve deeper into the making of “DIEGEST.” 5:30 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

“Dialogues” - Violinist Ruggero Allifranchini and cellist Suren Bagratuni perform works by Bach, Kodaly, Hovonts and more. 7:30 p.m. Alumni Memorial Chapel, 636 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

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

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

PJ Storytime - Wear your PJs, bring a stuffed animal and hear stories with special guest Marilyn Hansbarger. 6 p.m. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

See Events, Page 24

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

W	A	R	P		Z	A	P	S		A	C	R	E		
A	L	O	O	F		E	L	L	A		S	U	E	D	
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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 20

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

Board Game Café Pop-Up

Saturday, April 8
4-6 or 7-9 p.m.
Sycamore Creek
Church Asbury
Campus
2200 Lake Lansing
Road, Lansing



The Board and Bean, an aspiring board game café, is hosting a pop-up event Saturday evening (April 8) to get its name out and determine community interest.

Groups of four or six can reserve tables for \$5 per person and choose between two-hour game periods from either 4 to 6 or 7 to 9 p.m. Games will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. There will also be drinks and baked goods provided by Honey Bun Bakery for sale.

Visit theboardandbean.com to sign up and learn more about the venture.

Events

from page 23

"Printmaking in Full Color" - Artist Sarah Dershem uses monotype and linocut printmaking to explore a lifelong admiration of the natural world. Noon-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

Saving and Sharing Seeds - Author Bevin Cohe highlights the importance of saving and sharing garden seeds and how to successfully do it at home through a blend of lectures and demonstrations. 6 p.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. 517-543-8859. charlottelibrary.org.

Tuesday, April 11

Capital City Film Festival - Showcases an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive media and more in Michigan's capital city. 6 p.m. Frandor Sears Building, 3131 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Visit ccff.co for a full schedule of events.

"Creativity in the Time of COVID-19: Art for Equity and Social Justice" - On display at the Frandor Sears Building, Lansing Art Gallery, REACH Studio Art Center, Impression 5 Science Center and Refugee Development Center. artequitylansing.org.

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

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

Preschool Family Storytime - Stories and literacy-enhancing activities for ages 1-6. Take home a free Smart Money MI Kids Read Storytime kit, with the book "Owl + Otter and the Big Yard Sale" and fun learning activities. 11 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

"Printmaking in Full Color" - Artist Sarah Dershem uses monotype and linocut printmaking to explore a lifelong admiration of the natural world. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

Recital of New Compositions by Composition Studio Students - 8 p.m. Cook Recital Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

Wednesday, April 12

"A, B and C of Baroque," Cello Plus Chamber Music Series - Camerata Michigan, joined by violinist Ruggero Alliffranchini, cellist Suren Bagratuni and other guests, perform instrumental concertos by Baroque composers. 7:30 p.m. Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing. 517-353-5340. music.msu.edu.

"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.

"Blind Spot," "DIEGEST," "The Nightly News," MFA Exhibition - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Campus Band & Concert Band - 7:30 p.m. Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Capital City Film Festival - Showcases an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive media and more in Michigan's capital city. 6 p.m. Multiple locations. Visit ccff.co for a full schedule of events.

Code Club! - Learn to make websites, apps, animations and more! No coding experience necessary. Grades 3+. Register at hq.girlswhocode.com using club code MI45609. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

"Creativity in the Time of COVID-19: Art for Equity and Social Justice" - On display at the Frandor Sears Building, Lansing Art Gallery, REACH Studio Art Center, Impression 5 Science Center and Refugee Development Center. artequitylansing.org.

Eaton County Historical Commission History Happy Hour - View the life of Grand Ledge through the lens of photographer Ernst Floeter. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

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

Grace Theisen - 6 p.m. Horrocks Farm Market, 7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. 517-323-3782. shophorrocks.com.

Leader Dogs for the Blind Event - Eileen Delaney will explain the process of breeding service dogs,

the types of training they receive and how to become a volunteer breeder. 6:30 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.

"Printmaking in Full Color" - Artist Sarah Dershem uses monotype and linocut printmaking to explore a lifelong admiration of the natural world. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

"Tartuffe" - Tartuffe is taken into the home of a wealthy family. He succeeds in winning the respect and devotion of the head of the house, then tries to marry his daughter and seduce his wife. 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. 517-483-1122. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Weaving the Web: Manifestation - 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.

Thursday, April 13

2023 Michigan Audubon Annual Meeting - Board members and staff will reflect on 2022, share reports on finances and programming and highlight plans for moving forward with strategic planning. Registration req. 7 p.m. 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200, Okemos. 517-580-7364. michiganaudubon.org.

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

"Blind Spot," "DIEGEST," "The Nightly News," MFA Exhibition - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Capital City Film Festival - Showcases an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive media and more in Michigan's capital city. 5:30 p.m. Frandor Sears Building, 3131 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. Visit ccff.co for a full schedule of events.

Chipmunk Story Time - Stories are followed by nature activities and a guided walk. 10 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. 517-349-3866.

"Creativity in the Time of COVID-19: Art for Equity and Social Justice" - On display at the Frandor Sears Building, Lansing Art Gallery, REACH Studio Art Center, Impression 5 Science Center and Refugee Development Center. artequitylansing.org.

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

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

"Mrs. Harrison" - Contains adult content and language. Please check our website for a note about trigger warnings. 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Prevent Suicide, Save a Life with QPR Training - Adults only. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

"Printmaking in Full Color" - Artist Sarah Dershem uses monotype and linocut printmaking to explore a lifelong admiration of the natural world. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Framers Edge, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. 517-347-7400. framersedge.net.

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

"Tartuffe" - Tartuffe is taken into the home of a wealthy family. He succeeds in winning the respect and devotion of the head of the house, then tries to marry his daughter and seduce his wife. 8 p.m. LCC Black Box Theatre, 411 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. 517-483-1122. lcc.edu/showinfo.

Friday, April 14

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.

A Tour of the MSU Museum Vertebrate Collections - Explore unique and rare materials that are difficult or impossible to find elsewhere! Registration req. 1-1:30 and 1:45-2:15 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-355-2370. museum.msu.edu.

"Blind Spot," "DIEGEST," "The Nightly News," MFA Exhibition - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Eli & Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Brotha Earth Texas Throw Down! A Sendoff Concert - 7:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Capital City Film Festival - Showcases an eclectic mix of independent films, live music, interactive media and more in Michigan's capital city. 6 p.m. Multiple locations. Visit ccff.co for a full schedule of events.

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

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Beyond pho

By LIZY FERGUSON

If you've never tried Vietnamese food, there are more opportunities than ever in the Lansing area to remedy that situation. The cuisine is fresh, balanced, nutritious and exploding with interesting and intoxicating flavors. Last week, I tried takeout from Pho 777 in Okemos, a new addition to the mix.

As the name suggests, Pho 777 offers a plethora of variations on pho (pronounced "phuh"), a Vietnamese noodle soup with beefy and herbaceous broth that contains a multitude of flavors. I tried its Rare Steak Pho on a separate occasion and can vouch that it's delicious. The menu also includes vermicelli noodle dishes and banh mi sandwiches, but I wanted to try something I hadn't had before.

The 777 Rice Special includes a variety of foods, exactly what I love to see on my dinner plate. A layer of broken rice is topped with a truly impressive grilled pork

steak, which tasted of soy, lemongrass, ginger and garlic and was coated in a five-spice rub that came off on my fingers, as



777 Rice Special
\$15.97
Pho 777
4758 Marsh Road,
Okemos
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday
517-897-7182
pho777okemos.com

I couldn't help tearing off pieces with my hands. The accompaniments included pickled cabbage, fresh slices of tomato and cucumber, a fried egg and, finally, what really drew me to this menu option: egg meatloaf and shrimp and pork wrapped in fried tofu skin.

The egg meatloaf was similar to a quiche and contained green onion, cilantro and cellophane noodles, among other ingredients I couldn't quite identify — maybe seaweed and sesame oil, judging from its aroma.

Combined with a bite of the pork and a drizzle of the house fish sauce, it was one of my favorites of the many flavor combinations. My favorite thing by itself, though, had to be the fried tofu skin pockets, which, along with the egg loaf, reminded



Lizy Ferguson/City Pulse

The 777 Rice Special at Okemos' Pho 777 comes with a sampling of Vietnamese dishes, including grilled pork steak, egg meatloaf, a fried egg and shrimp and pork wrapped in fried tofu skin. Drizzle fish sauce over the top to elevate the already intoxicating flavors.

me of Chinese dim-sum dishes.

In addition to all of this, you get a small side of pho broth, some of which I poured, along with the fish sauce, all over the pork and rice, some of which I just sipped like tea. A note to the fish sauce novice: If you

smell it by itself, the odor might put you off, but you better believe it becomes magical, and essential, when combined with other flavors. It's the number one reason food from Southeast Asia is so addictive, the offerings from Pho 777 being no exception.

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AirPort Tavern
FOOD LIQUOR

Corn chip migas

By **ARI LEVAUX**

Migas is a crumbly dish. The word literally means “crumbs” in Spanish. It’s an Iberian recipe that was once popular with hunters and mountain people in southern Spain and Portugal and made its way to Mexico and Texas.

Migas is a method as much as a recipe — a way to use stale bread and, later, old tortillas. Europeans fried bread in olive oil with garlic, parsley, peppers, tomatoes and chorizo and served it with eggs on top. In Mesoamerica, stale tortillas made of corn and flour replaced bread, but the idea remained the same.

When I first tried corn chip migas, I realized I’d never have to worry about what to do with the dregs of a bag of corn chips again. What a relief!

But you don’t have to wait until the bag is nearly gone to make this dish. There’s no law against whole-chip migas. When it’s made with unbroken chips, the dish is almost nacho-esque.

Some like the chips dry and crunchy, while others like them soft, so they blend seamlessly with the eggs. Some like meat and veggies with their migas, while others keep it simple.

But few would dispute that the dish goes extraordinarily well with salsa and,

for those who indulge, a cup of coffee on the side.

My version of migas includes bacon, garlic and cheese. Sometimes I add potatoes, either cooked or in potato chip form. I’ve also added Terra-brand baked vegetable chips, which are quite the colorful mix, alongside my yellow, white or blue corn chips, all topped with eggs that are puffy and browned.

If you want your migas to be crunchy, your best course of action is to start by frying the tortilla crumbs on medium heat in a dry pan. Then add the oil and eggs to the hot pan and quickly scramble it all.

I like my chips soft, so I add them early, letting them sit in the egg mixture before I even cook the bacon. After the bacon is crispy, I pull the chips from the bowl and add them to the bacon-greased, buttered or oiled pan. Then I “fream” them.

To fream is to fry and steam at the same time with the lid on and moisture in the pan. This creates heat and pressure, which cook food more quickly and throughout, rather than from below, so you don’t burn the bottom while you try to cook the top. Heavy lids are best for freaming, as they create the most pressure by trapping the steam. Glass is nice because you can monitor moisture levels without letting the steam escape.



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Migas, an egg-based dish originating in southern Spain and Portugal, can be made in a number of ways. This version includes bacon, garlic, parsley, cheese, tortilla chips, vegetable chips and a dollop of salsa to top it all off.

Corn chip migas

In this one-pan breakfast dish, egg and tortilla chips combine for a savory casserole. I’ll explain how to make both crispy migas and soft migas. Whichever you prefer, you’ll never look at a near-empty bag of chips the same way.

Makes one serving
2 large eggs
4 tablespoons milk
Salt and pepper
2 tablespoons oil or one strip of bacon
1 clove garlic, minced
1/2 cup parsley, chopped
Corn chips
Other chips, such as potato chips or vegetable chips
Salsa or hot sauce
Coffee

Beat the eggs in a medium-sized bowl. Add the milk and shakes of salt and pepper and beat again. For soft migas, add your chips to the beaten egg immediately and stir them around to make sure all the chips are coated.

If using bacon, chop a slice into 1/2-inch rectangles.

Heat the oil on medium in a heavy-bottomed pan with a tight-fitting lid, preferably a heavy glass lid with no vent hole on top. Add the bacon and let it start to cook. When it’s almost done, add the parsley and garlic. Stir frequently to avoid burning. For crispy migas, add the chips to the oil and cook for an additional five minutes on medium, stirring to prevent burning.

Add the eggs, along with any chips that might be soaking, to the hot pan, tilting to spread the mixture around evenly. Sprinkle the cheese on top.

Put the lid on the pan and fream. You shouldn’t have to add any water, as the milk adds plenty. Peek if you need to — it should be steamy under the lid. When you smell the eggs starting to brown, you know it’s almost done. Take a peek to confirm it’s cooked on top, then turn off the heat.

If you want the eggs to be extra dry, give them a stir, put the lid back on and let them sit for five minutes. For moist eggs, serve immediately.

Serve the migas with salsa and hot coffee.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

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

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

TOP 5 DESSERT

1. MSU Dairy Store

Cozy outpost with homemade cheese and ice cream, plus soups and sandwiches
474 S. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
517-355-8466
msudairy.com

2. Flour Child Bakery

Family-owned, made-from-scratch bakery
323 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
517-622-4772
flourchildbakeryandcafe.com

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

3. Lick-ity Split

Drive-up ice cream shop with smoothies, sundaes, flurries and malts
103 N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
517-896-6380
Noon-10 p.m. Thursday-Tuesday
Noon-9 p.m. Wednesday
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4. Babe’s Corner

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Local poets explore the natural world

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Two poets. Two different styles. One shouts. The other whispers. Both are committed to nature and social justice. Both recently published books you should read.

Kathie Kuhn of Lansing has written a 132-page collection, “The Truth for a Change,” which uses mixed-media art to frame her written words, while Rosalie Sanara Petrouske of Grand Ledge has found her voice in a more traditional chapbook, “Tracking the Fox,” a slim volume of 28 poems honoring her father and his love of the natural world.

In her book, Kuhn delves into what she calls “a poetic vision of global peace and justice issues with the goal of reducing suffering and encouraging love.”

In the poem “River,” she writes,

*You're like the wind to me ...
you come and you go
But I feel you all the time
Whether rain, sunshine or snow*

*And like a river
I hear the song of your soul
In my soul
You are a friend to me
A comfort and calm...*

What makes Kuhn's book different from most is that the poems are in her own handwriting, and many are illustrated or reproduced on ceramic tiles, which she created at Sunset Clay Studio in Lansing.

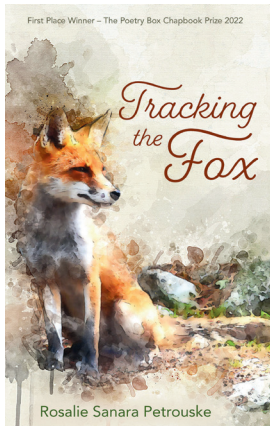
Kuhn has been using ceramic tiles as a medium for her creative expression for more than 18 years. They typically carry words of encouragement like “WATER IS LIFE,” “LOVE OF SEA, LOVE OF LAND” and “FOR-

GIVENESS,” and many are punctuated with peace signs.

“I've been writing and painting all my life, and this book is a culmination of my life's work,” she said.

In addition to her dedication to planetary survival, Kuhn's poetry and art tackle misogyny, racism and world peace.

“I want to make the world more beautiful and get people to realize no one is untouched by these things,” she said.



Now contrast Petrouske's chapbook with Kuhn's. The cover art of Petrouske's book, which won The Poetry Box Chapbook Prize in 2022, is more sublime, with a beautiful watercolor portrait of a fox looking off in the distance.

“When I started writing the collection, it was to honor my father. I didn't know when I started that it would evolve into poems on nature, the stars and what you discover in the woods,” Petrouske said.

Her father, of Ojibwe origin, grew up on Sugar Island and was adopted by a foster family.

“I remember taking long walks with him in the woods — exploring nature,” she said.

In the poem “True North,” she writes,

*In the woods, my father never needed
a compass.*

*He told time by the sun's position.
When shadows grew long and slanted,
he still knew the way to turn
so we could find home.*

Home to Petrouske was the Upper Peninsula, where she lived in various areas while her father worked in the timber industry. A hardscrabble existence, but for the poet, it was a wonderful time to explore the woods with her father.

She writes,
*If you think you are lost, Father told me,
travel downhill,
search for water, read the night sky,
and he pointed
at Polaris, perched at the tip of the Little Dipper's handle.*

Several of the poems explore Petrouske's Ojibwe roots, including “Eating Corn Soup under the Strawberry Moon,” “Black Ash Basket” and “The Medicine Bag.”

In “Black Ash Basket,” she recalls exploring ancient art with her daughter to connect with their roots, and in “The Medicine Bag,” she writes metaphorically about an Ojibwe relic,
This is the medicine bag of my father's people.

*Here is a sacred Eagle feather,
an arrowhead deep within,
a handkerchief stained with coughed-up blood.*

Of late, Petrouske has focused more and more on her Ojibwe roots and is working on a series of poems about Indian boarding schools. Although still in development, the boarding school chapbook is likely to be her next collection of work.

Both Petrouske's and Kuhn's works are influenced by where and when they were born: Petrouske under the clear skies of the Upper Peninsula and Kuhn on Nov. 15, 1969, the day of the largest antiwar march in Washington, D.C.



Courtesy photos

Rosalie Sanara Petrouske of Grand Ledge (above) and Kathie Kuhn of Lansing, who shows her artistic spirit even in her headshot, recently published collections of poetry that highlight their love of nature. Petrouske's honors her father and their Ojibwe roots, and Kuhn's tackles big-picture ideas like climate preservation, misogyny, racism and world peace.

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No matter your reasons for supporting Donald Trump, the fact is he has always been a terrible person. He is none of the things you claim he is. The things you like him for do not fit into any form of an honorable character. Besides the facts that he's not smart and not a good businessman, it is not just an indictment of anyone who dismisses his worst qualities, it is definitely another stain on American history. While he will be charged — not because a prosecutor decided it, but because a grand jury did — I'm not celebrating these charges. I am sad that we have witnessed having a lifelong cheat occupy the White House in the first place. It is an embarrassment that the rest of the world has seen how low America has stooped. Hopefully, we can redeem ourselves with a conviction, but make no mistake, whether he is convicted or not, he is a criminal. Worse than that, he gives other criminals a bad name: He's a predator. He has never had a decent bone in his body. I don't write this to make myself feel better. I write this for every decent American who has been hurt by him: the Central Park 5, the countless women he's assaulted, disabled people whom he's mocked, the children forever separated from their parents, and the hundreds of million Americans who spent 4+ years hurt by his horrific policies. I'm hopeful that the justice system doesn't resort to one of the faces that we often see when the privileged are let off easy, because that wouldn't actually be justice. Let's hope an example is made so that we may progress and regain any respect we had previously, but also to continue to strive for truth moving forward.

BTW, Happy Arab American Heritage Month