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December 20-26, 2023

CityPULSE

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TO THE MILKY WAY**

THE 4TH ANNUAL POETRY AND LIGHTS ISSUE See Page 11



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Mission Statement:

To provide a journal of news and opinion on civic, social, and political issues as well as arts and entertainment in Greater Lansing.



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CityPULSE

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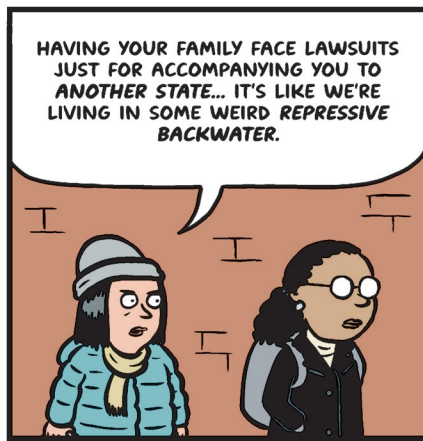
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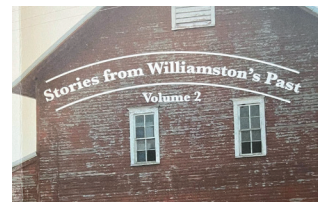


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Kaiyo Sushi & Grill fills gap left by pandemic

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Retired teacher delves further into Williamston's history

PAGE 20



Veg Head makes eating plant-based easy — and tasty

PAGE 24

Cover photo by Raymond Holt
A close-up view of Potter Park Zoo's Wonderland of Lights

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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Developer seeks \$22 million judgment against old Loomis law firm

Developer Harry Hepler is claiming \$22 million in damages from alleged legal malpractice in a lawsuit against Loomis, Ewert, Parsley, Davis & Gotting, the prominent Lansing law firm that went out of business last month.

Hepler's suit, which he filed two years ago, results from a 2013 lease agreement that went awry for the state of Michigan to rent approximately 60,000 square feet of space at 700 May St. in Lansing for the Michigan Public Service Commission. The space is part of a building behind Motor Wheel Lofts on Saginaw Street. Hepler is a principal owner of both. The space became available after the city of Lansing closed the old North Police Precinct.

The suit claims that the Loomis law firm and Jeffrey S. Theuer, one of its attorneys, "failed to timely file an otherwise-meritorious breach of contract case on behalf of Summit Street Development," a limited liability company that owns and operates the May Street building.

The suit contends Theuer was more than a year late in filing a claim against the state over terminating the lease. The suit says by law such a claim must be filed "within 3 years after the claim first accrues" and cites an email from Theuer that the accrual date was May 4, 2014.

But, according to the suit, Theuer did not file a complaint in the Michigan Court of Claims until July 6, 2018, "over four years after the State sent Summit the termination letter."

Summit fought the lease termination in state court, but the Claims Court sided with the state, citing Summit's "failure to comply with the clear and unambiguous statute of limitations as the sole reason and without reaching the merits of Summit's claim," Summit's suit against Loomis and Theuer states. The state Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal.

The suit discloses that the lease's termination led to Summit's bankruptcy under Chapter 11, from which Summit has since emerged. The suit says that the Claims Court also reject-



Summit Street Development Co. is suing the old Loomis law firm for malpractice because it allegedly failed to sue the state in a timely manner for terminating a lease for space at 700 May St., Lansing, the home of the old Lansing North Police Precinct.

ed Summit's argument that the bankruptcy proceedings had "tolled" the statute of limitations, meaning that the proceedings had delayed when the clock started ticking. The court said that argument was "based on a misapplication and misrepresentation of the law," the suit said. Moreover, the suit said that the "Court of Claims noted that even if Summit's bankruptcy proceedings had in fact tolled the statute of limitations, the action would still have been time-barred as Defendants missed the hypothetical tolled deadline by five months."

In response to Summit's suit, Loomis filed two documents on May 17, 2022. In one, called "Defendants' Answer to Complaint," Loomis said, "defendants categorically deny any alleged legal malpractice or failure to timely file a breach of contract case as untrue." The 14-page response, which asks for a jury trial, gives no specifics. Instead, it repeatedly answers that the defendants "lack knowledge or information" needed to respond to a specific allegation or that it was not legally obligated to do so.

The second document, called "Jury Demand," contends, among other

points, that the defendants "acted in good faith," "exercised their professional judgment" and "did not have an attorney-client engagement with Plaintiff." It also claims that the "Plaintiff has sustained no damages" and "unreasonably invested and/or loaned funds" and cite the plaintiff's "failure to perform business and/or investment due diligence."

Since then, the case has been in the evidence-discovery phase, to be followed by depositions, mediation and then possibly a jury trial if the parties do not settle.

Neither Hepler nor his attorney, Rebecca Cassell, of the Howell law firm of Myers & Myers, was willing to comment. Loomis is represented by Michael P. Ashcroft Jr. of Punkett Cooney, a Bloomington Hills law firm. Efforts to reach members of the former Loomis firm for comment on the suit were unsuccessful. Theuer and 11 other former Loomis lawyers have joined Foster Swift Collins & Smith, another prominent local firm.

In a related legal action, 30th Circuit Chief Judge Joyce Draganchuk ruled against part of a motion filed by Cassell last month seeking a tem-

porary restraining order and preliminary injunction to prevent Loomis from dissolving until the court could rule on a request by Summit for the court to appoint a receiver to oversee the dissolution process. The effort essentially sought to freeze Loomis' funds so that they would be available for a possible judgment against the firm.

Another lawyer for Punkett Cooney, Jeffrey S. Hengeveld, successfully argued that "Loomis is not dissolving as a result of the Plaintiff's lawsuit and Plaintiff is seeking to restrict Loomis' assets pre-judgment when it is not a creditor of Loomis."

Hengeveld declined to be interviewed. However, he emailed a statement that said, "Loomis' decision to dissolve has nothing to do with these lawsuits, which is set forth in a pending motion to dismiss. In our opinion the lawsuits lack merit and we look forward to vindicating our clients' rights through the legal process."

Some Loomis partners had retired or moved to other firms in recent years. One principal, Jack Davis, died in 2020.

Part of the concern about what happens to Loomis' assets may stem from the knowledge that Loomis' malpractice insurance is limited to \$5 million per claim, according to testimony at a judicial oversight hearing — well below the \$22 million that Summit and Hepler are claiming in damages.

Citing its losses, Summit's suit states that it borrowed more than \$5.3 million from Wolverine Bank for the build-out before the state terminated the lease.

Summit maintains in the suit that "but for Defendants' malpractice, Summit would have been successful" in suing the state for breach of contract.

"As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' failure to file a lawsuit against the State within the statute of limitations period, Summit suffered injuries, including but not limited to the amount it would have recovered against the State, either by way

Political harbinger: Ebersole Singh's fundraising pays off at ballot box

Seven candidates for East Lansing City Council raised a cumulative \$139,407 for their campaigns — \$66,328 of it going to Kerry Ebersole Singh, per the post-general election campaign finance documents published this month.

Ebersole Singh won the election with 23.08% of the vote, former City Councilmember and former State Rep. Mark Meadows finished second with 16.5% of the vote, and former City Councilmember Erik Altmann finished third of seven with 15.91% of the vote.

Meadows raised \$25,020 and Altmann raised \$5,960, a steep decline from Ebersole Singh's figure.

Thirty-one current state representatives raised less money than she did in 2022.

Bill Ballenger, of the Ballenger report, said this dollar amount is “almost obscene, compared to what it used to be.

“What Kerry Ebersole has done is impressive, but it's more a harbinger of what's to come than it is a one-off, unique event that you're never gonna see repeated,” Ballenger said.

These races used to cost next to nothing to win after door knocking and a few endorsements, Ballenger said, but even though the city is largely Democratic, split-offs and factions within the party keep these races competitive.

Ebersole Singh has lived in East Lansing since 1995. She has worked in state and national politics in multiple capacities such as campaigning for former Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm and former President Barack Obama early on the primary trail in 2008, and now serves as the executive vice president and chief talent solutions and engagement officer for the Michigan Economic Development Corp.

It was her first ever run for public office. But Ballenger said there's a lot of places to go from a solid base of 23% of the vote.

“She may say now that she's not interested in doing anything but being a City Councilperson, but two years from now, watch out,” Ballenger said.

One way to successfully make that jump is with a lot of money.

“If you're thinking about running against her in the future ... look out, because this woman will bury you with money,” Ballenger said. “I think she decided, ‘I've been behind the scenes all my life, I'm gonna make the jump to putting my soul on the line running for public office myself. I damn well better win.’”

Ballenger said the \$66,000 mark does not represent a low tide that every candidate will be striving for in the future but rather a tide that continues to rise over time.

Ebersole Singh pulled donors from across the country, including \$2,000 from various sources in Washington, D.C., and she said every donor on her contributions list is someone she has either a personal or professional story with.

When she created her campaign plan, she knew she wanted to put out four pieces of mailed literature and also paid for digital advertising. For safety rea-



Ebersole Singh

sons, and also to accommodate her daytime work at the MEDC, she and another person door-knocked.

“I've worked on a number of state (and national) issues, and I wanted to leverage and reach out to those friends and former colleagues as I took this challenge on,” she said by email.

Besides winning her first election on her first try, the Council picked her to be mayor pro tem, a choice that drew criticism, including charges of racism, because the majority picked her over Dana Watson, an incumbent who is the only African American member.

Ebersole Singh's husband, State Sen. Sam Singh, D-East Lansing, served as her campaign treasurer but wasn't involved with fundraising, only campaign finance disclosure compliance. Before going to the Legislature, Singh also served on the City Council. He first ran for it in 1995 with Meadows.

Meadows said he's happy Ebersole Singh was elected.

“She didn't get elected because she's Sam's wife, she got elected because she did all the work necessary to do so,” Meadows said.

— MAGGIE GEORGE

B/24/081 LETTS COMMUNITY CENTER TENNIS COURTS RESTORATION as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site (www.Mitn.Info) until 2PM local time in effect on JANUARY 12, 2024. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Marilyn Chick at (517) 483-4282, or Marilyn.chick@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.

CP#23-342

Notice is hereby given that the Ingham Conservation District will conduct their annual meeting and board director election on Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6:00 pm, in the Education Building at 1031 W Dexter Trl, Mason, MI 48854.

CP#23-344

Join us for Christmas

<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">SUNDAY DECEMBER 24TH</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Christmas Eve</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Lessons & Carols</p> <p>5:30 p.m. - Special Music</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">MONDAY DECEMBER 25TH</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Christmas Day</p> <p>10:00 a.m. - Christmas Worship</p>

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in America

Lawsuit

from page 5

of a settlement or a verdict at trial, to compensate it for the State's breach of the Lease, any and all fees it paid Defendants and experts, loss of future contracts and profits with the State, and any and attorney fees associated with this claim.”

The lease agreement that Summit filed with the state cites nearly \$8.9 million in rent over the first 10 years, with the potential for two five-year

renewals at an annual rate of nearly \$975,000.

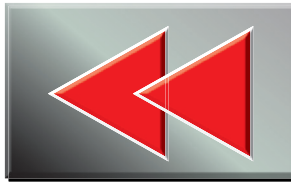
In a motion against Summit's efforts to stop Loomis from dissolving, Loomis' lawyer referred to “Plaintiff's purported damages of \$22 million,” called the amount “unsupported” and “speculative.” It also said the amount is “undermined by the fact that Plaintiff served an offer of judgment for less than the amount of the applicable insurance policy,” an apparent reference to possible settlement discussions.

— BERL SCHWARTZ

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

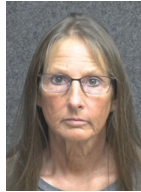
BY TYLER SCHNEIDER



General Motors will lay off 369 workers at Grand River Assembly and Lansing Regional Stamping, coinciding with the end of Camaro production. The layoffs will take place in four phases over January, February and March. GM “anticipates having job opportunities for all impacted team members per the provisions of the UAW-GM National Agreement.”



the complaint in September. The student is being represented by the ACLU of Michigan.



Lisa Grysen, a former DeWitt clerk-treasurer who was fired in August, is accused of embezzling \$48,472 in tax payments made over four years, the Lansing State Journal reported. She faces embezzlement charges of \$20,000 to \$50,000.

Prosecutors dismissed charges against a woman accused of embezzling funds from Aiding Hearts, a health services company based in Bath Township, between 2019 and 2020, the Lansing State Journal reported. Nicole Boose was accused of tampering with payroll and allegedly pocketing paychecks while she was an employee, but the charges were dismissed last month on the day of her preliminary hearing. Boose was arraigned at Clinton County’s 65A District Court on 19 counts of embezzlement on June 16. Her attorney, Edwar Zeineh, said the U.S. Department of Labor found that the company owed Boose money.



The FBI is investigating a bomb threat made by email to Congregation Shaarey Zedek, an East Lansing synagogue at 1924 Coolidge Road, on Sunday. The message, received around 11 a.m., read: “There are multiple explosives

in the Synagogue. They are well hidden and they will go off in a few hours. YOU WILL ALL DIE.” East Lansing police determined there was no threat. In October, 19-year-old Seann Pietila pleaded guilty to making threats against the synagogue in June. According to the Anti-Defamation League, more than 400 Jewish facilities had received similar false bomb threats since Saturday.

Michigan State University’s trustees voted Friday to release thousands of documents to state Attorney General Dana Nessel related to the investigation of former MSU doctor and convicted sex offender Larry Nassar. Nessel suspended her investigation into MSU’s handling of the case in 2021 because the documents were still being withheld. In July, a group of Nassar survivors filed a lawsuit against MSU to make the documents public. In another Friday vote, the trustees reached a settlement agreement totaling \$15 million with the families of Alexandria Verner, Arielle Anderson and Brian Fraser, three students who were killed in the Feb. 13 mass shooting on campus.



Norm Fasteners, a Turkish manufacturer of bolts and fasteners, will build its first U.S. manufacturing facility in Bath Township. The 365,000-square-foot facility will in part be funded with a \$3.8 million grant from the Michigan Strategic Fund for the purpose of adding a township sewer to the plan. Norm Fasteners is a supplier for Volkswagen, Ford and John Deere and operates 14 facilities in Turkey, others throughout Europe plus an office in Canada.

Downtown Lansing Inc. is selling “Sad Little Town” t-shirts after Nancy Kaffer used that phrase to describe Lansing in a Free Press opinion piece and suggested moving the capital to Detroit. The merch includes six t-shirt styles and four hats, all priced at \$30. The business making the apparel, SadLittleTown, said a portion of profits will go to Downtown Lansing Inc., REO Town, Old Town Lansing and the South West Action Group.



PUBLIC SAFETY:

A four-vehicle crash near Eaton Rapids Road and the east-bound entrance of I-96 on Monday morning resulted in the death of one 60-year-old man who officials believed had experienced a medical emergency. ... A van crashed into a CATA bus at the corner of Larch Street and César E. Chávez Avenue in Old Town on Sunday, injuring three people, including the van’s driver, who police said was in critical condition. ... Inmate Christopher Shenberger, 43, of White Lake, was sentenced to an additional 58 to 240 months in prison for threatening his sentencing judge and others, Attorney General Dana Nessel said.



Sparrow recorded its highest third-quarter total of drug-related deaths in seven years, according to its Dec. 12 quarterly report. The three-month total of 62 was higher than the 49 observed in the first quarter and 53 in the second. Michelle Fox, Sparrow’s chief investigator in the Medical Examiner’s Office, said she already expects the fourth quarter numbers to surpass last year’s count.

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights is investigating a student’s complaint of sex discrimination by Williamston Community Schools, WLNS reported. The department said it launched an investigation in October after receiving



MotorCities

Eighteen MSU landscape design students recently put their heads together to design locations for 20 informational signs for Lansing’s Motorcities National Heritage Area. The project, which is in part funded by the National Parks Service, recognizes historical events in the nation’s and Michigan’s auto industry.

In Lansing, the signage project is coordinated through a committee organized by the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, which has informational signs at seven locations in Lansing. Besides expanding the number of signs, existing ones will be redesigned.

Prospective sites include REO Town, Harry’s Place, Old Town’s Turner Mini Park and the museum itself on Museum Drive, along with signs in Charlotte.

The students, working under the direction of landscape architecture instructor Yun Cao, approached the project as if it was an actual commercial undertaking that they would see in the real world.

In addition to sign placement, the students presented ideas at a recent museum gathering that would transform the sites from stick-in-the-ground signs to picnic and art areas surrounded by plantings, fountains and murals.

In one example, they proposed a total remake of the entrance to the transportation museum to beautify the site, redesign old pathways and upgrade signage.

“The students looked at each proposed site and created vibrant spaces as seen through their own eyes,” John Beck, who coordinates the project for the local heritage area, said.

The next step is planning additional fundraising efforts and getting buy-in from the area’s business districts and Lansing’s parks department.

— BILL CASTANIER

Public Art of the Week is a new feature that rotates with Eyesore of the Week. If you have an idea for either, please email eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call (517) 999-6704.

ORDINANCE # 2633

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN, PROVIDING FOR THE REZONING OF A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF LANSING, MICHIGAN AND FOR THE REVISION OF THE DISTRICT MAPS ADOPTED BY SECTION 1246.02 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

The City of Lansing ordains:

Section 1. That the district maps adopted by and incorporated as Section 1246.02 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lansing, Michigan be amended to provide as follows:

To change the zoning classification of the property described as follows:

- Case Number: Z-9-2023
- Parcel Number's: 33-01-01-28-103-098
- Addresses: Vacant parcel south of 1917 Osband Avenue
- Legal Descriptions: Lots 21 & 22, Rockford Subdivision from "IND-2" General Industrial to "R-6A" Urban Detached Residential.

Section 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance was duly adopted by the Lansing City Council on December 11, 2023, and a copy is available in the office of the Lansing City Clerk, 9th Floor, City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

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

CP#23-332

**CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides City of Lansing Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, taxing units and the City Assessor to appear and be heard on the proposed establishment of a new Neighborhood Enterprise Zone as indicated below:

Wheel District – No. 25

Approximate Boundaries: East Saginaw Street to the south, the CSX Railroad to the west, East Oakland Avenue to the north and North Pennsylvania Avenue to the east.

Establishment of a new Neighborhood Enterprise Zone (NEZ) will allow the owners of real property within the NEZ to apply for an abatement of certain property taxes for housing rehabilitation and construction of new housing on their property located within the NEZ. Further information regarding the establishment of the NEZ may be obtained from Kris Klein, Lansing Economic Development Corporation, 401 S. Washington Square, Suite 101, 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
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#23-333

B/24/082 DEMO OF 1 PROPERTY 1616 GLENROSE AVENUE as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site (www.Mitn.Info) until 2PM local time in effect on JANUARY 4, 2024. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Marilyn Chick at (517) 483-4282, or Marilyn.chick@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.

CP#23-335

B/24/079 POTTED TREES as per the specifications provided by the City of Lansing. The City of Lansing will accept bids at The City of Lansing, Purchasing Office, 124 W. Michigan Ave. 3rd Floor, Lansing, Michigan 48933 or electronically submitted thru MITN Site (www.Mitn.Info) until 2PM local time in effect on JANUARY 10, 2024. Complete specifications and forms required to submit bids are available by contacting Marilyn Chick at (517) 483-4282, or Marilyn.chick@lansingmi.gov or go to www.mitn.info. The City of Lansing encourages bids from All Vendors Including MBE/WBE Vendors and Lansing-Based Businesses.

CP#23-336

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER**

In the Matter of: Diehl Consolidated Drain

NOTICE OF MEETING OF BOARD OF DETERMINATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to you as a person liable for an assessment that the Board of Determination, comprised of Paulette Hatchett, Helen Le Blanc, John Leonard, and Dennis Williams (Alternate), will meet on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Delhi Charter Township Community Services Center, 2074 Aurelius Road, Holt, MI 48842**, to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the actions prayed for in a Petition dated June 27, 2023, for the cleaning out, relocating, widening, deepening, straightening, tiling, extending, improving, relocating along a highway, providing structures, mechanical devices and pumping equipment, adding lands, and adding branches and a relief drain of the Diehl Consolidated Drain, located and established in Delhi Charter Township, is necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare in accordance with Sections 72 and 191 of Act No. 40, PA 1956, as amended.

Proceedings conducted at this public hearing will be subject to the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. You are further notified that information regarding this meeting may be obtained from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Ingham County Drain Commissioner at the number noted below (voice) or through the Michigan Relay Center at 711 (TTY) at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance. Minutes of the meeting will be on file in the following office: Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, 707 Buhl Avenue, Mason, Michigan 48854.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that persons aggrieved by the decisions of the Board of Determination may seek judicial review in the Circuit Court for the County of Ingham within ten (10) days after the determination. If the actions prayed for in the Petition are determined to be necessary and conducive to the public health, convenience, or welfare, a special assessment may be levied against properties that benefit from the project. A landowner, or party of interest in property to be assessed, or their agent, may appear in person to comment on the necessity of the project.

Dated: December 13, 2023

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner
Phone: (517) 676-8395

CP#23-337

Eagle Township Board Synopsis, Clinton County

December 8, 2023 6:00 pm Special Board Meeting – Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Trustee Strahle, Treasurer C. Hoppes and 24 citizens. Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm. Board Actions:

- 1) Adopted resolution 12-08-2023-01 Resolution to Deny Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate (IFEC) Application of Paxton Industries Products Inc.
- 2) Approved to begin the process to terminate Eagle Township Industrial Development District 2023-1. Public Hearing to be held on January 18, 2024.

December 8, 2023 7:00 pm Special Joint Board Meeting - Present: Supervisor Stroud, Clerk Briggs-Dudley, Trustee Strahle, Treasurer C. Hoppes. Planning Commission Members: Chair Currie, Vice-Chair M. Hoppes, Secretary Sutherland and 21 citizens. Absent: Planning Commission Member John Iszler

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm. Board Actions:

- 1) Adopted resolution 12-08-2023-02 Resolution Requesting the Planning Commission Draft and Recommend an Interim Zoning Ordinance.

Prepared by: Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Eagle Township Clerk
Approved by: Troy Stroud, Eagle Township Supervisor

A complete copy of the minutes is available by contacting Laurie Briggs-Dudley, Clerk. Next regular meeting of the Eagle Township Board is December 21, 2023, at 6 pm at Eagle Township Hall, 14318 Michigan St, Eagle, MI. See www.eagletownship.org for latest updates.

CP#23-338

Visionary population growth report is unfortunately bound for a shelf

Could you imagine if Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's population growth council had Fairy Godmother-like powers?

Instead of turning a pumpkin into a stagecoach, a swipe of the wand could transform Detroit's sewer lines into a beautiful subway system.

POOF! Big, beautiful maples become stoutly built 2,000-square-foot homes.

Better yet, it could cut right to the chase and turn squirrels into 20-something tech wizards married to handy skilled tradespeople to install electricity, plumbing, or whatever.

Sorry. The Growing Michigan Together Council was a collection of mere mortals, well-meaning visionaries without any superpowers ... or without any powers at all, which ends up being the problem.

We're counting on people who have power (elected officials) to have the courage of someone else's convictions. It's the standard cause of death for these types of studies.

Assuming the council's 86-page report is available in some written form, it's destined to end up on a shelf. More than likely, it will be completely forgotten by Valentine's Day.

It's not because of the content. The report calls for throwing Michigan's K-12 education system into the dustbin and replacing it with a tailored preK-14 path that trains kids to specifically develop marketable skills and career goals.

If Michigan can create a large pool of well-trained students, at least some of them are bound to stay in Michigan to create vibrant communities. This will attract other well-educated students from other states and countries.

By 2050, Michigan will be among the top 10 states in the country in population growth. That's the idea, anyway.

It's a great vision crafted by some influential people. Like the University of Michigan president. DTE's chief legal counsel. The former president of the building trades union. The CEO of a Detroit-based economic development think tank.

Given six months to whip up a road-map on how to improve Michigan's sagging population growth numbers, the council didn't come up with the buzz words. You know, the ones that

drive politicians to do what politicians want to do.

The council doesn't issue a call to increase taxes for more school district money, or one to "fix the damn roads," as the governor and other Democrats might want.

The council doesn't call for tax cuts, as Republican legislators might want.

There's no expensive programs — like free college for all or \$20,000 down payments for first-time homebuyers — in this report.

Instead, it challenges public leaders to create a plan.

Whitmer's economic development people are marketing Michigan as a place women can have an abortion, or where LGBTQ people can have full civil rights. That's not a plan.

That may impact a sliver of the population, but the same appeal can be made to young professionals in a dozen other major cities and states.

Targeted ads playing up "reproductive freedom" or gay rights feels like laying political groundwork for a national political run.

On the other hand, this council charged with boosting our population used the words "reproductive health," "abortion," "gay," and LGBTQ a combined zero times in its 86 pages.

Instead, it challenged state leaders to come up with a plan to target all "young talent." It calls for an "economic growth plan."

Who is putting those plans together? Someone who won't be in the position she's in four years from now? Legislators who are capped out on their tenure after 12 years, at the most?

By then, will Metro Detroit have a real transit system, not a sad little elevated train that loops three miles around downtown Detroit? Will Michigan have more housing stock? A brand-new education system? Allegedly.

Working on a vision you didn't create isn't how politicians operate. That's why the odds of any of the council's report baring fruit are infinitesimally small.

A future governor is more likely to create a new population growth council than use the words of Whitmer's. At that point, her population growth council's handiwork may come off the shelf ... as a reference.

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



KYLE MELINN

Opinion

POLITICS

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing City Council on **Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

1. A public hearing to consider Ordinance 1525, a rezoning request from Michael Zawacki to rezone a 0.3-acre property at 730 Grove Street from R-2, Medium Density Single-Family Residential District to RM-32, City Center Multiple-Family Residential District. The Planning Commission considered this request at a public hearing on Oct. 25, 2023, and recommended Council approval on Nov. 8, 2023.
2. An application from Mister Car Wash for a site plan and special use permit for the property at 2110 Merritt Road to construct an approximately 6,530 square feet car wash facility with vacuums and associated parking. The Planning Commission considered this request at a public hearing on Oct. 11, 2023, and recommended Council approval on Oct. 25, 2023.
3. A request from American Gas & Oil for site plan and a special use permit approval for 100 E. Saginaw Street. The proposed application is to demolish the convenience store, gas pumps, and car wash, and reconstruct a new convenience store and gas pumps. The Planning Commission considered this request at a public hearing on Sep. 27, 2023, and recommended Council approval on Oct. 11, 2023.

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for each public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> and select the meeting date.

The public may attend and participate at all meetings in person. Members of the public may also participate virtually via Zoom. Please contact City Clerk Marie E. Wicks at 517.319.6914, mwicks@cityofeastlansing.com, (410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823) for additional information. Visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> for electronic access information.

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 City Council, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to council@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 Council's Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6869 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at tverche@cityofeastlansing.com.

This notice is posted in compliance with P.A. 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#23-339

Sponsored Content

Peace sells, but who's buying?

Halfway around the globe I'm watching tens of thousands of innocent people being murdered because of where they live.

At the same time, I drive by nativity scenes depicting Bethlehem, a city that is in the middle of a war zone where bombs indiscriminately destroy schools, hospitals, and homes.

Peace may sell, but war is where the profit is.
Defense stocks are doing well.

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Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Santa won't miss this stop on New Salem Avenue in Meridian Township.

Where the light leads us

The fourth annual Poetry and Lights Issue

By **LAWRENCE COSENTINO**

Every December, City Pulse invites local poets to join a year-end celebration of their art, accompanied by images of holiday lights.

We never know where the light will lead us, but as this holiday tradition enters its fourth year, we know the results will be warm and illuminating.

The Poetry and Lights tradition began in 2020 as a response to the lights-out angst and panic of that first pandemic year. Unsurprisingly, the theme of lights in a dark time proved to be an enduring one. Loneliness, tragedy, fear and darkness didn't suddenly descend to Earth in 2020, nor will they relent anytime soon. Poets were not limited to this theme, but most of them gravitated to it like moths.

Choosing light as a theme led to unexpected delights. (Including just now, when I noticed the "light" in "delight.") Lights pack a powerful impact as both a real phenomenon and a symbol. Light illuminates all doctrines and faiths and every flavor of awe and reverence, sacred or secular. Our poets, like the members of our community, celebrate light in many ways.

"Candle flames proclaim a faith re-

vealed," poet Robin Pizzo writes. Other poets pay tribute to starlight and to the solstice, the "sunlight growing in brightness to illuminate paths to our next chapters" (Mary Fox), and even to the dual nature of light, both "fully particle and fully wave" (Ryan Apple).

Sarah Carson surprisingly pulls the story of Christ and astronomy into the same orbit, like two disparate guests thrown together at a dinner party. Prompted by probing questions from her 6-year-old, she thinks of Mary, the mother of Christ, and "all those strangers, led to her manger/by a distant gas fire."

Of course, light's power comes from darkness, and you'll find plenty of that here, too. Anita Skeen describes a chilly night watching for meteors near Los Alamos, New Mexico, with five friends, sharing stories of loss, illness, accident and soured marriages while a "river

of stars," the Milky Way, flows silently overhead.

Echoes of a faraway war run through two of this year's poems. In her mind's eye, Nan Jackson surveys "desert sands" and "toppled buildings" and ducks into "the stale air of tunnels" where a child waits for light. Dawn Newton grapples with TV images of suffering babies she "can't unsee."

Thoughts of winter snow find Cruz Villarreal thinking of "those in need." He suggests that "if spring is kind, if we are kind, and both arrive in time," kindness will "bring relief." Wayne Richard Pope strikes a similar note, evoking the "new light and color" of lilacs and daffodils that are "one winter away."

Other poets bypass the general theme to give us glimpses into their lives, with a lemon tang of reflection. Connor Beeman takes us into a hospital coffee shop, where they have an

"hour to kill" between grim doctor's appointments. Sensing time slipping away, they immediately regret using the word "kill." Jay Artemis Hull offers a vivid yet ambiguous image of a close physical encounter that teeters deliciously between love and aggression. Cheryl Caesar finds comfort in stories and images from her childhood, wishing the reader a "smiling face" to ward off the scoffers who "mock" and "demand a rewrite."

Fox and Ruelaine Stokes return us to the light as they decorate trees with a bittersweet, defiantly hopeful fire in their eyes, despite loss and advancing death.

Pizzo's "Nostalgia" paints a colorful mosaic of starry nights, "stardust trails," "sugar kisses" and a feeling of faith and joy she thought was lost amid the stress of life. In Lisa Bond Brewer's loving tribute to her father, the memory of his "post-smoke" peppermints leads her to reflect on the "fragments of his wisdom" that have lit her way in life.

Read these poems with an open mind and generous spirit and before long, a fresh candle or two will flicker to life in your world. Deepest thanks to the poets who shared their lives, thoughts and verbal artistry so generously.

The images in this section and on the cover of this issue were captured by retired photographer Raymond Holt. Holt moved to Lansing in the early 1980s and got involved in photography while taking classes at Lansing Community College, only two blocks from his house. He worked as a media production specialist for the state of Michigan for more than 30 years before his retirement in 2019. Although he calls himself "a bit of a grouch" where holiday decorations are concerned, he has come to enjoy sharing residents' enthusiasm about their varied and elaborate lighting traditions.



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

The Ingham County Courthouse in Mason provides a perfect backdrop for traditional holiday decorations.

Advent blessing

It's the last day of school before Christmas vacation. Scholastic books have come in. Atop my stack, a round-limbed gingerbread cookie

made by the teacher just for me. This weekend I will stay with a neighbor, as the raging ruler of our house will be away.

There's this feeling I get when I know something's coming to me, wrote my eight-year-old self in the book with the tiny gold key.

Time opens before me. Soon after I will learn the word *anticipation*, and later, *advent*. But already I feel it, the quiet turn toward celebration,

as two calm days stretch like a desert night sky, with books guiding me like a star, and a round smiling cake saying, *This is what you are:*

no misshapen freak, but perfect as the child in the manger. The household Herod will break into the diary, mock my words, scold,

demand a rewrite. But I carry them still, and share with you on this holiday: a card, a carol, a wish, a prayer: that you may

have peace like the blue depths of the sky, the faithful light of your own lodestar, and a smiling face repeat to you each night:

You are perfect and beloved, just as you are. May the gentle kine enwreath you as you sleep, warming you with their hay-sweet breath.

— CHERYL CAESAR

Cheryl Caesar teaches writing at Michigan State University and serves as secretary of the Lansing Poetry Club and president of the Michigan College English Association. Last summer, she won first prize for prose in the "My Secret Lansing" writing contest.

Waxing

When we come to the other side of solstice, singing together, candles in hand,

we do not give much worry to wax melting on fingers, the choice of soy or paraffin,

or even to the paradox of light's dual-natured being: fully particle and fully wave.

But witness shadows slingshot back and stay past the perimeters of glow,

how each one keeps confounded watch, quivering on the twilight edge like some stray cat or wounded beast.

How light came into darkness, and darkness did not comprehend, and did not overcome.

— RYAN APPLE

Ryan Apple is a music professor at Great Lakes Christian College and serves on the board of the Lansing Poetry Club. His chapbook, "Stars and Sparrows Alike," was published by Finishing Line Press in 2020.



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

The stately architecture of some older East Lansing neighborhoods lends itself to elegant, understated holiday lighting.



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Potter Park Zoo's Wonderland of Lights brings thousands of visitors from across mid-Michigan to Lansing each year. The event runs 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday (Dec. 21) through Saturday (Dec. 23).



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

A "tiny town" display in the window of The Daily Scoop Ice Cream Shoppe in Mason. Proprietor Shawn Sodman said the handpainted pieces have been in the family for generations.

Among stars

The five of us mix up
the stories from our lives
with myths of The Big Dipper
and The Pleiades, accounts of flying
saucers we think we saw.
I, who have never seen
a shooting star,
sit precariously tilted back
in my metal church basement chair,
eyes ransacking the stellar clutter.
Everyone sees one
but me. I see the glow far off
from Los Alamos,
the blinking lights of two planes
ferrying their nervous cargo
on the river of stars,
the Milky Way
marbling the dark silk
of night. We sit wrapped
in blankets to keep out the chill,
jutting up like rocks
on the surrounding mesas.
We have no campfire, no fear
of those we share the night with,
no chants centuries old.
We talk about friends
lost along the way, how illness
and accident flourish,
how good marriages go wrong.
Our flashlight beams
punctuate the talk, trace Scorpio's arm
or Cassiopeia's chair from where
she looks down
upon five miniscules of light
streaking across the hills
like shooting stars.

— ANITA SKEEN

Anita Skeen is a professor emerita in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University, where she is series editor for the Wheelbarrow Books Poetry Prize. She is the author of six volumes of poetry.

6th grade, Livingston, Montana

I am trying to transform
a large, flat piece of cardboard
into a candle.

Wielding a long brush, I dip
it into red tempera
make a bright wavy line,
rinse the brush, dip it into green,
make a series of big dots,
then yellow, then black.

I will be a candle with six other 6th graders
in the Christmas play.

We will sing, *"It is better to light just one
little candle . . ."*

My nose is two inches away from the cardboard.
I am trying to add yellow
to the black parts.

*"When the day is dark and dreary
And we know not where to go . . ."*

The colors of my candle are a jumble
but I will hold it up in front of me
I will open my mouth, join my voice
to the voices of the other five candles.

"All you need is a tiny spark," we will sing.

December is cold and dark in Livingston.
The purple mountains form high walls
around the little town in the valley.
The days stretch out like snow.

When I sing, the notes are not in the right places.
My best friend Beverly will tell me my voice
is bad, I'm getting everyone off key.

I should mouth the words, Beverly will say,
and not make a sound.

I don't want to hurt anyone's ears,
but I want to be a candle. I want to sing
the song.

In my throat, my voice is angry at Beverly.

On the day of the play, I hold up
my cardboard candle, open my mouth
and sing—oh so softly

*". . . if everyone lit just one little candle
what a bright world this would be."*

— RUELAIN STOKES

Ruelaine Stokes is a poet, spoken-word performer and teacher. She is the author of "Jar of Plenty," a 2022 collection of poems, and co-organized the "My Secret Lansing" writing contest and book project in 2023. For decades, she has worked to nurture a growing poetry community in Greater Lansing.

As Far As the Stars

It's almost Christmas
when the conversation turns to starlight:

How close, my 6-year-old wants to know,
would we have to be

to get burned?
& I am so eager to reassure her

it won't happen
that I forget the job of a mother

is to preheat, to air dry—
to make each next thing possible

regardless of the gravity,
the darkness.

I think of Mary,
all those strangers

led to her manger
by a distant gas fire.

If she held her own boy that first night
knowing one day he'd demand

she leave the temple,
she chose not to use the years
in between to convince him
he'd make a fine carpenter,

begging him to choose
a safety school,

to write her phone number
in his underwear.

No, he told her to go,
and she went,

disappeared from the story
until it was time to collect his body.

The same stars above her then,
that burn above us now.

No closer. No farther away.
How close would we have to get to touch them?

It'd be a long journey,
I tell my daughter.

Farther than anyone has ever traveled.
But if you decide to go,

I'll go with you
if you want me.

Or else I'll stay here,
the porchlight on.

dinner in the microwave
for when you return.

— SARAH CARSON

Sarah Carson is the author of "How to Baptize a Child in Flint, Michigan" (Persea Books). You can read more of her writing at stuffssarahwrote.com.



Holiday lights shine a path to the front door of this home on Moores River Drive in Lansing. Raymond Holt for City Pulse



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Skelly Bob is ready for the holidays! The rest of the year, he's used for teacher and student training at REO Town's Peoples Yoga.

Peppermint kisses

Post-smoke, Daddy, always savored a peppermint
its scent a soothing balm.
Each night, he leaned close, kissing my brow
weaving encouraging words into a tapestry.

*Your beauty glows from the inside out.
Intelligence and humility are superpowers.
Only bow your head and knees in prayer.
Love is a verb.*

I'd collect fragments of his wisdom,
tuck them into the pockets of my mind
golden scraps saved for later years,
when the world sought to quell the brilliance.

Dimming would not come from Daddy
But from children on the playground,
intimidated bosses and unworthy friends.

I delve into the recesses of memories
resurrect his words
now stored securely in my heart.

His words emerge gleaming
like the Christmas star
illuminate my path forward.

His breath escapes
a sweet, cool comfort,
his touch a timeless gift,

I tell my children,
my light shines because of
a peppermint caress,
placed upon expectant brows.

Their light shines even brighter.
His legacy endures.

— LISA BOND BREWER

Lisa Bond Brewer, a proud Jersey girl who now resides in Lansing, Michigan, is the vice president of corporate communications for UST HealthProof, a global healthcare technology company. Lisa is an accomplished writer, having published poetry in Essence magazine, Literary Mama, TimBookTu and other publications. Married to her college sweetheart, Lisa is the proud mother of three daughters and is also a grandmother.

Tis The Season

Bell ringers,
Well-wishers,
Silent nights,
Holy nights,
Bright lights
Red green and white.
Tis the season
touched by a spirit,
the spirit of giving,
of sharing goodwill
like a winter storm
shares its snow.
Tis the season
that brings expectations
of fun and joy,
and maybe better days
for those in need.
Tis the season
when the weather of our humanity and kindness
is active, like rapid wisps of snow
that swirl like powerful cyclones
along the sidewalks of our soul
spurring generous deeds,
laden with kind words that stretch out
like thick blankets of snow
to protect what lies beneath
what waits for spring
to bring relief.
That blanket of snow
that protects the tender things
the things in need
that lie beneath,
the things not really seen,
the things that need to bloom,
if spring is kind,
if we are kind,
and both arrive in time,
to help the kindness bloom.

— CRUZ VILLARREAL

Cruz Villarreal is a published local poet with a writing degree from Lansing Community College.



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Williamstown Township resident Cheryl Underwood has admitted her light display can be “a little over the top” around Christmas. This year it’s a bit more subdued, though still spectacular.

Poem for Dark December

The orange flame of autumn
Has flickered from sight.
The trees black and lifeless,
The land, dark as night.

But new light and color,
Are one winter away,
From April’s bright daffodils,
And lilacs in May.

— WAYNE RICHARD POPE

Wayne Richard Pope is a fervent Lansing booster, photojournalist and snap-happy documentarian always on the lookout for a photo opportunity. He studied photography at Lansing Community College. Putting pictures and words together is his lifelong joy.



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Not all holiday lights are stationary. Lansing Bike Party members take advantage of an unseasonably warm December evening for a ride and holiday celebration.



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Holiday lights are a labor of love for Brandon Minnick of East Lansing — it's been that way for the past 12 years. His family loves the display, too. See it at 900 N. Harrison Road.

Nostalgia

I still get that feeling, I hope you do too
 Here's a reminder to focus on what's joyful and true
 A quickening flutter of angel wings
 From the mystery and magic the season brings
 Ancient tales of stardust trails
 The distant sound of trumpet's scale
 Across a brilliant, starry night
 Enduring wonderment takes flight
 From Emmanuel's arrival for all mankind
 Blessings and miracles, witness the divine
 Connected hearts longing forgiveness; healed
 Candle flames proclaim a faith revealed
 The gift of giving brings anticipation
 A return home conjures sublime jubilation
 A child's giggle reflects twinkling eyes bright
 Sugar kisses send their little wishes a'flight
 That feeling, I thought was lost to life's stressors
 Is still there despite unwanted pressures
 In the Capital city with a little try
 Community explored share many reasons why
 Giving hearts and helping hands
 The season's compassion echo love's command!

— ROBIN M. PIZZO

Robin Pizzo is a writer, educator and small-business owner of PolishedPages. Yet nothing tops the joy of being Ron's wife and the mother of Raven, Isabella, Isaiah, Joseph and fur baby Rocco. Follow her @PizzosPages on X.



SECA II

Getting undressed,
 I hold my cargo pants to my nose
 and inhale. I smell like outside.
 Like sweat and gasoline and asphalt
 and all those acrid city odors
 that have a whole new meaning with you.

Rumble of an engine beneath us, intimacy
 to tuck thighs around you
 loose hands on waist to link us together—
 one unit of acceleration and inertia—
 the way we only are when we're dancing or riding.

My whole body is tired, tingling
 with phantom vibrations,
 remembering the ride physically.
 I want to push you against a wall sometimes,
 have fun with it.

step-a-step, rock step – combat swing
 kicking out at the others dancing
 in our tiny living room.
 A wink as you cede control,
 some joke about a switch
 as I take us into the matador,
 stealing a glance as we fan out.

Winding down for the evening,
 an arm hooks around a throat;
 a thought just barely makes it
 to a murmur: "Is this weird? Sometimes
 I just want to destroy you."

— JAY ARTEMIS HULL

Jay Artemis Hull is rumored to exist.



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

The holidays are times to gather and dine with family, friends or co-workers. In Williamston, Zynda's provides a welcoming display of lights and garland for its guests.

In December

In December, sadness for those missing
hovers near my heart—
a mother's hand no longer reaches for mine,
a husband's lips no longer
reassure me I am loved,
friends' merry eyes no longer
glimmer a promise of adventure.
So many gone to pay their coins to Charon!

Still, this first day of December I hoist
a small tree into the bay window,
decorate its artificial branches with bulbs
and colored lights then smile at the stuffed dolls
I stow beneath its limbs—a homage to days
long-gone when small children
attended my Christmas merriments.
Still, their ragdoll features somehow witness my faith
that the future holds more than mourning.

Shining in that window, those tree lights will be enough
to spark some charity from my checkbook,
send me one early morn to bake a few Santa cookies,
and spur me to invite old friends to holiday lunch.
There, together—
whether with Menorah or tree or candlelight—
we will bid farewell to the old year
and smile our welcome to the small pulses
of sunlight adding to each day—
growing in brightness to illuminate
paths to our next chapters.
And we will feel blessed
we still have this time together
and a path to follow.

*May the season bless you, too,
with the cheerful comforts
of friends, family, and memory,
and may you, too, find joy and hope
in the expectation and anticipation—
the swelling light reaching for tomorrow.*

— MARY FOX

Mary Fox, a Detroit-born poet, resides in Portland, Michigan. In 2016, she published "Waiting for Rain," a poetry chapbook, with Finishing Line Press, and in 2018, she co-edited "Promptly Speaking," the fourth Writing at the Ledges anthology. Her 2019 chapbook was "Reading Lessons" (Finishing Line Press). She promotes poetry and oral presentation with several Lansing-area organizations, including the Poetry Room, the Coffeehouse at All Saints Episcopal Church and Writing at the Ledges.



Raymond Holt for City Pulse

A thousand strands of lights are wound around the tree that graces this front yard on Pebblebrook Lane in East Lansing. Owner Brian Bertsch is proud of the tree display and the recently acquired sleigh.



Working with Clay

Some Wednesdays, I travel expressways from one side of town to the other, weaving between lane closures in evening traffic, ferrying a young girl to clay class near the edge of the city, where factory meets farmland, industry meets quiet fields of cows.

Once she enters her class, this artist learning the language of clay with nimble fingers and watchful eyes, intuition fermenting, I find a couch and practice Spanish: yo quiero, tú quieres, ellas quieren.

On the drive back, the artist drifts off to the rumble of roads. Autumn colors fringe the sky, a sunset hanging, ready to drop. At home, the television squawks out harsh news of the day: Babies. Premature Gazan babies, white diapers accenting tender skin,

babies in rows, at angles, together in large beds, some wrapped in green, others merely diapered, bodies warming bodies amid green rolled bolsters and bumpers. Los bebés, los niños. Juntos. I watch with furtive glances, peek up from my Duolingo screen only to

look away, hide in Spanish words, afraid to digest another morsel of loss. I can't unsee the small bodies, unhear the peril embedded in four syllables: in-cu-ba-tor. I can't relinquish my longing for bolts of green cloth to swaddle babies, envelop them in warmth.

Weeks later, on a city street, I snap a picture of the artist with her creation: A friendly clay dragon, wings outstretched, captured in a photo within a display case. The creature wears a crown of jewels glinting green, its backpack carrier at the ready.

I hug the artist and want to say more, but how to explain that she's given the dragon enough strength to break through the display case, reach skyward, and fly? Enough strength for transporting blankets of green to swaddle babies, warming their air with beating wings?

— DAWN NEWTON

Dawn Newton is the author of "The Remnants of Summer," a novel, and "Winded: A Memoir in Four Stages," both published by Loyola University Maryland. She has published short fiction, poetry and essays in various literary magazines.

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to give by credit card.





Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Holiday lights mark the way to REO Town Pub on South Washington Avenue in Lansing.

surgery consultation

today, a doctor's appointment
to prelude a doctor's appointment.

lately, I've been spending much
of my time rehabilitating.
getting better, slowly,
or at least not getting worse.

in occupational therapy, they say
the swelling is down by .3 centimeters.
they also mention this is within
the measuring error, but
"progress," they insist.

the nurses downstairs tell you not
to be afraid of the surgeon.
you are not afraid of him—you
just wish you were more trusting.

you wish you trusted your doctors, trusted
this system, trusted your body
to get better.

no one can decide
if the surgery is minor
or major, if the recovery will be
easy or painful—
when you will get your body back
or at least
what remains.

an hour to kill between appointments,
a break at a coffeeshop with stiff tape
crossing your forearms,
and all you know

is that you wish you'd used
a kinder word than kill.

— CONNOR BEEMAN

Connor Beeman is a queer writer and winner of the 2022 Ritzenhein Emerging Poet Award. Their first chapbook, "concrete, rust, marrow," appeared last spring from Finishing Line Press.

her grandfather prays with us

and he asks that we not
stifle joy

he tells us to let ourselves smile
when we see the red flash
of a cardinal in a backyard tree
when we watch our children
chase after a chipmunk
rumpling leftover leaves
just before the snow

her grandfather prays with us
and he asks that we not
stifle joy
but send our joy aloft
high enough to infiltrate the clouds

he prays that the clouds carry our joy
up over the rooftops
of Detroit apartment blocks
out across the waters of Lake Erie
and past the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
that our joy gather strength
above the rush of Niagara Falls

he asks that we release our joy
thick enough to be carried
all the way across
the Atlantic Ocean
that we make it steady enough
not to lose its footing
on the Rock of Gibraltar

we send our joy
with reminders of birdsong
to carry it over desert sands
and between toppled buildings
to remember a child
leaving her home

we send our joy
with reminders of sunshine
to carry it below the buildings
and into the stale air of tunnels
to remember a child
who waited there
for light

— NAN JACKSON

Nan Jackson grew up with poetry, thanks to her mother. Retired from teaching mathematics at Lansing Community College, her academic loves also include world languages and geology. If you look very closely, you can still see her sidewalk poem, "Shiawassee Street Bridge," as it fades into the concrete on Lansing's River Trail.



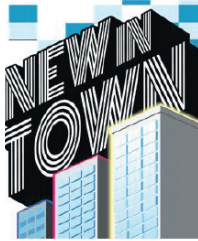
Raymond Holt for City Pulse

A red nose won't be necessary if this reindeer pulls Santa's sleigh. Until then it will shine brightly on Powderhorn Drive in Okemos.

Kaiyo breathes new life into Okemos' sushi scene

By TYLER SCHNEIDER

The COVID-19 pandemic wasn't kind to restaurants in general, but it seems to have taken a particular toll on the sushi eateries of Okemos.



Kaiyo Sushi & Grill

5100 Marsh Road, Okemos
11:30 a.m.-9 p.m.
Tuesday-Thursday
11:30 a.m.-10 p.m.
Friday-Saturday
Noon-8 p.m. Sunday
517-708-8865

The exodus began when Ukai Hibachi Grill & Sushi Bar closed its Grand River Avenue location for good in 2020.

In 2021, Maru Sushi left its space at 5100 Marsh Road to merge with the East Lansing location, and in 2022, Akagi Japanese Restaurant shuttered operations at

1754 Central Park Drive to merge with East Lansing's Uni Sushi & Ramen.

In response, three Okemos residents decided to team up and deliver a new option to help fill the gaps. Pi Kai, He Li and Sam Ling had "known each other for a long time," Kai explained. In February, they began discussing the possibility of opening their own sushi restaurant.

For its location, the trio chose the approximately 2,000-square-foot property previously occupied by Maru Sushi. With the kitchen already outfitted for sushi prep, the timeline to a grand opening would be considerably shorter.

"I actually found the location," Kai said. "We were able to purchase it from the previous owner, and we were also able to purchase his liquor license,

which was pretty convenient."

By October, Kaiyo Sushi & Grill was fully operational. It staffs 10 employees, with a handful of them working in the kitchen under Ling, whose decades of experience as a sushi chef heavily influenced the decision to open the restaurant. Two other chefs have around a decade of experience each, Kai said, while "Ling is the one training and teaching" the newcomers.

Since opening, Kaiyo has already released a revamped menu, which was expanded on Nov. 29 to include some staff additions as well as recommendations from customers. It features dozens of colorful and decorative dishes that would set the perfect vibe for a date night or holiday-break reunion.

Employee Yasa Chin mentioned a few menu items she's found to be the most popular so far, including the "guest favorite" Okemos roll, composed of crab stick, avocado, lobster salad and cream cheese, all wrapped in soy paper and topped with shrimp tempura, spicy mayo, chef's sauce and an extra dash of tempura crunch.

Other popular rolls include the Volcano, filled with spicy tuna, shrimp tempura and cucumber and topped with seared red snapper, spicy mayo and Cajun seasoning; the Detroit Tiger, a mix of tuna and cucumber topped with tuna, salmon, avocado, tempura flakes and eel and lemon sauces; and the Firecracker, a spicier, flash-torched roll filled with shrimp tempura, cream cheese and avocado and topped with spicy tuna, jalapeños and eel sauce.

In addition to standard offerings of poke bowls, nigiri, sashimi and hibachi,



Courtesy of Kaiyo Sushi & Grill

Members of the Lansing Foodies Facebook page have praised Okemos' new Kaiyo Sushi & Grill for its portioning, presentation, service and the taste of its many Japanese offerings.

Kaiyo's expansive menu also includes takoyaki — ball-shaped appetizers filled with diced, fried octopus pieces and drizzled with eel sauce, Japanese mayonnaise and bonito fish flakes. Chin cited the Avocado Bomb and Spicy Tuna Poppers as other appetizers that have been ordered the most so far.

The reception from the community

thus far has been warm, welcoming and enthusiastic, with reviews on the Lansing Foodies Facebook page praising the portioning, presentation, service and, of course, the taste.

"There aren't too many sushi places available in Okemos now, so the community just loves us being back here," Kai said.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Planning Commission on **Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**, at East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823.

1. A public hearing will be held to consider Ordinance 1528, a request from residents within the Glencairn neighborhood to establish an R-O-1 rental restriction overlay district. An R-O-1 overlay district, if adopted, would disallow the issuance of any new initial rental licenses within the subject area. The area proposed for the overlay is bounded by: Roxburgh Ave. on the west, Saginaw St. and Clarendon Rd. on the north, Oxford Rd., Sunset Ln., and Forest St. on the east, and Southlawn Ave. on the south.
2. A public hearing will be held to consider a Special Use Permit request from Puff Puff Tobacco (Aqeel Daudi) to construct a ~6,000 sq. ft. single-story, multi-tenant retail building with drive-through and thirty space parking lot at 210, 218, and 224 W. Lake Lansing Road.

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for each public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> and select the meeting date.

Materials related to the request are available to view at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8 am and 5 pm, or online at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to the Planning Commission, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 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 Planning, Building, and Development Office, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at rurdial@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#23-340

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Z-10-2023, 512 E. Miller Road
Rezoning from "R-3" Suburban Detached Residential
to "S-C" Suburban Commercial

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, 10th Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan to consider a request to rezone the property at 512 E. Miller Road from "R-3" Suburban Detached Residential to "S-C" Suburban Commercial. The purpose of the rezoning is to combine the subject property with the commercial property to its east to create a larger site for the construction of a gasoline station.

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., Monday, January 8, 2024 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/CMMC
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#23-331

People and places that shaped Williamston

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Local historian and retired Williamston High School teacher Mitch Lutzke tells some intriguing stories about Williamston's history in his new book, "Stories from Williamston's Past: Volume 2."

Lutzke said that discovering the life story of Kathleen Frances Lawler, who rose from humble beginnings in Williamston to become one of Warren G. Harding's key advisors during his unusual front-porch presidential campaign from his home in Marion, Ohio, was pure serendipity.

"While doing research, I would come across blurbs on her life and save them. I was fascinated, and I began throwing out her name to older residents in Williamston. They'd never heard of her," Lutzke said.

An intrepid researcher, Lutzke used resources from the Harding Presidential Library & Museum in Marion and discovered it had held an exhibit on Lawler. That led to a discovery that some of Lawler's papers and scrapbooks were right in his own backyard.

Someone had donated a collection of Lawler's to Michigan State University's archives, and it allowed him to begin piecing together her biography.

Lutzke said not much is known about Lawler's earliest days in Williamston. No school records are available from that period of time, so nothing shows her graduating from high school.

The author believes she jumped to one of Lansing's business and secretari-

al schools and became a stenographer, eventually becoming what would be known today as a court reporter.

After a stint at the Michigan Attorney General's Office, Lawler made a leap to a series of appointments working with U.S. Senators in the nation's Capitol.

Media reports show that she traveled the U.S. on various assignments, including accompanying Republican presidential nominee Charles Evans Hughes on a monthlong campaign swing in 1916. In 1918, she was front and center in a U.S. Senate race between industrialist Henry Ford and Truman Newberry, which was won by Newberry but contested by Ford, who demanded a recount.

Lawler was then selected as one of the stenographers to take notes during the Senate testimony, which resulted in the indictment of Newberry for campaign spending violations.

Lutzke writes that not long after, Lawler was selected to be one of Harding's campaign staffers and moved to Ohio. Local media called her "the secretary to Warren G. Harding."

Lawler soon transitioned to being the personal secretary for First Lady Florence Harding and, following Harding's successful run, was expected to be named the social secretary to the first lady.

However, in January 1921, Lawler submitted her resignation to President-elect Harding. Afterward, she held a variety of jobs and attended the Republican National Convention twice. She also wrote a 900-page memoir that was never published.

Lutzke said he discovered where the manuscript is being held during his research. When it's transferred to the



Courtesy of Mitch Lutzke

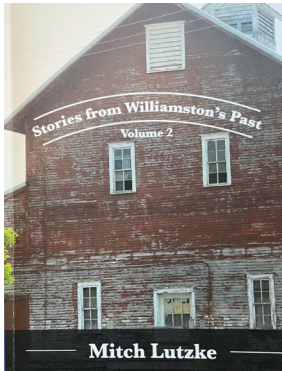
Local historian Mitch Lutzke tells 14 stories of people and places that made an impact on Williamston in his new book, "Stories from Williamston's Past: Volume 2."

Harding Presidential Library & Museum, he's going to make a trip there to read it.

Another Williamston resident detailed in the book is Forest Akers, whose baseball skills Lutzke was aware of before his research. Akers played for numerous city teams and semi-pro teams in the area before making his way to MSU, then known as the Michigan Agricultural College. He went on to work for the REO Motor Car Company as a sales manager before moving to more major roles in the Detroit auto industry.

Akers, who graduated last in his class at Williamson High School and was kicked out of MSU, didn't let any of that get in his way when it came to giving back. Lutzke writes how Akers joined the Michigan Board of Agriculture, akin to MSU's Board of Trustees today. Akers Hall is named after him and his spouse, and the golf course on campus was the result of one of his many gifts.

Lutzke found it was much easier to research Akers' life since the MSU archives contain an extensive collection of his papers, along with seven scrapbooks con-



Mitch Lutzke



Courtesy of Mitch Lutzke

The only known picture of Kathleen Frances Lawler, circa 1920.

taining numerous photographs. In contrast, there is only one known photograph of Lawson, which appeared in a national newspaper in 1920.

All in all, Lutzke's new book includes 14 individual stories of people and places that have made an impact on Williamston. He said he's going to take some time off from writing, but he's already thinking of another book on early Lansing-area industrial baseball teams.

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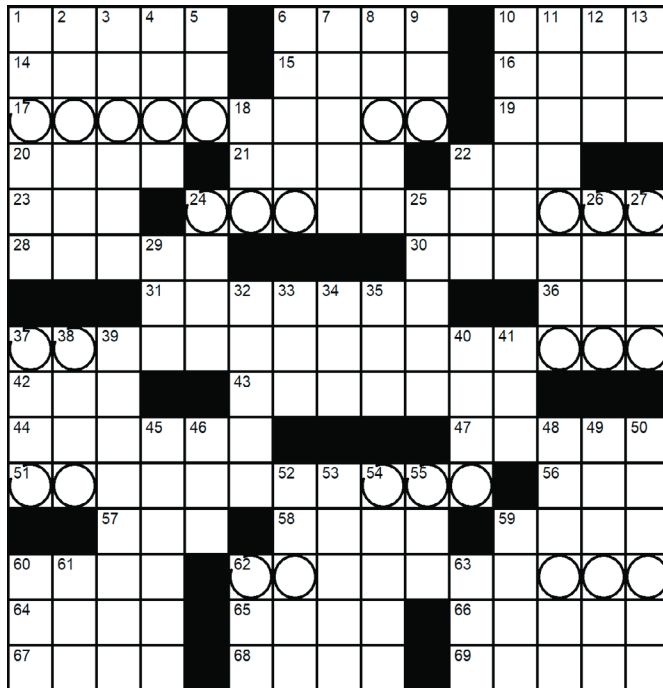
Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Bundling Up" -- plenty of layers.
by Matt Jones
© 2023 Matt Jones

ACROSS

- 1. Yogurt-based Indian drink
- 6. ___ noche (tonight, in Spanish)
- 10. Onetime Kremlin figure
- 14. Had takeout, perhaps
- 15. Like a dime
- 16. Kitchen gadget and cookware company
- 17. Piece of paper with nothing on it
- 19. Seriously lack
- 20. Position in an ordered list
- 21. "Desperate Housewives" actress Hatcher
- 22. Initials on a Cardinal's cap
- 23. "... and so on"
- 24. Obey Daylight Saving Time, maybe
- 28. Name not to say out loud right now (lest it turns on devices)
- 30. Pearl bearer
- 31. Do some coding?
- 36. Rita who judged on "The X Factor"
- 37. How a winning streak might be described
- 42. Floor decor
- 43. Driving levy
- 44. Letter-based British secondary school exam, once
- 47. Prearrange
- 51. High-grade, ultra-soft European fabric
- 56. "Messenger" material
- 57. Had been
- 58. Abel's big brother
- 59. Mid-century music system
- 60. Parliament



- member
 - 62. "You're welcome to visit"
 - 64. Alumnus, for short
 - 65. Once again
 - 66. Of service
 - 67. Biblical boats
 - 68. Coin flip
 - 69. "___ be great!"
- DOWN**
- 1. Tar pits location
 - 2. Repetitively named Aztec spear-throwing tool
 - 3. Medium setting?
 - 4. Bathroom fixture
 - 5. Tats
 - 6. It's a bit of a knockout
 - 7. Rob Zombie's spouse, fashion designer ___ Moon
 - 8. Advertising gimmick
 - 9. Six-legged creature
 - 10. Place to the right of

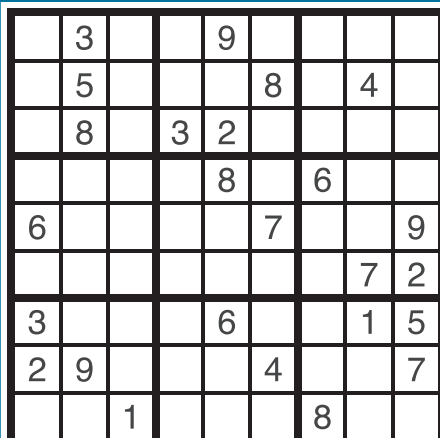
- the decimal point
- 11. He-Man's nemesis
- 12. Cy Young Award winner, probably
- 13. Tackle component
- 18. Engine additive and NASCAR sponsor
- 22. Put into words
- 24. Hourglass filler
- 25. "Yeah, yeah, I know"
- 26. Prefix for space
- 27. Sketch
- 29. Baby boomer's kid
- 32. Paste shortcut, on PCs
- 33. Los Del ___ ("Macarena" duo)
- 34. 1950s singer Sumac
- 35. ___ Xing (street sign)
- 37. Trampled, with "on"
- 38. "The Handmaid's Tale" streamer
- 39. Belinda Carlisle hit where she "can't
- 40. Conde ___ Traveler
- 41. Timber tool
- 45. Rarer Pok mon collectibles from the Sword & Shield Series
- 46. Interjections outside a Tim Hortons, maybe?
- 48. Pub contest fodder
- 49. Not noticed
- 50. Like sorted socks
- 52. Budgetary prefix
- 53. Gold fabrics
- 54. Opinions
- 55. U2 producer Brian
- 59. Frozen planet in "The Empire Strikes Back"
- 60. Golfing org.
- 61. Miss the mark
- 62. Nyan ___ (meme with a repetitive earworm)
- 63. Cashew, e.g.

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Answers on page 26

SUDOKU

Advanced



Fun By The Numbers

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

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

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

December 20-26, 2023

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Among couples who share their finances, 39% lie to their partners about money. If you have been among that 39%, please don't be in 2024. In fact, I hope you will be as candid as possible about most matters with every key ally in your life. It will be a time when the more honest and forthcoming you are, the more resources you will have at your disposal. Your commitment to telling the truth as kindly but completely as possible will earn you interesting rewards.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): According to tradition in ancient Israel, a Jubilee year happened every half-century. It was a "trumpet blast of liberty," in the words of the Old Testament book Leviticus. During this grace period, enslaved people were supposed to be freed. Debts were forgiven, taxes canceled and prisoners released. People were encouraged to work less and engage in more revelry. I boldly proclaim that 2024 should be a Jubilee year for you Bulls. To launch the fun, make a list of the alleviations and emancipations you will claim in the months ahead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "Make peace with their devils, and you will do the same with yours." The magazine Dark's Art Parlor provides us with this essential wisdom about how to conduct vibrant relationships. I invite you to make liberal use of it in 2024. Why? Because I suspect you will come to deeply appreciate how all your worthwhile bonds inevitably require you to engage with each other's wounds, shadows and unripeness. To say it another way, healthy alliances require you to deal respectfully and compassionately with each other's darkness. The disagreements and misunderstandings the two of you face are not flaws that discolor perfect intimacy. They are often rich opportunities to enrich togetherness.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Cancerian author Franz Kafka wrote more than 500 letters to his love interest Felice Bauer. Her outpouring of affection wasn't as voluminous, but it was still very warm. At one point, Kafka wryly communicated to her, "Please suggest a remedy to stop me trembling with joy like a lunatic when I receive and read your letters." He added, "You have given me a gift such as I never even dreamt of finding in this life." I will be outrageous here and predict that 2024 will bring you, too, a gift such as you never dreamt of finding in this life. It may or may not involve romantic love, but it will feel like an ultimate blessing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Renowned inventor Nikola Tesla (1856-1943) felt an extraordinary closeness with sparrows, finches, pigeons and other wild birds. He loved feeding them, conversing with them and inviting them into his home through open windows. He even fell in love with a special pigeon he called White Dove. He said, "I loved her as a man loves a woman, and she loved me. As long as I had her, there was a purpose to my life." I bring this to your attention because I suspect 2024 will be an excellent time to upgrade your relationship with birds, Leo. Your power to employ and enjoy the metaphorical power of flight will be at a maximum.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "All the world's a stage," wrote William Shakespeare. He was comparing life to a theatrical drama, suggesting that we are all performers attached to playing roles. In response, a band called the Kingpins released the song "All the World's a Cage." The lyrics include these lines: "You promised that the world was mine / You chained me to the borderline / Now I'm just sitting here doing time / All the world's a cage." These thoughts are the prelude to my advice for you. I believe that in 2024, you are poised to live your life in a world that is neither like a stage nor a cage. You will have unusually ample freedom from expectations, artificial constraints and the inertia of the past. It will be an excellent time to break free from outdated self-images and your habitual persona.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): At age 10, an American girl named Becky Schroeder launched her career as an inventor. Two years later, she got her first of

many patents for a product that enables people to read and write in the dark. I propose we make her one of your role models for 2024. No matter how old you are, I suspect you will be doing precocious things. You will understand life like a person at least 10 years older than you. You will master abilities that a casual observer might think you learned improbably fast. You may even have seemingly supernatural conversations with the future you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Here are excellent questions for you to meditate on throughout 2024. 1. Who and what do you love? Who and what makes you spill over with adoration, caring and longing? 2. How often do you feel deep waves of love? Would you like to feel more of them? If so, how could you? 3. What are the most practical and beautiful ways you express love for whom and what you love? Would you like to enhance the ways you express love, and if so, how? 4. Is there anything you can or should do to intensify your love for yourself?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Like the rest of the planet, Scotland used to be a wild land. It had vast swaths of virgin forests and undomesticated animals. Then humans came. They cut the trees, dug up charcoal and brought agriculture. Many native species died, and most forests disappeared. In recent years, though, a rewilding movement has arisen. Now Scotland is on the way to restoring the ancient health of the land. Native flora and fauna are returning. In accordance with astrological omens, I propose that you launch your own personal rewilding project in 2024. What would that look like? How might you accomplish it?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Capricorn-born LeBron James is one of the greatest players in basketball history. Even more interesting from my perspective is that he is an exuberant activist and philanthropist. His list of magnificent contributions is too long to detail here. Here are a few examples: his bountiful support for charities like After-School All-Stars, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Children's Defense Fund and his own Family Foundation. I suggest you make LeBron one of your role models in 2024. It will be a time when you can have more potent and far-reaching effects than ever before through the power of your compassion, generosity and beneficence.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I propose we make the shark your soul creature in 2024. Not because some shark species are apex predators at the top of the food chain. Rather, I propose you embrace the shark as an inspirational role model because it is a stalwart, steadfast champion with spectacular endurance. Its lineage goes back 400 million years. Sharks were on Earth before there were dinosaurs, mammals and grass. Saturn's rings didn't exist when the first sharks swam in the oceans. Here are the adjectives I expect you to specialize in during the coming months: resolute, staunch, indomitable, sturdy, resilient.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In the 19th century, many scientists believed in the bogus theory of eugenics, which proposed that we could upgrade the genetic quality of the human race through selective breeding. Here's a further example of experts' ignorance: Until the 1800s, most scientists dismissed the notion that stones fell from the sky, even though meteorites had been seen by countless people since ancient times. Scientists also rejected the idea that large reptiles once roamed the Earth, at least until the 19th century, when it became clear that dinosaurs had existed and had become extinct. The moral of the story is that even the smartest among us can be addicted to delusional beliefs and theories. I hope this inspires you to engage in a purge of your own outmoded dogmas in 2024. A beginner's mind can be your superpower! Discover a slew of new ways to think and see.

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

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, Dec. 20

Acting & Glee Music Class for Kids - Ages 5-12. 4:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

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

Cirque Dreams: "Holidayze" - This annual tradition wraps a Broadway-style holiday production around an infusion of contemporary circus arts. 7:30 p.m. Wharton Center Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com.

Cocktail Class: Holiday Cocktails and Ornament Painting with Paint Your Poison - 6:30 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

Coloring Party - Relieve stress and unwind with our wide selection of markers, colored pencils and coloring sheets. Grades 4-12. 4 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

Emergency Services - 6 p.m. LSW Emergency Services, 7425 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

Holiday Open House - All three floors of the house will be decorated for the holidays. 1-7 p.m. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. 517-483-4220. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

Improv Acting Class - 8:30 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Jazz Dance Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Karaoke with The BIG Man Genesis - 9 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Mindfulness 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. lanc.info.

"Mixed Media Medley," by Bobbie Margolis - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. Call 517-347-2021 beforehand to ensure gallery space is open. facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild.

"Murder for Two: Holiday Edition" - 2 and 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Overbooked Book Club - "Night Crawling," by Leila Mottley. Intended for adults. 5 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. 517-663-0950. eradl.org.

Santa's Woodland Stroll - Take a 1-mile stroll through Nancy Moore Park for a photo with Santa. He'll have a special treat for all family members as well as hot chocolate to stay warm! Registration req. 5:45-8 p.m. Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, East Lansing. 517-853-4600. recreation.meridian.mi.us.

Tap II Class - 6 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Thursday, Dec. 21

Acting 101 Class - 7 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class - 8 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Christmas Movie Trivia Night - 6:30 p.m. Looking Glass Brewing Co., 115 N. Bridge St., Dewitt. 517-668-6004.

Eloquents Toastmasters Weekly Meeting - Safe and positive environment to practice public speaking and leadership skills. 6:30 p.m. Okemos Presbyterian Church, 2258 Bennett Road, Okemos. eloquents.toastmastersclubs.org.

Game Night with Hoplite Games - 7 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

Groove Doctors with Jackalope - The Groove Doctors will play some of the coolest R&B, jazz and rock tunes around, while Jackalope's signature style of Americana originals and an eclectic blend of covers will have you on your feet. 6:30 p.m. UrbanBeat, 1213 Turner St., Lansing. 517-331-8440. urbanbeatevents.com.

Holiday Open House - All three floors of the house will be decorated for the holidays. 1-7 p.m. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. 517-483-4220. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

Jazz/Hip Hop II class - Ages 9-13. 4 p.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Karaoke Thursday - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

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

Laingsburg Farmers Market - 5-8 p.m. First Congregational Church of Laingsburg, 401 E. Grand River Road, Laingsburg. 517-295-8128. laingsburg-business.org/farmers-market-1.

Merry Moms' Night - Connect with other moms while creating holiday decorations. Bring a holiday-themed dish to pass and a beverage of choice. 6-8 p.m. tinkr2.0, 2650 E. Grand River Ave., Suite D, East Lansing. 517-500-8687. tinkr2.0.com.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

"Mixed Media Medley," by Bobbie Margolis - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. Call 517-347-2021 beforehand to ensure gallery space is open. facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild.

"Murder for Two: Holiday Edition" - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble - Learn to excel equally in singing, acting and dance. 5:30 p.m. 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Still Life Drawing Workshop - Learn the basics of

Playmakers Holiday Classic 5K Run/Walk

Saturday, Dec. 23
9 a.m.

Ellison Brewery and Event Space
1314 S. Washington Ave.,
Lansing

Okemos retailer Playmakers' charity arm, the Playmakers

Fitness Foundation, will host its annual Holiday Classic 5K Run/Walk 9 a.m. Saturday (Dec. 23). Participants will begin at Ellison Brewery and Event Space in REO Town and continue along the River Trail to Moores Park and the surrounding neighborhood before finishing back at Ellison. There will also be a free kids' sprint and a virtual option for those who can't make it to the event in person.

Complimentary holiday cookies, hot chocolate and coffee will be available, and Ellison will be open for breakfast and lunch. Attendees are encouraged to dress in holiday-themed costumes.

Registration is \$35 per person, but participants can save \$3 per person by registering three or more participants at the same time.

To register, view a map of the route and listen to Playmakers' curated holiday playlist, visit holiday.playmakers.com/Race/MI/Lansing/PlaymakersHolidayClassic5kRunWalk.



sketching still-life subjects with a graphite pencil. Ages 12+. Registration req. 6 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly - Weight-loss support group. Weigh-in 5:30 p.m., meeting 6-7 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. 800-932-8677. facebook.com/HaslettTops.

Yoga with Maja McKeever, Slow Flow for Better Mobility - 6 p.m. Unity Spiritual Center of Lansing, 2395 Washington Road, Lansing. 269-762-3189. unitylansing.org.

Friday, Dec. 22

The Corzo Effect - 8:30 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

Holiday Open House - All three floors of the house will be decorated for the holidays. Noon-5 p.m. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. 517-483-4220. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

"Mixed Media Medley," by Bobbie Margolis - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. Call 517-347-2021 beforehand to ensure gallery space is open. facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild.

"Murder for Two: Holiday Edition" - 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Snow Day Science - Daylong camp for ages 5-11.

Investigate the chemistry of hot chocolate, perform experiments on breakfast cereal, use geometry to make paper snowflakes and more! 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

The Wild Honey Trio at the Peanut Barrel - 8 p.m. 521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing. 517-351-0608. peanutbarrel.com.

Saturday, Dec. 23

2023 Yule Ritual - Celebrate the best of 2023, leave the worst behind to be transformed by the flames of the Yule log and get a glimpse of things to come before receiving your Yule gift from Santa. Ritual, feast and teacup raffle. 4 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Suite 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

Christmas Eve-Eve Candlelight Service - Open to all. Come enjoy singing, candlelight and a message. 7 p.m. Lansing Area Church of Christ, 1000 Lincoln Ave., Lansing. lansingchurch.org.

Holiday Open House - All three floors of the house will be decorated for the holidays. Noon-5 p.m. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. 517-483-4220. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

Holiday Skate Party - Bring your own skates or borrow a pair. Music, seasonal treats and hot chocolate provided. Free and open to the public. 6-8 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. 517-853-4600. meridian.mi.us.

See Events, Page 23

Events

from page 22

Intermediate Ballet class - 11 a.m. Ruhala Performing Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. 517-337-0464. ruhalacenter.com.

Mix Pack Festivus Party - 8:30 p.m. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

"Murder for Two: Holiday Edition" - 2 and 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., Williamston. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org.

Sunday, Dec. 24

Holiday Open House - All three floors of the house will be decorated for the holidays. Noon-5 p.m. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. 517-483-4220. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

Red Cedar Quaker Friends Worship - 10:30 a.m. 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org/join-us-for-worship.

Monday, Dec. 25

Holiday Open House - All three floors of the house will be decorated for the holidays. Noon-5 p.m. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. 517-483-4220. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Holiday Open House - All three floors of the house will be decorated for the holidays. 1-7 p.m. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. 517-483-4220. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

LAGE Game Night East - 6:30-11 p.m. The Junction, 410 S. Clippert St., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

LAGE Game Night West - 6:30-11 p.m. Frank's Press Box, 7216 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. meetup.com/lansing/events.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Preschool Family Storytime - Join us for stories and literacy-enhancing activities, including songs and rhymes. Ages 1-6. 11 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

StressBusters: Positive Mental Health for Kids - 3 p.m. session for ages 3-6 and caregivers, 4 p.m. sessions for ages 7-10 and 11-14. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-346-8094. gladl.org.

Wednesday, Dec. 27

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

Art Adventure - Daylong camp for ages 5-11. Discover how much science and art have in common through art projects and colorful chemistry experiments. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

Holiday Open House - All three floors of the house will be decorated for the holidays. 1-7 p.m. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. 517-483-4220. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

Karaoke with The BIG Man Genesis - 9 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

Mid-Michigan Art Guild FALL MEMBER ART SHOW - 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Neighborhood Empowerment Center, 600 W. Maple St., Lansing. midmichiganartguild.org.

Mindfulness 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.

"Mixed Media Medley," by Bobbie Margolis - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. CADL - Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos. Call 517-347-2021 beforehand to ensure gallery space is open. facebook.com/MidMichiganArtGuild.

Thursday, Dec. 28

Game Night with Hoplite Games - 7 p.m. Lansing Shuffle, 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4619. lansingshuffle.com.

Holiday Open House - All three floors of the house will be decorated for the holidays. 1-7 p.m. Turner-Dodge House, 100 E. North St., Lansing. 517-483-4220. facebook.com/turnerdodgehouse.

Karaoke Thursday - 8 p.m.-midnight. The Green Door Bar & Grill, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-325-9897. greendoorlive.com.

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

Club Tabu is an 18 & up adult alternative lounge in Lansing, Michigan.

We are located within Fantasies Unlimited!

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Friday - Saturday \ 11 A.M. - 2 A.M.

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING



Lawrence

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

Last week, I read a bizarrely mean-spirited and pointless editorial in the Detroit Free Press, bemoaning the fact that Lansing is the capital of Michigan and generally expressing how terrible our city is. Obviously, I disagree vehemently. I don't feel like the editorial in question should be dignified

with much more of a response than what has already been written by my friend and Lansing State Journal columnist Graham Couch, but it did make me ruminate on something that has been on my mind: the state of downtown Lansing.

Downtown has gone through so many changes in a short period of time. When I was a Cooley Law School student around 2010, downtown was in a heyday. Thousands of young adults packed downtown restaurants and bars most nights. Now Cooley enrollment has plummeted, the pandemic sent many state of Michigan workers into permanent home or hybrid workspaces, and downtown needs time to pivot and recover.

Of course, we all want to see that recovery and help facilitate it. To that end, I have redoubled my focus on supporting downtown businesses. My 6-year-old son loves to visit downtown to look at the giant Christmas tree, eat fries at Weston's Kewpee Sandwich Shop and select a few treats from the Peanut Shop. I recently relocated my law practice to the firm of Foster Swift, a cornerstone of downtown Lansing, and I couldn't be happier. It's incumbent upon all of us to put our money where our mouth is and spend at least a fraction of our time and money in downtown Lansing. I can give you a list of favorites, but the cream of my crop are Sultan's Express, the New Daily Bagel and my new obsession, Veg Head.

For those of us who care, Veg Head's online ordering system is intuitive, user-friendly and sends you a text when your food is ready.

I know cauliflower has become a substitute for borderline insane things, like waffles and mashed potatoes, but to be fair, the little guys have a ton of texture if you treat them right and can be extremely satisfying. This is why I'm hard-pressed to order anything other than the Cauliflower Street Tacos (\$10) when I go to Veg Head. They're incredibly nuanced — not only spicy but rich and so satisfying. The creamy avocado pairs perfectly with the spicy, fresh salsa verde, and you could put pickled onions on an old shoe and I'd eat it. If you're vegan-curious but don't know where to start, don't hesitate to dive into these tacos.

If you're feeling a bit more adventurous, try the Nashville Tofu Sandwich (\$12). I love tofu because, again, the texture is incredible if you know how to prepare it. The extra water should be pressed out, and only then can you expect perfectly crisp tofu. The Nashville sandwich gives me that big-lunch vibe that I want from a sandwich, but it's a fraction as heavy in my stomach as a burger would be. The fries are, without fail, crispy, salty and well-seasoned.

December is prime time for holiday lunches,

At Veg Head, nutritious doesn't mean flavorless

starting in Old Town and spreading along the Michigan Avenue corridor to include Washington Square. At the same time, Cooley

Law School's enrollment was at a peak, and, coupled with the usual politico and government foot traffic, the area's heartbeat started to pulse. Lunch time was bustling; happy hour offered several options, including a few with patio or sidewalk seating; and the occasional festival, like Blues on the Square, gave young professionals and the older guard a feeling that Lansing was becoming a happening place.

All this excitement came to a screeching halt when back-to-back summers were the victim of sewer separation projects, and commercial momentum was largely lost when several businesses closed their doors. Fast forward to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has left downtown struggling again for many years.

This is the context in which chef Kari Magee and business partner Shawn Elliott opened Veg Head on South Washington Square. The former Michigan State University executive chef brings a fresh perspective on vegan fare to support locavores who have been patiently waiting for quality healthy-eating options. During my visits, the buzzing lunch crowds energetically filled up tables and lined up to order takeout. Sadly, the dinner crowd was sparse, mirroring several other downtown establishments that offer good food but no alcohol. Veg Head's team members, however, are as pleasant as they are knowledgeable about their craft, delightful in both regards. The chill vibe inside the restaurant provides a cool space to meet a friend for a bite, and my good friend Fred obliged to join me on a new vegan journey.

What's OK

The Loaded Fries (\$12) came with a house-made non-dairy cheese sauce that, by itself, was remarkable. By taste alone, I had no idea it wasn't cheese. However, the fries were rather limp, perhaps from the sauce, but more likely just a floppy cut. The Roasted Brussels Sprouts (\$12) were decent enough, but as someone who orders them often, I was hoping to be wowed by the Veg Head version. The spice from the harissa was welcome, and the crumbled "cheese" was also pleasant, but the sprouts seemed to be missing something, and I'm not talking about the pumpkin seeds that adorned the dish.

What's really good

The Cauliflower Wings (\$12) come dressed in either barbecue, ranch or Nashville hot sauce. I chose Nashville hot with a side of ranch. The batter was crispy and lighter than tempura, and, thankfully, the spice was not overwhelming to the palette. The Battered Portobello Mushrooms (\$12) had a different batter than the wings, but both were very tasty. The mushroom batter was crunchier, accommodating the super soft texture of the fungus inside. The



Veg Head

208 S. Washington Square,
Lansing

11 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-
Saturday

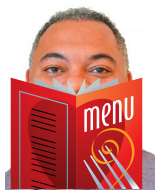
517-708-7547

veghead.restaurant



Courtesy of Veg Head

Downtown Lansing's Veg Head offers a selection of health-conscious, plant-based dishes, including the Cauliflower Street Tacos, which Gabrielle Lawrence recommends for the vegan-curious due to their nuanced flavor.



Beverly

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

Downtown Lansing has seen its share of ups and downs over the years. The late '90s and early 2000s saw a renewed energy for property revitalization,

The sides of December

By **ARI LEVAUX**

Making a side dish for a holiday get-together is a rite of the season, and one for which we should be grateful. If you aren't making the sides, you might be roasting some poor bird — or a soy-based approximation of some poor bird.

A side dish is less work than a main event but nonetheless offers a back door to glory. The beast-roaster has more at stake and more to lose. The right side dish can sweep in like a dark horse and steal the show.

Here are not one but two side dishes to double your options — or your odds at potluck dominance, depending on your inclinations. One of these dishes

is no less than perfect — and I do mean perfect — oven-baked potatoes. These potatoes are the perfect combination of crispy, brown exterior and smoky, puffy insides, like tater tots but with chunks of whole potato.

The other side dish du jour is a colorful salad of ancient grains and pomegranate seeds. Each of these recipes can stand alone and will easily fulfill your obligation as a dinner-party guest. But if you want to climb a little further up the holiday tree of glory, you can toss the potatoes into the grain salad. Then you have a little bit of everything all at once — a true Christmas sweater of side dishes.



See Flash, Page 27



Courtesy of Ari LeVaux

Each of these side dishes can stand alone, but if you really want to impress at holiday dinner parties, you can toss the oven-roasted potatoes into the grain salad.

Appetizers

**WANT YOUR RESTAURANT LISTED?
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eloasisfood.com

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WE BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES GREAT BBQ.
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CityPULSE FOX 47 NEWS

Best BBQ
Best BBQ Sauce
Best Nachos
Best Wings
Best Catering Service
Best Curbside Pickup
Best Chef: Sean Johnson



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Top of the Town 2023
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Best Food Truck
Family Owned & Operated

eloasisfood.com

She Ate

from page 24

and treats lurk around every corner in my office. Sometimes I just need a filling lunch that isn't going to make me want to crawl under my desk and rest my eyes. In that scenario, the Roasted Chickpea or Cauliflower bowls (\$12) are perfect. Both bowls are packed with fresh ingredients, brimming with quinoa and a dressing of your choice. I've had them both on repeat, and it doesn't show signs of stopping.

A few years ago, Mr. She Ate and I took a trip to Tucson, Arizona, and visited an amazing vegan Mexican restaurant. We were blown away by the jackfruit

tacos, and he was eager to try Veg Head's barbecue jackfruit sandwich (\$10). He devoured it, proclaimed himself satisfied and requested a return visit.

The Free Press writer might have an axe to grind with our fair city, but we know better. She thinks Lansing residents don't clap back when people criticize our town and claims that we instead tacitly agree. Maybe the real reason is that we don't need to clap back. We know about our taco trucks, our Lugnuts, our River Trail. We know about snow tubing at Hawk Island Park and eating Mr. Leslie's Cheesecakes. We don't argue, because you don't engage in a battle of wits with an unarmed opponent.

He Ate

from page 24

wings' accompanying ranch dressing was very herbaceous, perhaps overly so, but the pub sauce served with the mushrooms was spot-on — a creamy, remoulade-esque non-dairy pairing.

The Buffalo Chikn Salad (\$12) was very good. Mounds of lettuce, celery, cucumbers and pickled onions anchored generous slices of plant-based chicken. The crispy chicken batter necessitated another delicious round of Nashville hot sauce, and the ranch dressing here furnished complex notes of yumminess, playing well with the hint of bitterness from the onions.

The Signature Sweet Potato Burger (\$12) was an herb-infused, grilled patty with rich and creamy textures from the sweet potato. The consistency was surprisingly sound,

with a crunch from the grilled surface. The burger was served with Greek tzatziki sauce, pickled onions and lettuce. Though a tad sweet, it was a seriously good sandwich.

Best bite

My buddy Fred loved the Classic Cheeseburger (\$12). After the first bite, he set it back down on his plate and said, "C'mon, man! That's not a real burger?" Each subsequent bite produced a similar disbelieving reaction. He'd tried several black-bean burgers before, but none got the feel and flavor correct like Veg Head's.

Elliott came over to check on us and reminded us that the cheese wasn't cheese. Fred's mind was blown. I'd tried the burger before when Veg Head catered the grand opening of Moneyball Sportswear's headquarters in Lansing and was equally impressed, even in a catered setting. Fred and I walked out of the restaurant, and he said, "I'm thinking about that burger like I think about a lost love."

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearing to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

A public hearing will be held to consider a Certificate of Appropriateness application from Cameron Saghy to replace a west-facing kitchen window and remove a west-facing backroom window from the structure located at 326 Marshall Street.

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for each public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at <https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/> and select the meeting date. Written comments may be sent prior to the public hearing to coelhistoriddistricts@cityofeastlansing.com, or by mail to: East Lansing Historic District Commission, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823.

For more information on any agenda items listed above, please contact:

Landon Bartley, Principal Planner
517.319.6930 or lbartley@cityofeastlansing.com
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

Materials related to the requests are available to review 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 online at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications.

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 Planning, Building, and Development Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at rurdial@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#23-341

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 21

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



TOP 5 BARBECUE

Based on your votes in City Pulse's 2023 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

1. Capital City BBQ

Traditional American barbecue dishes alongside Vietnamese classics
1026 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
517-721-1500
facebook.com/capitalcitybbq
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday

2. Gravity Smokehouse Brew & Que

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

11 a.m.-midnight Friday-Saturday
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

3. Meat BBQ

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

4. Saddleback BBQ (REO Town)

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

5. The Smoke N' Pig BBQ

Slow-smoked meats with a secret, mouthwatering rub
908 Elmwood Road, Lansing
517-582-5100
smokenpigbbq.com
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday
Noon-8 p.m. Sunday

Ingham County Animal Shelter

To adopt one of these pets, visit the ICAS at 600 Buhl St., Mason, call (517) 676-8370 to make an appt. or go to ac.ingham.org.



Please make it your New Year's resolution to help the Ingham County Animal Shelter get pets adopted! Sponsor a pet adoption monthly for \$35 — \$6 of which City Pulse donates to the shelter. You'll be glad you did.

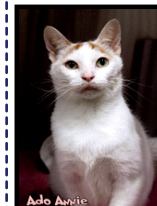
Call (517) 999-5061 or email publisher@lansingcitypulse.com Thanks!



Fudge

Fudge is a sweet, older gentleman who was found as a stray. He looks like he's had a rough time of it recently. He's skinny and missing some hair from an untreated flea allergy. Fudge is looking for a couch and someone to snuggle with. He's past all the puppy nonsense but has plenty of spunk left. He doesn't appear to have had a lot of dog experience. The dogs he's met so far made him nervous (to be fair, he has a face that always looks worried!) and he would be happiest as an only dog or with another older, gentle friend who will give him some space. He's hoping someone out there wants a skinny, sort of moth-eaten friend to cuddle with!

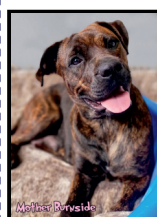
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Ado Annie

Ado Annie came to the shelter with her brother Alfred because their owner had too many cats. They grew up living in a pole barn, but they love people. Alfred is super outgoing and is quite vocal when he feels ignored. She and Alfred seem to be adjusting to life indoors, but potential adopters wishing to make them full-time indoor pets will need to be patient and to keep in mind that there could be potential behavior issues and that some cats never lose their desire to roam.

Sponsored by Ioana Sonea



Mother Burnside

Mother Burnside (known as "Minnie" in her foster home) came to the shelter as a very pregnant stray. No one came to claim her, and just before her stray hold ended, she gave birth to 7 beautiful babies! They have been happily growing up in a foster home for several weeks, but now momma is ready to find a loving family of her own. Pregnancy and all the hormone adjustments that come with it can be tough, but she is the biggest lovebug you could ever ask for. She adores people and has been a great mom, but she can be choosy about her dog companions and is a bit of an escape artist. She's smart and easy to train, and she would probably love some kids to play with! If this momma seems like she would be a good fit for your family, we would love to introduce you!

Sponsored by Schuler Books



Spooooky

Spooooky is a handsome guy who came to the shelter as a stray. He had a microchip that led us back to a rescue in Florida, but we could not find his owner. He is a friendly, outgoing guy who can get overstimulated and give love "bites," so older kids are recommended. He would probably be happiest as an indoor/outdoor cat, and although some outdoor cats adjust to life as an indoor cat, potential adopters wishing to make one of them an indoor pet will need to be patient and keep in mind that there could be potential litter box issues and other behavior issues and that some cats never adjust.

Sponsored by Anne & Dale Schrader

Flash

from page 25

Uncommonly good potatoes

My son paid his highest compliment to these potatoes, calling them “restaurant fries.” He’s not wrong. The potatoes are parboiled with baking powder and salt, which makes them irresistible when subsequently baked.

- 1 gallon water
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 pounds potatoes, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 more teaspoon salt

Heat the water on high with the salt and baking soda. When it boils,

add the potatoes and boil them for 20 minutes. Drain the potatoes and spread them on a baking sheet. Let them steam and dry while the oven preheats to 425 degrees. Add the olive oil and spices. Stir everything around to coat evenly. Bake for 15 minutes, then test the potatoes. Unless irresistibly browned, spread them out on the pan and place them back in the oven for another 5 to 10 minutes, until puffy.

Ancient grain salad

The grains in this dish should be chewy but not jaw-testing or crunchy. I use spelt because it’s relatively soft after a reasonable amount of cooking. Farro fits the bill as well if you can get it. Kamut needs a tad more cooking but is also great in this salad.

I use a pressure cooker, which shaves a lot of time off. If you don’t have one, set aside a few hours of cooking until the grains are soft enough to use.

- 2 cups farro, spelt or kamut
- 1 tablespoon beef-flavored Better than Bouillon or similar high-end substitute
- 5 cups water
- 1 medium onion, minced
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta
- 2 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- Seeds of 1/2 pomegranate
- 1 orange or red bell pepper, diced
- 1 cup pecan halves, toasted five or so minutes in a hot pan
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro, arugula, parsley or other green leaves

Add the spelt, water and stock to an Instant Pot or similar pressure cooker. Cook for 20 minutes. When the valve drops open, drain the spelt but keep the stock for later.

Sauté the onions in the oil on medium heat until they are translucent, about 10 minutes. Add the drained spelt, crumbled feta, cider vinegar, lemon juice and a cup of the leftover stock to a pan with a tight-fitting lid. Stir everything together and cook on low heat for about 20 minutes with the lid on so the grains can absorb a little more and soften. When the excess water has left the pot, let the grains cool to room temperature.

When ready to serve, toss in the diced peppers, pomegranate seeds, pecans and greens. And, if you wish, those perfect potatoes from the other side.

DID YOU KNOW?

It’s not uncommon to encounter eggnog at some point during the holiday season. A popular holiday beverage that typically contains milk; cream; sugar; egg yolks; and rum, brandy or bourbon, eggnog tends to be high in calories, fat, saturated fat and sugar. Anyone looking to indulge in a little holiday cheer without consuming so many calories might consider vegan eggnog. According to Consumer Reports, vegan eggnog tends to be lower in calories than its more traditional alternative. CR also reports that many vegan eggnogs it examined were lower in added sugars than those made with dairy.

— METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

THE PULSIFIEDS

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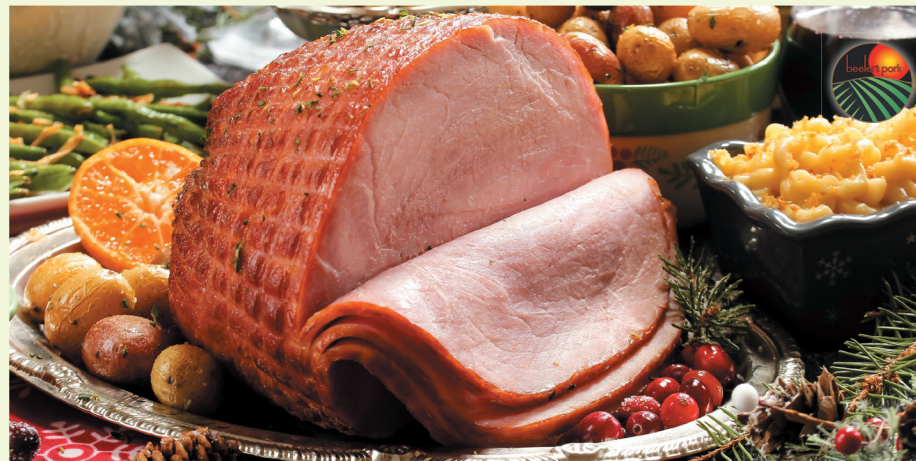
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