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January 19 - 25, 2022

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# CityPULSE

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At-risk architecture in Lansing • PAGE 12

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## sidebar

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**SALE**

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### PETRO-PERSECUTION

NOTORIOUS INDUSTRY GROUP ALEC WANTS TO PUNISH BANKS THAT DIVEST FROM FOSSIL FUEL COMPANIES.

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THE BILL FORBIDS STATE GOVERNMENTS FROM DOING BUSINESS WITH FIRMS BOYCOTTING DIRTY ENERGY.

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SO NOW AT THE SAME TIME THEY BASH "WOKENESS," THEY'RE USING THE LANGUAGE OF CIVIL RIGHTS TO TALK ABOUT OIL COMPANIES.

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SORENSEN

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## THIS MODERN WORLD

ONCE AGAIN, IT'S TIME TO CHECK IN ON **PARALLEL EARTH**!

AT THE START OF HIS TERM, PARALLEL PRESIDENT BIDEN IMMEDIATELY INVOKES THE DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT. WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A GLOBAL HEALTH **EMERGENCY**, MAN! WE NEED MASKS AND TESTS **PRONTO**!

EXPANDED HEALTH COVERAGE AND A UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME PASS WITHIN RECORD TIME. THIS PANDEMIC EXPOSED THE FAULT-LINES IN OUR SYSTEM! CLEARLY WE HAD TO **RESPOND**!

YES, OF COURSE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY WE'RE EVEN SAYING THESE WORDS!

EVERY PARALLEL AMERICAN RECEIVES A WEEKLY SHIPMENT OF SUPPLIES. ON EARTH **PRIME**, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN MOSTLY LEFT TO FEND FOR **THEMSELVES** FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS!

WHAT A STRANGE AND SAVAGE WORLD!

PARALLEL REPUBLICANS ARE ON BOARD WITH ALL OF IT. I MAY ONLY BE AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST, BUT I'M STILL A **MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL**! I HAVE AN ETHICAL DUTY TO CARE FOR OTHERS!

OBVIOUSLY WE WOULDN'T EXPLOIT A DEADLY PAN-DEMIC FOR POLITICAL AD-VANTAGE! WE'RE NOT **MONSTERS**!

by TOM TOMORROW

PARALLEL HEALTH CARE WORKERS, TEACHERS, SERVICE EMPLOYEES AND OTHER FRONTLINE WORKERS RECEIVE HAZARD PAY AND FULL SUPPORT IF THEY GET SICK. WHAT ELSE COULD WE **DO**? TELL THEM THEY'RE ESSENTIAL HEROES AND THEN HANG THEM OUT TO **DRY**?

WE'D HAVE TO BE A NATION OF UTTER **SOCIOPATHS** TO DO **THAT**!

ON EARTH **PRIME**, WE TAKE A **DIFFERENT** APPROACH. WE HAVE TO KEEP SCHOOLS OPEN, NO **MATTER** THE CONSEQUENCES!

NOT TO MENTION **OFFICES**!

IF **I** GET SICK, I'LL JUST DRINK MY OWN **URINE**!

SCOUGH

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New LPD chief talks public safety with City Pulse

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Sculpture lights downtown parking ramp

**PAGE 16**



Say goodbye to Mr. Taco, again — maybe

**PAGE 27**



**Cover Art**

Illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker

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## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

## EPA: BWL may be polluting drinking water

## Utility has violated federal rules by failing to monitor groundwater for 3 years

Dangerous toxins leaching from coal ash ponds around Lansing's Erickson Power Station are contaminating groundwater and for decades may have poisoned nearby drinking water supplies that feed private residences' wells and the municipal system.

The Lansing Board of Water and Light, the publicly owned utility that operates the coal plant, detected high levels of lithium, boron, TDS and molybdenum leaching from the three ponds in 2020, documents submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by the utility show. Though it's unclear when the leaks started, the plant, on Canal Road in Eaton County, has operated the ponds since 1974.

The documents, part of a BWL request to delay the ash ponds' closure, also show the utility violated federal rules by failing to monitor groundwater near the ponds for around three years. As a result, the EPA preliminarily denied BWL's request, and that could force the agency to at least temporarily shutter Erickson later this year.

BWL plans to remove ash from the ponds, but Lisa Evans, an attorney with environmental watchdog Earthjustice, said the utility needs to take far more action than it has proposed if it's to eradicate the problem, including testing drinking water.

"The cleanup plan is inadequate," Evans said. "They also have a moral obligation to test those wells to make sure nobody is drinking contaminated water, which is a logical, reasonable and an easy step that needs to be done immediately."

Groundwater feeds drinking water supplies, and it's unclear if the contaminated groundwater is reaching the drinking water drawn by wells. Utility documents don't show a plan to test drinking water, and BWL spokeswoman Amy Adamy didn't respond to questions about testing public and private



This aerial photo from a 2020 report by the Lansing Board of Water and Light shows four coal ash ponds near the Erickson Power Station, off Canal Road in Eaton County. The ponds are identified in the image as Clear Water Pond, Former Impoundment (which has been decommissioned), Forebay and Retention Basin.

drinking water supplies.

The utility is overseen by a board of mayoral and Council appointees, and the utility's administration appears to have kept quiet on the contamination problems. Board Chairman David Price said Saturday that BWL's administration hadn't informed the board of the violations. He also said he was told on Friday that the ponds weren't contaminating groundwater, which is contradicted by BWL and EPA documents.

"The board has not had a chance to meet on this yet," Price said.

The administration didn't alert the board because it hasn't been

fined for its violations, Adamy said.

A spokesperson for the Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy "is coordinating with EPA to address violations of state statutes and rules at Erickson and to bring the facility into compliance with environmental rules and statutes."

That includes requiring BWL to test drinking water supplies. Among the violations are a failure to prevent groundwater contamination, to obtain proper licenses, to keep a proper distance between the ponds and groundwater, and to install proper pond liners.

High levels of lithium are linked to thyroid disease, boron may cause testicular shrinkage, and molybdenum is linked to gout and reproductive toxicity in animals.

Four private wells are about a half mile down gradient from the ponds, and dozens more, as well as two municipal wells, are within a mile. It's unknown how large the pollution plume is, and no testing has been conducted off site, Evans said.

Coal ash, a byproduct of burning coal to generate electricity, typically contains high concentrations of heavy metals like arsenic, cadmium, mercury, and other toxins that when added

to water creates what Evans characterized as a "toxic soup." Utilities for decades disposed of coal ash in unlined ponds, and an analysis by Earthjustice and the Environmental Integrity Project, a D.C.-based nonprofit, found 92% of the nation's 700 ponds have contaminated groundwater above federal standards.

The Obama administration in 2015 enacted new ash pond regulations, but the Trump administration largely didn't enforce the rules, and coal plants have mostly policed themselves. The EPA last week announced it is beginning enforcement, and the preliminary decision on BWL's request is among the first actions. The issue is "urgent," said Elena Stackhouse, managing attorney with the Sierra Club.

"What this set of decisions from the EPA signals is that they are going to be more strongly enforcing coal ash rules and looking at these impoundments around the country to make sure they are in compliance," she said.

In a statement to City Pulse, BWL said it had completed what it characterized as a "certified" testing.

However, the EPA and Earthjustice deemed the monitoring inadequate. Earthjustice's analysis found that BWL dug too few wells and those were placed too far from the waste ponds to give a clear picture of the pollution plume's size and location, and the EPA noted that the utility didn't test between 2017 and late 2020.

Meanwhile, EGLE found that the ponds are only one foot from groundwater, when state law requires at least five.

"From the get go, that monitoring well system was noncompliant and inadequate," Evans said.

BWL noted that it had also developed models and plans to "remove the [ash ponds] and reduce the concentration of lithium and molybdenum in the ground water," and said it would continue to work with state and federal regulators.

Evans said BWL's model is incomplete, there doesn't appear to be a plan









# Sosebee on the record

## New police chief outlines vision for public safety in Lansing

*Lansing Police Chief Ellery Sosebee, 45, grew up south of Cadillac in rural Ashton, Mich. He attended Lansing Community College and Michigan State University before joining the Gratiot County Sheriff's Department. After graduating from the police academy, Sosebee was an officer in Meridian Township in 1999 before jumping to the Lansing department in 2002. He has climbed the ranks from officer and sergeant to lieutenant and captain before he was tapped to succeed Daryl Green. last week, Sosebee sat down with City Pulse. Visit [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com) to watch a video of the full interview.*

### A new vision

Sosebee takes the helm when policing is under a microscope and government leaders are at odds about how the community should address public safety. Sosebee said that the answers to what the city expects from public safety will ultimately define the Lansing Police Department's future.

"We have to define what true public safety means," he said. "That's something that's hard to get our heads wrapped around."

That definition, he said, will help the department determine how its resources are used. The city will never again have the nearly 260 officers it did a decade ago, he said. The department must now learn how "to do more with less," he said.

The reassignment of police resources may be found in funding for social workers, mental health professionals and youth programs. All are long-term strategies that will pay dividends, he said.

He said he is open to whatever options may work — from community forums to coffee with the chief, to text messages, emails and phone calls.

"There are things that I need from the community to make sure that what we're doing at LPD is what the community wants," he said. "That's my goal in 2022: to make sure that what we're doing is not only right in our mind, but right in the citizen's mind, because that's what matters."

### Police vs. prosecutor

Sosebee was criticized last year when he appeared at a press conference orga-

nized by Ingham County Sheriff Scott Wigglesworth condemning County Prosecutor Carol Siemon for deciding to no longer issue warrants for drug possession, possession of stolen evidence or gun charges in minor traffic stops. She also said she'd no longer issue certain gun possession charges "except in extremely rare cases" in an effort to reverse trends of implicit bias.

Sosebee agreed that Siemon's data showed a troubling trend of racial bias, particularly related to gun charges. He labeled the timing of Siemon's policy decisions — which were announced during one of the deadliest years for gun violence in the city's history — as "unfortunate."

"When you take away some of the tools that we have, by law, to combat that crime, and combat those issues — the timing was just very poor," Sosebee said. "That's what I wanted to make known: I don't disagree with taking action. That action was not what I would have recommended. I didn't support it, and I was really hoping she would have reversed that policy."

Sosebee, however, isn't completely opposed to policy reforms to mitigate implicit racial bias. He is continuing a policy set by his predecessor that prohibits traffic stops related to "regulatory issues" — like tinted or cracked windshields, noisy exhaust and other minor issues. Officers, he said, "do not need to make these stops to get the job done."

LPD has not stopped enforcing speeding laws or other public safety driving violations. The city is working with the Michigan State Police to crack down on speeding with "Operation Slow Down." He said the public's top concern — second to gun violence — is speeding, reckless driving and racing on city roadways. That program has resulted in at least 613 traffic stops, 452 moving violations, 282 non-moving citations and 71 warnings since Dec. 1.

### Social workers and law enforcement

Sosebee said he is committed to adding more social workers to the department after the only one, Jan Bidwell, quit unexpectedly, citing the toll of the job on her health and well-being — something that Sosebee said was never shared with the department. He noted, however, that Bidwell was "passionate" and worked more than assigned. That can lead to burnout, he said.

Sosebee was unaware that the National Association of Social Workers — at least since last October — has



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

A screenshot of Lansing Police Chief Ellery Sosebee during an interview last week with City Pulse via Zoom.

opposed embedding social workers within local law enforcement agencies.

"I think that only hurts us," Sosebee said of the recommendation from the national organization.

To avoid the perception of conflicting interests between cops and social workers, resource deployment is important. He added: "It's important to have that independent stand, because some people say, 'I want nothing to do with you.'"

### Black Lives Matter

Sosebee thinks it's obvious that there are racial disparities in policing in Lansing and beyond.

"They are there, and they need to be addressed," he said. He wants a cultural shift in law enforcement focused on education about implicit bias. Education is the "day one" key to helping officers in challenging their own internal biases and how those can impact their actions and perceptions, Sosebee explained. That includes actively screening for bias during hiring and training — including reviewing emotional intelligence and microaggressions. Those will be implemented through personality testing during hiring, he said.

He also wants to review data on individual traffic stops to drive forward reforms.

"I don't think things will be as bad as people perceive it to be," he said. "There will be some instances, some anomalies. But those won't be the norm."

### Gun violence

Sosebee blamed rising rates of gun violence on youthful minds and easy access to firearms.

"They are so young," Sosebee said. "They have been led not necessarily down the wrong path, but by lack of discipline and respect for adults."

Sosebee said he backs bringing the Advance Peace initiative to Lansing. That program, which will be partially funded by Ingham County and the city of Lansing, has struggled to find an appropriate community partner. Two local nonprofit groups are now tentatively set to launch the program later this year, though no decisions have yet been finalized by the county.

Sosebee said the Advance Peace program will work in the city of Lansing because of its reliance on local residents mentoring youth and sharing their own mistakes and achievements.

But, he cautioned, the program will not end gun violence overnight.

### Civil disruptions

In 2020, the Police Department used tear gas — among other military-style tactics — to disperse crowds in downtown Lansing after a protest over racial equity turned violent.

Sosebee said that while protests may also face tear gas and other less lethal munitions, residents should no longer expect to see cops lined up in riot formations.

"Marching up and down the street with shields and sticks — that's not going to happen under my watch because I don't believe that to be effective."

Sosebee said that officers will still intervene when property is being destroyed or lives are at risk. Still, the violence that broke out downtown in 2020 has led to multiple police reforms, he said.

"Looking back, we could have done things differently. We could have been better," he said, noting those lessons have since been woven into a variety of new procedures and policies.

— TODD HEYWOOD



## SORE OF THE WEEK



### 4012 S. Cedar St.

This week's featured property is located along a busy stretch of Cedar Street in south Lansing, just south of Mega-Bev and the Dairy Queen on the corner of Mason Street. And it's clear that this battered little shack — which was once a counseling office — has seen far better days.

The windows are boarded shut. The front railing is busted. An aging layer of white and blue paint is chipping away from the wooden facade and soffits. The front door is badly damaged. The roof is dented. The backside has been covered in graffiti. There's also a gaping hole in a roof vent — presumably an entryway for birds and other small animals to make a home inside.

Old telephone listings suggested that the site was once a counseling center for substance abuse. County property records showed that the lot is now owned by Leif Karkau, of Holt, who also owns the neighboring Dairy Queen location and the parking lot between the two buildings.

Karkau didn't return multiple calls. The staff at neighboring businesses on Cedar told City Pulse that he has apparently left the building to rot on the roadside for more than a decade.

Karkau also owns several other properties across Greater Lansing — none of which appear to be in as terrible of condition as this particular building. Maybe this one is just the last on his list.

Unfortunately, years of abandonment are still starting to take a toll on this building, which now sticks out like a sore eye — pun intended — in an area that could already use more attention.

Here's hoping this shack is renovated in 2022. Or maybe Karkau can just bulldoze it already.

—KYLE KAMINSKI

"Eyesore of the Week" is our look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email [eye@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:eye@lansingcitypulse.com) or call it in at 517-999-6715.

# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS



By KYLE KAMINSKI



### Schor takes trip to Persian Gulf

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor took an unannounced trip to Qatar early last month to meet with foreign officials about economic development, climate change and other policy issues. Schor didn't release any public notification of the trip either before he left or after he returned. City Pulse was only made aware of the trip after photos surfaced in out-of-state news outlets.

*Read more at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com).*

### Lansing murder suspect surrenders

Brion Reynolds, of Lansing, turned himself into the Lansing Police Department after local authorities said he shot and killed Alexis Brown, 24, and her 46-year-old mother, Michelle Roper, in September. A 6-year-old boy was also reportedly injured in the shooting. Authorities had offered a \$10,000 reward for details that led to Reynolds' arrest before he surrendered.

### No mopeds on bike racks in East Lansing

A new ordinance in East Lansing prohibits mopeds from being parked at bicycle racks, designated bicycle parking areas or on sidewalks within the city. Moped drivers may only park in regular vehicle parking spaces — if they pay the applicable parking rates, of course.

### Lansing men face murder charges

Gregory Michael Sanders, 41, of Lansing, is facing a homicide charge after police said he barricaded himself in a home on the 4900 block of Pleasant Grove Road on Jan. 8. During the investigation, cops found Dominique Elizabeth Hawn, 28, of Lansing,

Have an eye for beautiful buildings and their details? City Pulse is looking for a new "eye" editor to replace Carrie Sampson, who is stepping down after next week after bringing our readers Eye Candy and Eye for Design for the last two years. (Thank you, Carrie, for a great job.) Interested? Email publisher [@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:@lansingcitypulse.com).

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
INGHAM COUNTY  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
DECEDENT'S ESTATE  
CASE NO. 21-1482-DE  
Estate of Rosa Elia Labaut.  
Date of birth: September 18, 1957.  
TO ALL CREDITORS:  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Rosa Elia Labaut, died September 26, 2021. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Blas Manuel Labaut, personal representative or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.  
1/19/22  
Blas Manuel Labaut  
1221 Cleveland Street  
Lansing, MI 48906  
(517) 348-6380  
CP#22-015

dead in the basement.

In another unrelated local homicide case, Davion Tashawn Davis, 18, of Lansing, was also charged with open murder in the shooting death of Elijah Joseph Brooks, 19, of Lansing, on Jan. 10.

### Woman brings guns to D.C.

Kery Lynn McAttee, 48, of Charlotte, faces several criminal charges, including unlawful possession and transportation of a semiautomatic rifle, after police said she parked in a no-parking zone in front of the U.S. Capitol and told officers that she "wanted to talk about information she had about Jan. 6, 2021." Authorities reportedly declined to reveal several details, noting that there was no evidence the woman planned to do anything "except speak with our officers." McAttee's pleaded not guilty. Her criminal case is set to continue in March.



### Nonprofits nab \$230K in grants

Fourteen nonprofits in Ingham County were awarded grants of up to \$20,000, in part through American Rescue Plan Act funding, with the goal of making a "direct and lasting positive impact" locally. Recipients were based on need and impact. Among them: The Village Lansing, The Fledge Foundation, Boys and Girls Club of Lansing and more.

### Vaccine clinic comes to Breslin Center

Free COVID-19 vaccines and booster shots are available to all by appointment from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesday (Jan. 26) and Jan. 31 at the Breslin Center at Michigan State University. Visit [hd.ingham.org/coronavirus](http://hd.ingham.org/coronavirus) to make an appointment.

### MSP working on racial disparities

An independent study commissioned by the Michigan State Police found racial and ethnic disparities in the frequency and outcomes of traffic stops conducted by troopers last year. In response, the department has pledged to enact a five-point plan of "immediate action" — including hiring a consultant, more body cams for cops and "cultural awareness" training.

### Lansing rabbi a hero in standoff

Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker, a Lansing native living in Texas, was among the four hostages freed from a Dallas-area synagogue after an 11-hour standoff with Malik Faisal Akram, 44, a British citizen, on Saturday. Cytron-Walker reportedly graduated from J.W. Sexton High School in 1994. Reports credit the rabbi with tossing a chair at Akram, who was wielding a gun, while the other three hostages escaped.



Cytron-Walker

### 'Price is Right' for Okemos woman

Vicki Pursley won a car, \$1,000 in cash and other prizes during a recent episode of "The Price is Right" on CBS, reports the Lansing State Journal. Pursley is a retired Hiawatha Elementary School teacher who has reportedly been watching the TV game show for decades.



# Foul ball

It's not often that we weigh in on the wide world of sports. It's just not our thing. We'd rather attend an art exhibition or read a good book. Now and then, however, something catches our attention that makes us twist up our face and wonder why.

For example, what's up with college sports suddenly ditching their long-held adherence to the principles of amateur athletics and morphing into a pay-to-play, semi-professional free for all? Once upon a time it was the very definition of corruption to provide cash or other financial benefits to college athletes, who are supposed to be amateurs in every sense of the word. Now, it's not only acceptable, it is encouraged by the NCAA, which recently authorized "Name, Image and Likeness" deals — NIL for short — that allow college athletes to more or less sell their on-field services to the highest bidder.

Awash in various scandals, and presumably weary of the costly burden of investigating cheaters, the NCAA threw in the towel and decided it's easier to join them than to beat them. Bowing to the master of cold, hard cash, the organization most directly responsible for upholding the highest ethical standards in amateur athletics packed up their integrity and went home.

Only 20 years ago the world looked a lot different. At the University of Southern California, NCAA investigators discovered that star running back Reggie Bush and his family had received more than \$100,000 in illicit benefits. The NCAA came down on the school like rolling thunder, stripping Bush of his Heisman Trophy, vacating USC's 2004 national football championship, banning the Trojans from playing in bowl games for two years and stripping them of 30 scholarships. Now that it's all perfectly legit, will Bush get his Heisman back?

The new NIL rules are already bearing absurd fruit. Two weeks ago, Eastern Michigan University alum Charlie Batch, who earned two Super Bowl rings during his professional football career, offered Caleb Williams, star quarterback at the University of Oklahoma, \$1 million to play his senior year at EMU. While Batch's offer may have been partly in jest, it highlights the complete lack of limitations on how wealthy donors, sports companies and other benefactors can pay top athletes to play for their preferred sports teams. Our prediction? This isn't going to end well.

Coaches, too, will struggle with the effects of pay-to-play when their team's camaraderie and cohesiveness is fractured by the dynamics of star players with multi-million-dollar endorsement deals on one hand and the rest of the team with nothing but a scholarship on the other. Good luck with that.



## The CP Edit

### Opinion

We do understand the argument that college athletes are exploited by universities, who rake in the big bucks while their best players must wait until their college career is over to earn millions playing in the professional leagues. But the answer, we think, isn't opening the floodgates of pay-to-play through NIL deals for individual athletes. It would be far better to design a system that compensates all college athletes, not just the stars who attract the big money NIL deals.

Toward that end, if we concede that nothing is going to change, that pay-to-play is here to stay, then the only fair approach is to allow schools to establish a special fund for the benefit of their college athletes. Anyone can give to the fund in any amount — no questions asked. If billionaire MSU alumni Matt Ishbia and Dan Gilbert can fork over \$95 million to keep MSU football coach Mel Tucker happy for the next decade, what's to stop them from throwing that much or more

into the kitty so MSU can go out and buy the best football and basketball players? In our preferred alternative model, though, the largesse has to be distributed equally to all student-athletes so everyone gets a piece of the action.

As if NIL deals weren't enough to drag college sports into an ethical cellar, the next shoe to drop is the infiltration of big-money gambling interests. Much to our chagrin, Michigan State University recently signed a sponsorship deal with Caesar's Sportsbook, which presumably will bring untold millions in new revenues to the school's athletic department. It's not a good look for MSU, but profiteering through sports gambling will surely allow the university to build even more shiny, new temples to the gods of collegiate sports.

We suppose, though, that gambling is a natural offshoot of, and ethical complement to, NIL deals. Once you've decided that your principles are for sale to the highest bidder, it's a short road to rationalizing all manner of bad behavior. MSU isn't the first and certainly won't be the last university to cash in on the largesse offered by the gambling industry. Still, our bottom line remains the same: Just because you can doesn't mean you should.

**Have something to say about a local issue or an item that appeared in our pages? Now you have two ways to sound off:**

**1.) Write a letter to the editor.**

• E-mail: [letters@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:letters@lansingcitypulse.com) • Snail mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912 • Fax: (517) 371-5800 • At [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com)

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



At Coontz Law, we believe the justice system can do better. We believe in holding the Government accountable. We believe in empathetic representation of the accused. We believe Black Lives Matter. We believe we can—and will—change the world, starting right here in our backyard.

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LETTER  
to the editor

In response to the article “General Motors seeks to build \$2.5 billion battery plant in Lansing”:

Why are our elected and appointed representatives committing our money (Lansing, Ingham County, state of Michigan) to subsidizing GM to build a plant in rural Delta Township when they own hundreds of acres in Lansing? There are multiple GM-owned properties with water, sewer, roads and rail, including bus lines. This used to be a preferred method of plant location for GM. For example, look at Plant II — the houses and businesses that included, schools, restaurants, and bars

that built up in the area when the plant was active. Many of those businesses have closed over the years and the vitality of the community has been lost.

Instead of offering to PAY GM to come to Delta Township, we should be asking GM what are you going to bring to us to compensate for the destruction and revitalization you have abandoned.

Look at other communities like Lansing, Flint and Saginaw where they are not only dealing with the destruction of contaminants in the ground but the communities they have left behind.

Our future communities deserve better representation and businesses that are good citizens not just ones that are here for the tax breaks.

John Reich  
Bath Township

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, February 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823.

- 1. Request from 310 LLC to rezone two parcels (total of 0.72 acre) located at 218 and 224 West Lake Lansing Road from B-4 (Restricted Office Business District) to B-5 (Community Retail Sales Business District).
- 2. Request for consideration of a site plan and special use permit from Josie Lewis to use the Class B multiple-family dwelling at 404 E. Michigan Avenue for a fraternity. The property is zoned RM-54 (University Oriented Multiple-Family Residential District).

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

Peter Menser – Planning and Zoning Administrator  
410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823  
517.319.6861 or pmenser@cityofeastlansing.com  
<https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/>

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

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

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

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk  
CP#22-014

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED STATE AND FEDERAL  
OPERATING ASSISTANCE AND PUBLIC HEARING

All citizens are advised that CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY ("CATA") has prepared an application for federal assistance as required under the federal transit laws, as amended, as follows:

Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act:

Section 5307 Federal Operating Assistance (including Public Transportation Security Projects)	\$	17,203,421
Acquire Stationary Bus Fare Collection Equipment	\$	100,000
Acquire Furniture/Graphics	\$	50,000
Rehab/Renovate Bus Terminal	\$	75,000
Acquire IT Hardware and Software	\$	100,000
Acquire Mobile Surveillance/Security Equipment	\$	150,000
Acquire Mobile Fare Collection Equipment	\$	500,000
Rehab/Renovate Admin/Maintenance Facility	\$	75,000
Other 3rd Party Contractual Services (Safety & Security, IT)	\$	35,000
Security & Emergency Response Plans	\$	25,000
Purchase Bus Shelters and Signage	\$	30,000
Section 5311 FY 2020 FTA Rural Operating Assistance	\$	474,168
Section 5311 FY 2021 FTA Rural Operating Assistance	\$	481,777
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>19,299,366</b>

Operating and capital funds listed above include both urban and rural funds. This notice meets the Federal Transit Administration public notification requirements of 49 U.S.C. 5307. The above program will be the final program, unless amended.

CATA ensures that the level and quality of transportation service is provided without regard to race, color or national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For more information regarding our Title VI obligations or to file a complaint, please contact our Deputy CEO at 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910.

The proposed application is on file at CATA, 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI and may be reviewed during a 30-day period (Jan. 10, 2022 – Feb. 9, 2022), Monday – Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Written comments regarding the application and/or written requests for a public hearing to review the application must be received by 5 p.m. Feb. 9, 2022. If a hearing is requested, notice of the scheduled date, time and location will be provided at least 10 days in advance.

Submittals should be sent to CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY; Emergency Relief Grant Funding; Attn: Planning and Development Department; 4615 Tranter Street, Lansing, MI 48910 or via email to: [marketing@cata.org](mailto:marketing@cata.org).

CP#22-004



# Whitmer softening her edge; Nessel sharpening hers

It's the Tuesday after Martin Luther King Day and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is sitting in front of a fireplace, praising a beautiful drawing of a Byron Center eighth grader's depiction of a stone arch.



KYLE MELINN

POLITICS

## Opinion

The governor is naming the winner for her State of the State program cover contest. This young woman didn't end up winning. A Hemlock seventh grader did, but that's really beside the point.

For the last few months, this has been Whitmer. Relaxed. Smiles. Calm voice. It's a kinder, gentler governor.

This isn't the governor who went to war with the Republican Legislature over the budget in 2019. She's not in a back-and-forth with President Trump like in the spring 2020.

Whitmer is no longer on the national talk show circuit. She's no longer on the defense. No talk of government shutdown on COVID. Her message about COVID these days is fairly succinct.

The state did the best it could to prevent COVID spread before vaccinations. Folks should vaccinate. If a local community has a COVID problem, it's up to them to shut down a school or mandate mask wearing, if necessary.

Next question.

In December, Whitmer had her first public bill signing, ever, with Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey and House Speaker Jason Wentworth. She chatted up Shirkey as if the two hadn't had a mini-Cold War for the better part of two years.

Her Christmas card features her dogs with silly Santa hats drawn on their heads.

The governor smiled so much in her "Evening With the Governor" interview on PBS her face must have hurt afterward. But it didn't feel fake or forced. It felt genuine. The edge, for now at least, is off.

Is she simply more relaxed after taking so many slings and arrows from her COVID-lockdowns? Did she see how Democrat Terry McAuliffe got his hat handed to him last November for trying to make the Virginia governor's race about hating Trump?

Is she trying to butter up the Legislature as they begin carving up more than \$15 billion in extra federal

money and state revenues? Did she see polling that showed her favorable/unfavorable numbers at just about even?

The Republican Governors Association is making her a central focus of their 2022 efforts. Knocking out Whitmer now effectively would take her out of the 2024 presidential sweepstakes.

Maybe it's a combination of factors. Regardless, the people like it. Richard Czuba from Glengariff reported this week that Whitmer's job approval rating has improved to 56% positive and 39% negative, her best mark since Oct. 2020.

At some point, Whitmer may be back to firing rhetorical bombs. She is running for reelection this year, after all.

For now, handshakes and hugs are what we're getting ... from the governor, at least.

Attorney General Dana Nessel is taking a different approach. Maybe she's emboldened by the possibility of beating a perceived weak Republican nominee (Matt DePerno) or a Republican she has beat before (Tom Leonard), but she's blasting away.

Last week, Nessel announced she's turning over to the federal authorities her investigation as to whether laws were broken when the 16 Michigan Republican electors sent their official certification for Donald Trump to Washington. Of course, Joe Biden won Michigan by 154,188 votes.

Nessel's action made statewide headlines. It tore open an old wound from a year ago when Trump won't shut up about claiming how he felt the election was "stolen" from him when there was no tangible proof this occurred.

Also last week, the attorney general opined on the sordid Lee Chatfield affair with his sister-in-law by tweeting, "From now on, let's just all assume that anyone who labels themselves a 'family values' candidate is probably having sex with someone in their family besides their spouse."

One public relations professional told me it a "poor choice of words," but she didn't take it down. Shoot, she got more than 2,000 Twitter likes on it, for whatever that's worth.

Good cop, bad cop? We'll see which approach, or both, works.

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



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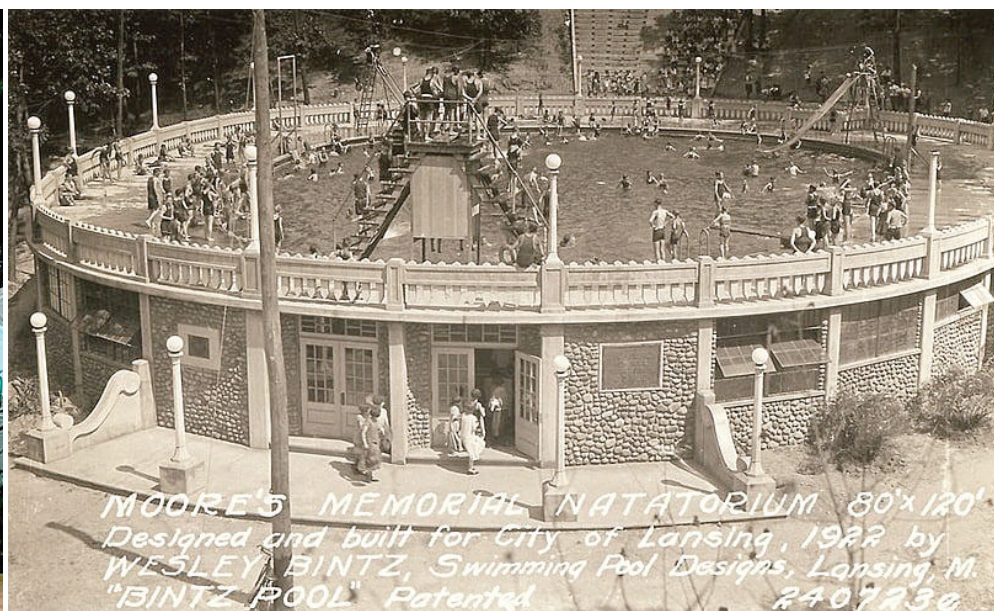
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Questions? Please call Suzi Smith at (517) 999-6704.





# Threading the needle of time

History and preservation groups release list of 10 “at risk” buildings in Lansing

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

The architects, artisans, stonemasons and carpenters who built Lansing’s oldest structures are long gone. So are the boarders, shopkeepers, teachers, mayors and everyday folks who walked in and out of their doors.

But the walls still talk, and they are asking for help.

This winter, two local groups concerned over the fate of Lansing’s historic buildings—the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and Preservation Lansing—joined forces to compile a list of 10 “at-risk” architecturally and historically significant structures in the city.

The list, released this week in City Pulse, runs the gamut from large-scale landmarks like Lansing City Hall, Lansing Eastern High School and the Moores Park Pool to irreplaceable shards of urban history like the rare townhouse at 617 S. Capitol Ave. and the Glaister House, built by the stonemason who worked on the State Capitol, at 402 S. Walnut St.

The groups based their decision to put a building on the list on a combination of factors: “current state of repair; lack of any public plans for repurposing structures and importance of the structure to the built environment and the history of Lansing.”

Dale Schrader, president of Preservation Lansing, and Bill Castanier, president of the Greater Lansing Historical Society, stressed

that the list isn’t meant to shame anyone.

Think of it as a stick-shaped carrot, designed to goose slow-moving owners out of inaction.

The owners are not necessarily bad guys. They run the gamut from concerned but harried individuals to indifferent corporate types to absentee ciphers. When contacted last week, some of the owners, like Joe Vitale, owner of the Cooley Haze House near Cooley Gardens, reaffirmed their intention to preserve the structures they own, attributing the idleness of their properties to the pandemic or economic factors. Others, like the gigantic Sparrow Health System—owner of two buildings on the list, historic St. Lawrence Hospital and the list’s biggest show-stopper, the former Lansing Eastern High School—made no such commitment. Owners of three vacant properties on the list didn’t return emails and calls or could not be reached at all.

When members of the Historical Society and Preservation Lansing combed the city, they easily came up with more than 40 entries, but decided to limit the list to 10, to focus on their top priorities. They visited every building on the list in person and went inside, if possible.

“This list is going to rub some people the wrong way, but it’s important to draw attention to these architecturally significant buildings that are threatened,” Schrader said. The city has a checkered record, at best, when it

comes to historic preservation. Recent years have seen big renovation projects like the Ottawa Street Power Station, the Knapp’s Centre and the Marshall Street Armory. Even more encouraging, smaller buildings like the historic commercial block from 513 to 517 W. Ionia St. are threading the needle of time into a new life—as a hair salon, bookstore and brew pub.

“But demolition by neglect seems to happen a lot,” Schrader said. “There have been some successes, but we want to encourage people to continue. This is a one-way street. Once we lose a historic building, there’s no getting it back.”

## 1. Moores Park Pool

The 1922 J.H. Moores Memorial Natatorium, the oldest public pool of its kind in the nation, is the liquid opal at the center of this string of at-risk jewels.

Dale Schrader of Preservation Lansing said it might be the most architecturally and culturally significant property in the city, aside from the state Capitol.

Generations of Lansing kids have frolicked in this artificial hillside pool, perched over the Grand River like an urban mountain spring. Wesley Bintz, Lansing’s city engineer in the 1920s, parlayed its compact one-piece design (usually ovoid in shape) into a national phe-

(Above left) Moores Park Pool - courtesy image.

(Above right) Historic image of Moores Park Pool - credited to Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

See Preservation, Page 13



# Pathways to careers in skilled trades.





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# Preservation

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nomenon. From 1920 to 1950, over 120 Bintz pools sprang up across the country, from Massachusetts to Oklahoma. The words “Wesley Bintz Swimming Pool Designs, Lansing, Michigan,” or a variant thereof, is etched in bronze on every one of them.


The nation was going nuts over public recreation — Calvin Coolidge made speeches about the benefits of exercise — and Bintz pools were the hot franchise for cooling off. Bintz patented the design, quit his job with the city and started his own design firm. Today, fewer than 10 Bintz pools are operating. Lansing’s pool is unique, even in the Bintz-o-verse, because it is the only one tucked into a hillside, with an observation area. The spectacular view of the Grand River below and the three stacks of the Eckert Plant make for a memorable experience, even if you never dip a toe into the water. The pool was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

Internet photos of defunct Bintz pools all over the country constantly draw comments like “that must have been really cool” and “so sad to see.” That hasn’t happened here — yet. In March 2021, a city report estimated it would take \$4.8 million to complete a daunting list of deferred repairs, from the original piping underneath the pool to the concrete, the heater, the lights around the perimeter and more.

Organizers for the Friends of Moores Park Pool, formed after it was shut down in 2019, said the pool could be brought back to life for \$2 million to \$2.5 million. A public campaign raised \$30,000 from 150 donors to help pay for the study, demonstrating widespread love for the pool. (Moores Park Pool also won City Pulse’s 2021 “Top of the Town” contest for Historical Place.) A spokeswoman said in May that the city is looking into grant funding for the pool and the allocation of \$250,000 from the \$2.2 million sale of the formerly Waverly Golf Course to developers in 2018, while support groups like Friends of Moores Park Pool gird for another round of fundraising. Stay tuned.

## 2. Townhouse at 617 S Capitol Ave.

This 1920 townhouse may not look like much at first glance, but it’s a rare dinosaur bone from the skeleton of old Lansing. A century ago, townhouses were a ubiquitous part of any vibrant downtown. They still pop up nearly every week on the cover of The New Yorker, but have almost disappeared here, with one excep-



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Townhouse, 617 S. Capitol Ave.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

## 900 block of West Saginaw Street.

tion: this three-story, two-unit structure, perched on the edge of the I496 freeway. Its neighbors demolished decades ago, but the building still seems to hunch its shoulders, like a straphanger hemmed in by passengers on each side. Look at it from the front, with your hands nearly closed in front of your face, and your mind can reconstruct block after block of these foursquare units. This townhouse, despite its modest frontage, contains over 8,000 square feet of space. The Historical Society couldn’t identify an architect, but records show that it was first used by an insurance underwriter. Over the years, it has served as apartments and small office rentals for lawyers and small claims adjusters. “Nothing’s been done with it for 10 years,” Dale Schrader of Preservation Lansing said. Broken windows, missing shutters and cracking trim attest to the neglect, but underneath, it’s clearly built like a brick house.

The owner listed by the county treasurer is 617 S. Capitol Properties LLC. Calls to the registered agents were not returned.

## 3. 900 Block of West Saginaw Street

Like a coral reef gone dry, the 900 block of West Saginaw is a gray husk with hardly a trace of its heyday as one of the most vibrant neighborhood commercial districts in the city.

Over the years, the block housed dozens of shops and businesses, including Gordon’s Men’s Wear, Stokes Men’s Clothing Store, the D&C dime store, two banks, the White Spot Grill, Frank’s Grill, Pasquale’s, and a self-service laundry with the fanciful name of Clearwater Washatoria. There were just as many beauty and barbershops, bars and restaurants, including the White Spot Lounge, West Town Restaurant, JB’s Saloon and the Saginaw Bar. The block often had more than two food stores at once, from Kroger’s,



Courtesy Historical Society of Greater Lansing




Historic images of the 900 block of Saginaw Street.

Bob’s Fruit Market, the Market Basket and A&P to Piggly Wiggly and Schmidt’s. In the 1950’s, downtown workers mingled with hungry shoppers and nosing cops at Paul’s Pastry.

Preservation Lansing’s Dale Schrader admits that revitalizing the block is a “tall order,” but he cited other commercial blocks in the city that have been massaged to life in Old Town and REO Town and downtown, revealing cool artifacts like the Beeman’s Grocery sign on South Washington Avenue and the original barber shop mirror from 50 years ago at the newly renovated Hair United salon downtown.

“A lot of the original materials are probably right under the stuff that has been added over the years,” Schrader said.


A major factor in the block’s demise was the expansion of Saginaw Avenue from two lanes, with parking, to a four-lane greased pole where people zoom from one side of town to the other with barely a glance. The city closed the block’s anchor tenant, Parks Furniture, in late 2020 because of “imminent safety issues.” Neil Park, the owner of Park’s Furniture and five other properties on the block, could not be reached for comment.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

## 4. St. Lawrence Hospital, 1210 W. Saginaw St.

Hospitals as we know them today were nonexistent in Lansing until well past the turn of the 20th century. That alone makes St. Lawrence Hospital, built in 1924, a historic structure, but its grandly layered



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

St. Lawrence Hospital.



# Preservation

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masonry and limestone trim identify it as one of the few “college Gothic” edifices still standing in the city of Lansing. The Woman’s Hospital Association operated a hospital in a series of Lansing homes until Edward Sparrow established the hospital that bears his name in 1912. St. Lawrence Hospital, the second hospital in Lansing, started in 1920 in a former sanitarium on Willow Street, until a new, 125-bed facility on Saginaw Street was built, thanks to a \$100,000 donation from Lawrence Price. It’s no coincidence that the hospital picked St. Lawrence for its moniker. Price was not a saint, but he was one of Lansing’s leading industrialists and financiers, founder of Auto Body Co. and the first Lansing Brewing Co. and unsuccessful Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate in 1916. The cornerstone was laid in April 1923.

The building embodies a lot of history, from thousands of Lansing babies who started life there to nearly as many nursing students who trained there. Spokesman John Foren of Sparrow Health System, the building’s current owner, did not return a request for comment on the building’s fate.

## 5. Lansing City Hall

“Take me to the United Nations,” Cary Grant barks to a New York cabbie in Alfred Hitchcock’s 1959 film “North by Northwest.”

Would you settle for Lansing City Hall? Clean, glassy modernist architecture has kept its allure from the 1950s through the “Mad Men” 2010s to the present day. Susan Bandes, an art historian at MSU and expert on mid-century modern architecture, has championed Lansing’s 1958 City Hall in many writings and talks, including an August 2017 City Pulse column.

“Lansing City Hall was built in a modern style, using the latest glass and steel construction because then-Mayor Ralph W. Crego wanted to project an image of the future, of the forward thinking city government,” Bandes wrote. The building’s design, by Lansing architects Lee and Kenneth Black, is a deliberate nod to famous International-style buildings in New York such as Lever House and the United Nations.

Sixty-three years later, the building needs over \$50 million in repair work. The blue panels on the north face of the building, made of a fiberglass-wood composite that was cutting edge in the 1950s, are faded and worn in blotches that compromise their clean geometry. The building is drafty and inefficient. A grand indoor lobby graced with marble columns and Indiana limestone hardly draws a second glance today. The indoor fountain is capped, a lavish double staircase

leads nowhere and plywood partitions hide an inert escalator. Leaks plague the underground parking garage. There’s a lot more, but you get the idea. After years of negotiations going back to the Virg Bernero administration, plans to move City Hall to a more efficient location and turn the glassy “Mad Men” slab into a high-end hotel and convention center have proven elusive. City spokesman Scott Bean did not respond to an email last week asking for an update.



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Lansing Association of Women’s Clubs.

## 6. Lansing Association of Women’s Clubs, 301 N. Butler Blvd.

Built in 1886, this unusual stone pile is a one-of-a-kind convergence of architectural rarity and historic significance.

There are many stone structures left in Lansing, but few, perhaps none, can compare with the square-cut, straw and buff colored stone shell of the house on the corner of Butler Boulevard and Ionia Street, an enduring gem of the Italianate stonemason’s art. It was originally the 10-room home of Ulysses D. Ward, a Lansing pioneer and two-time Councilman. The Lansing Association of Women’s Clubs took it over in 1992.

The Women’s Club and its adopted clubhouse have a special significance in the life of Lansing’s African-American community. According to an account provided by the Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau, the purpose of the clubhouse was “to provide a designated meeting place for all minority women and to cultivate peace, harmony, and happiness among citizens irrespective of race, color or creed such that all people may enjoy a higher standard of living for peace and contentment.”

During the Jim Crow era, the club was a center for day care, after school programs and meeting site for African American clubs. The building is a stop on Lansing’s African-American Heritage Trail



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

and was listed in the State Register of Historic Places by the Michigan Historical Commission in 1984. It has been idle during the pandemic, except for outdoor events, but there are plans to refurbish it resume activities such as family reunions and Halloween parties in the coming year, according to the Randy Watkins, a past president of the Lansing Association of Women’s Clubs. “It obviously needs work — painting, plaster, windows, porch repairs — I could name a lot of things,” Watkins said. “But overall, it’s a great little building.” The association is planning to launch a fundraising campaign, via GoFundMe or other means, to pay for the project.



Cooley Haze House circa 2018.

## 7. Cooley-Haze House, 213 W. Malcolm X St.

The five-bedroom, 16-room Colonial Revival house is a miracle of survival tucked into a tiny oasis of green space, next to Cooley Gardens, choked on all sides by the General Motors Grand River Assembly Plant, the BWL’s new Central Substation and I496. Once among the most elite residences in Lansing, it was designed by leading architect Edwyn Bowd and built in 1903 for Eugene Cooley, the son of Western Michigan University Cooley Law School namesake and Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas M. Cooley. Harry Haze, a doctor, owned it from 1817 to 1945. Michigan Gov. G. Mennen “Soapy” Williams and his family rented it during his first term in 1948 for \$285 a month. After that, it was home to several organizations, including the Michigan Medical Association, and got a \$250,000 facelift in the 1980s. The house’s last occupant, the Michigan’s Women’s Historical Center and Hall of Fame, moved out in 2017. The Lansing City Council voted unanimously in 2018 to sell the vacant house to local real estate agent Joe Vitale, a former president of Preservation Lansing, who plans to convert it into a workshop and retail store for recycling salvaged building materials.

Last week, Vitale said he’s still committed to preserving the house and carrying out his plan. He said that because of the pandemic, he’s focusing on residential restorations, including a 1914 historic house at 922 N. Walnut, and he’s wary of opening a retail store until conditions are more favorable. “He’s done some good preservation work, to his credit,” Dale Schrader of Preservation Lansing said. “But the Cooley Haze house is important, and people are wanting to see something happen there.” Vitale said he has taken precautions to protect the house’s interior from the weather and plans to resume work on the exterior in the spring.

## 8. Glaister House, 402 S. Walnut

Next time you’re circling around the state Capitol, take a break from cursing the maze of one-way streets and take a lingering look, while you can, at the cheerful red Glaister House, a miraculous survivor of the 19th century. Its last owner, Alice Sessions, was working with preservationists to establish a historic district for the house just before she died in 2018, but her son took over the property upon her death and sold it, without her knowledge, to Set Seg, an insurance agency located next door at the time. The house was built in 1876 by master stonemason Richard Glaister, who worked on the State Capitol, and the workmanship shows it. It looks modest from the out-



City Hall photos by Theresa Rosado for City Pulse

City Hall exterior.



City Hall leaky garage.



# Preservation

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Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

## Glaister House.

side, but it has 14 rooms and did decades of service as a boarding house. Lansing Mayor Ralph Crego lived in it as a newlywed. Alice Sessions turned down multiple offers to buy the house over the years and invested \$30,000 into repairs in 2017. Dale Schrader of Preservation Lansing said he was “heartbroken” when the race to preserve the house faltered after her death. About a year ago, Set Seg moved out of downtown Lansing and put the whole property, including the Glaister House,



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

## Glaister House sign.



Courtesy Historical Society of Greater Lansing

## A historic photo of Glaister House.

the house will doubtless face overwhelming commercial pressure to apply the wrecking ball, with no legal protection.

“Our only priority is to sell the property,” Set Seg Chief Financial Officer Dennis Rogoszewski said.

## 9. Eastern High School

This is the big one — by many measures, the largest and most significant historic structure in the city whose fate is still up in the air. In January 2016, the Lansing School District sold the three-story, 237,000-square-foot 1925 school and 18 acres of its surrounding campus to its next-door neighbor, Sparrow Hospital, for \$2.475 million. The sheer weight of history embodied in the school, where generations of Lansing students spent their formative years, is only one of the building’s unique assets. Nothing in Lansing compares in size and craftsmanship to Eastern’s meaty brick and creamy masonry, arched windows embroidered with Indiana limestone and ornate auditorium, all topped by copper gutters and a slate roof. Ann Arbor architect Liz Knibbe has worked on the restoration of historic structures across the country, including Lansing’s Art Deco Knapp’s Centre. “It’s really beautiful,” Knibbe said. “You can’t replicate anything like that today.” Bob Christensen, National Register of Historic Places coordinator at the State Historical Preservation Office, called Eastern “one of the 25 or so key buildings in Lansing, from an architectural standpoint.” Across the United States, including Michigan, old school buildings like Ypsilanti High School, built in 1929, and Fremont High, built in 1926, are being put to a variety



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

## Lansing Eastern High School.

of uses. Their steel bones are strong, the ceilings are high, and old classrooms happen to be about the same size as modern efficiency apartments. It’s been proposed that Sparrow could take advantage of tax breaks available for historic properties and convert the building to housing for relatives of patients, lab or office space, or training centers, or find some more creative use, but eight years after the sale, Sparrow still has not made any plans public.

Asked specifically about the fate of Eastern in 2016, spokesman John Foren replied evasively that Sparrow is committed to “the continued health, education, and economic growth of the area.” He did not reply at all when we asked for an update last week.

## 10. Genesee Street School, 835 W. Genesee

The Genesee Street School is the kind of solid, reassuring building that pins down a neighborhood’s fabric, like a button on a sofa. The orange-tan brick walls, the perfect complement to autumn leaves, announced “back to school” from the day it opened in 1912 until it closed its doors in 1984, making it one of the longest-lived elementary schools in Lansing. The building was leased to the Black Child and Family Institute from 1986 to 2012. Designed by master architect Edwyn Bowd, who designed many iconic buildings in Lansing and at MSU, the school is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Like many centenarian survivors, it has suffered a few indignities over the years. A one-story



Genesee Street School photos by Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse





# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## Giant, glowing octopus grips downtown parking garage

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

One of the biggest pieces of public art ever to be erected in greater Lansing quietly slithered into the heart of downtown in the closing weeks of 2021.

An undulating ribbon of anodized aluminum hundreds of feet long, designed by St. Johns artist Ivan Iler, of Netflix's "Metal Masters" fame, now stretches across the west and north faces of the colossal Capitol Avenue parking ramp between Shiawassee and Ionia streets.

At night, hundreds of LED lights embedded in the aluminum flash in programmed patterns, as if a phosphorescent octopus had taken permanent hold of the garage.

City officials say the nameless sculpture is meant to distract from the stark concrete Brutalism of the huge ramp, built in 1972 in the widely despised style named after béton brut, or raw, cast-in-place concrete slabs.

"It's brutal, for sure," economic development and planning director Brian McGrain said. "The name speaks for itself."

Chad Gamble, the city's parking director when the project was conceived three years ago, called the garage "monstrous."

"It breaks up the downtown," Gamble said.

But the artist is not among the haters.

"There are very beautiful things in Brutalism," Iler said. "I wanted to contrast with them rather than to hide them."

The Greater Lansing Arts Council and city officials picked Iler's vision out of several competing designs.

"The ramp has all these beautiful architectural lines and a really amazing shape," Iler said. "It has a simple beauty. At the same time, it's a lot of straight edges and a lot of straight lines. My thinking was to add a more natural element to it."

Iler's organic vision dovetailed with Lansing's multiyear, bond-financed, \$7 million push to renovate the city's three downtown parking structures and make them more welcoming to residents and visitors.

Iler already had several huge sculptures under his belt, including a leaping, 25-foot-high fish installed in Baldwin in 2018, billed as the "world's largest brown trout sculpture" (beating out the previous record holder in New Zealand by a few feet), and "Portrait of a Dreamer," also known as the "gear-head," a 15-foot-tall bust of a man with gears extending another 20 feet from his cranium over Museum Drive in downtown Lansing.

Iler just started working on a new sculpture, "Bridge Between Banks," after winning a competition to design the first public sculpture to be



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

A swooping aluminum ribbon designed by St. Johns artist Ivan Iler was installed on Lansing's Capitol Avenue parking garage this winter. "Creativity can come from restraints," Iler said.

installed in Dimondale in December.

But the Capital Avenue octopus is by far the biggest thing he has ever worked on.

The obvious choice for material was aluminum, which is light (about a third the weight of stainless steel), resistant to corrosion and good at reflecting light. It also pops nicely, even in the daytime, when layered over béton brut.

"The beauty is in the contrast between the two," Iler said. "We're not trying to hide one or the other; only to show one using the other."

Iler appreciated the ramp's pure, geometric forms even more when a colleague created a 3-D computer model for him to manipulate.

"I could fly around it, as if I were Peter Pan, able to look in any direction, at any angle," he said. "I went down there and took photographs, but I realized that I wasn't going to get what I needed from that."

He enjoyed working within the restrictions of the site.

"This is the first one I ever did that was integrated with a building," he said. "Sometimes having constraints can push creativity. Without that building I would never have designed something like that."

Gamble, project leader for the parking garage renovations, now retired, said he was inspired by recent improvements made on the campus of neighboring Lansing Community College, where former LCC President Brent Knight opened up an all-out assault on the campus' Brutalist look.

"I had the honor of taking Dr. Knight's golf cart campus tour, and that was the seed," Gamble said. Knight added dozens of sculptures, signs, flowerbeds, trees, shrubs and a clock tower, splashing the '70s béton brut with light and color at every turn.

Gamble stressed a factor most people don't consider when they think of a parking garage.

"From a visitor's perspective, it's the first thing and the last thing people will see when they come to downtown," he said.

It took a statewide team of engineers and fabricators, and a lot of Zoom meetings, to breathe life into Iler's design.

Engineers from Walker Consultants, based in Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo, wrestled the design into three dimensions.

"We had electrical engineers looking at layouts and power draws, making sure we could power up everything," Gamble said. "You don't normally think of putting a sculpture on the side of a building."

The octopus came to life, section by section, in the Detroit workshop of America's Green Line, an LED lighting company based, under the direction of Aaron Mohr.

The lights are about 5 feet apart and the aluminum ribbon varies in width from about eight to 14 inches.

"It has to look good when you're looking at it straight on, but also if you're looking at it from an angle," Iler said. "I needed to widen it out and thin it out to give it a feeling of flowing and motion as you're driving past it."

Chris Revis of Ram Construction, based in Detroit and Grand Rapids, called the sculpture a "swoop ribbon."

"I'm in the concrete business and I've never worked on anything like this," Revis said. "It was fascinating seeing everything come to fruition, from a scratch drawing on a piece of paper to seeing on the side of a building. It was a very unique project."

"It felt good, like a team effort," Iler said.

In late fall, Revis, McGrain, Iler and other major players converged in Detroit to view the finished sections and give the thumbs-up for delivery to Lansing.

The sculpture was affixed to the garage with about 500 Tapcon carbon steel screws of the same kind you might use to put up shelves on your cement basement wall.

Revis said the design only needed "a few tweaks here and there" as it went along. The biggest problem the team faced was negotiating the supply chain delays that cropped up in the second half of 2021.

"I think it will leave a lasting impression on a lot of people," he said.



# This Lansing weed brand is still fighting the war on drugs

Lemonati Family Farms launches equity-driven ‘Defiance’ series

By KYLE KAMINSKI

It’s estimated that there were more than 40,000 people across the country still locked up behind bars last year for nonviolent, marijuana-related crimes — including hundreds of inmates in Michigan, where recreational pot has been legal for adult use for longer than three years.

Nationwide examples of the lingering war on drugs are seemingly endless:

Kerry Collier is serving a 20-year sentence for conspiracy to distribute marijuana; he isn’t set to be released for another six years. Maurice Anderson will be in prison for at least another decade on a similar set of cannabis-related criminal charges. Edwin Rubis and Danyne McIntosh are also locked away for decades for other weed crimes — none of which involved violence or theft.

Freedom Grow, a California-based nonprofit organization that’s dedicated to providing a broad range of support to those inmates, lists dozens of other individual examples on its website — including at least one inmate who, with the group’s help, received a presidential pardon in 2020.

Injustice just doesn’t sit right with Alex Martin, cofounder of Lemonati Family Farms, a Lansing-based company that decided this year to start giving back to his founding fathers — the former black market pot farmers and weed dealers who laid the groundwork for the industry.

“We’ve been wanting to do something to give back to the community, and we thought the best way would be to give back to those who have been harmed by the war on drugs,” Martin explained.

Lemonati Family Farms runs an indoor hydroponic growing operation field on Kalamazoo Street near Art’s Pub. (No, not that Black building. That’s another grow operation.) The company is driven with a simple mission: be the “dopest cannabis company in all the land” with the most unique strains and the flashiest packaging. Martin is also dedicated to raising awareness of lingering injustices for those still imprisoned for pot.

The “Defiance” series aims to bring attention to the plight of cannabis pris-



**Lansterdam**  
in Review:  
Lemonati Family Farms  
lemonatimi.com

oners by donating \$1 of every eighter sold to Freedom Grow. The funds will be used, in part, to support prisoners — including those mentioned above — with commissary cash, legal support and educational help.

Each strain is named after key positions within the cannabis industry that have proven to be historically dangerous and irreparably life changing: Caregiver, Patient, Plug and

Grower.

Unfortunately, local availability is limited, at least for now. Pot shops in Ann Arbor, Muskegon and Kalamazoo had them stocked last week. I was lucky enough to get my hands on some of the first harvest. And as usual from the pot wizards at Lemonati, the quality was second to none.

**The Caregiver**  
**Price — \$50/3.5g**  
**Terpenes — D-Limonene; A-Pinene; B-Myrcene**

This strain, my personal favorite of the new series, is an indica-dominant crossbreed of Strawberry Shortcake

and Sunset Sherbet. It has a sweet, piney flavor profile with notes of hops, cinnamon and orange. This is my ideal after-dinner smoke for a night binging Netflix on the couch.

**The Patient**  
**Price — \$50/3.5g**  
**Terpenes — D-Limonene; B-Myrcene; Linalool**

This strain — a cross between Wedding Cake and Gelato 33 — is a reincarnation of “Aries” from Lemonati’s old Zodiac lineup, otherwise known as Ice Cream Cake. It’s also Martin’s personal favorite of the

See Lansterdam, Page 18

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# *Favorite Things*

## Deanna Brown and her late brother's leather satchel

Deanna Brown is the owner of *Everything is Cheesecake*. She was inspired to become an entrepreneur by her brother Danny, who passed away from cancer and left behind something precious to Deanna, a leather satchel.

Something that has always been really special to me is the leather satchel that belonged to my brother, who passed away some time ago. Before he passed away from cancer, it was something that I always said I wanted. He would wear it all the time, and I acquired it.

It is cognac colored cross-body bag. It's very high-quality leather, and because it's leather scents can stay in it for a long time. It's so special to me, because even though my brother has been gone for almost 12 years, I can still pick up that bag and smell him.

Danny was my oldest brother, whom I just loved so much. He lived in Lansing the last part of his life; he lived in Atlanta prior to that. He inspired me to become an entrepreneur. At one time, he had a storefront in Old Town. It was an upscale furniture consignment store, where he would sell high-end consignment items. He had the best taste in furniture, and his eye for making a home beautiful was absolutely amazing.

He honestly was the first person in my family that I had seen become an entrepreneur. At his store, he had a ribbon-cutting ceremony with Virg Bernero, who was the mayor at the time. I remember being in awe because that was something that I knew I wanted to do. He was such an inspiration to me, and I don't exactly know how to describe everything he meant to me. How I became an entrepreneur was through the works of him. Seeing how great he was led me to go on the path of being my own boss too.



His death hurt me to the core — it was the first time I ever lost anybody so close to me. He passed away on his birthday. I like to bake, and his favorite cake was German chocolate. At the time, we knew he

was going to die. I told my mother, "We should still celebrate him. Even though he probably isn't going to be here with us much longer, I want to have a birthday party for him."

I remember going to work that day with the cake. I was going to get out of work and be there with him. Before I could make it there with the cake, he passed away. My mom called and told me that he was gone, so we didn't get a chance to blow out the candles and have cake. For a long time, I always hated making German chocolate cake. But now, whenever I make that cake, I really like he's right there with me.

The satchel is just something that was special to him. He dressed very sharp; he really took pride in his clothes and his shoes. That bag always stood out to me. I knew, out of all of the things he had, that was something I wanted to acquire and always keep near and dear to my heart.

*Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have a suggestion for Favorite Things, please email skyler@lansingcitypulse.com*



## Lansterdam

from page 17

bunch, which explains why he brought it back for another go-around. The effects: Immediate relaxation and anxiety relief. Smoke this after a long day at the office.

### The Grower

Price — \$50/3.5g

Terpenes — B-Myrcene; Carophyllene; A-Pinene

This strain, a cross between Zkittles and Wedding Cake, was the spiciest (and purplest) of the bunch with pungent notes of black pepper, orange, pine and cinnamon — maybe a touch of turpentine. Like the other strains, I found one joint to produce some immediate calming effects with much more of a full-body, muscle relaxing

high rather than any sort of major mental effects.

### The Plug

Price — \$50/3.5g

Terpenes — D-Limonene; B-Myrcene; Linalool

The Plug is definitely the sweetest tasting strain in the new series. The dark purple nugs smelled sort of like freshly baked banana bread and, like the others, carried some strong spicy notes of cinnamon, pine and hops. I also picked up some berry flavors with a touch of lemon.

One joint triggered a wave of sedation that left me struggling to do much of anything at all.

Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse's managing editor and a cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about every day for the last decade. Almost weekly, Kaminski samples some of the best cannabis products available in Greater Lansing, gets real high and writes about them.

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Art by Nevin Speerbrecker



# The people that made the '60s America's most radical decade

By **BILL CASTANIER**

Historian Kevin Boyle's new book, "The Shattering," has no surprises, major revelations and no sappy stories. Instead, it is packed to the brim with tales of courageous individuals who stood for justice and truth. "The Shattering" is a straightforward look at the tumultuous decade of the '60s, and how it shaped the course of United States history.

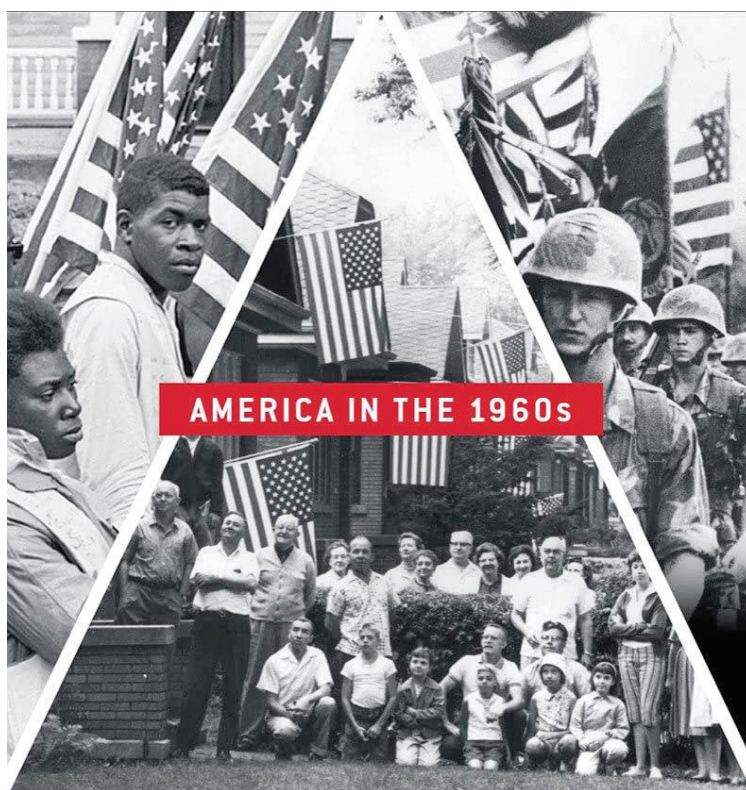
Many will recognize Boyle for his groundbreaking, National Book Award-winning nonfiction novel, "Arc of Justice," which detailed the heroic actions of African American physician Ossian Sweet. Sweet stood up to an angry mob after he and his family moved into an all-white Detroit neighborhood in 1925. The incident resulted in the death of a bystander. Sweet's subsequent trial garnered national attention, with the heavyweight attorney Clarence Darrow acting for the defendant. The trial's presiding judge was Frank Murphy, who went on to be Governor of Michigan and a United States Supreme Court justice.

In writing "The Shattering," Boyle examines the '60s with a broad brush. He drills down on only a handful of themes and individuals — including the Vietnam War, Roe v. Wade, the civil rights movement, the 1968 Chicago Democratic Convention, sexuality and gay rights.

Boyle lives in Evanston, Illinois, where he is the William Smith Mason Professor of American History at Northwestern University. He said writing about the '60s was a daunting challenge, since so many books have already been written on the era. He approached the major themes by filling out the lives of courageous individuals who went against the tide.

For example, in writing about Martin Luther King Jr., he used King's time organizing and living in Chicago instead of retelling the better-known stories of King's civil rights activism. When writing about Norma McCorvey and the landmark Roe v. Wade case, he tells of how McCorvey positioned herself as an outsider. In addition to framing the story of the pro-abortion movement, McCorvey calls herself a "nobody." Another nobody who emerges from that case was the young lawyer Sarah Weddington, who litigated the case.

"I wanted to show the courage of people in a society that didn't accept them," Boyle said.



## THE SHATTERING

KEVIN BOYLE

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER

Boyle is a self-identified poll nerd, and throughout the book he uses poll data to show that most of '60s radical movements, including the anti-war movement, were not accepted by the general American populous of the time.

"One of the things I wanted to do was bring up the influence of ordinary people who did extraordinary things to transform society," Boyle said.

Boyle starts his book by looking more closely at a photograph that he remembered from his childhood. It shows a group of three dozen neighbors on Eddy Street in northwestern Chicago back in 1961 flying American flags on the Fourth of July.

"I wanted to know more about who they were," he said. Throughout the book, the people of Eddy Street serve as a metaphor for the silent majority.

"When writing the book, I tried not to beat anyone over the head with arguments. Instead, I looked for compelling stories to pull people along. Many are ambiguous and about people who

have to grapple with their complexity," Boyle said.

One courageous person Boyle details is Estelle Griswold, who challenged the ban on birth control in 1965.

What many who lived through the '60s will find remarkable is how Boyle points to busing as the decade's most transformative action. In his last chap-

ter, he explores how busing was the most radical movement.

"It affected daily life and became a personal thing. It caused a radical change for families," he said.

Boyle also points out that busing may have been the reason the Civil Rights movement stalled when the Supreme Court narrowly defined or declined to support busing in cities like Detroit.

Boyle, who teaches a class on civil rights, said, "Students are amazed this happened."

To be fair, Boyle does not short-change the impact of the Vietnam War, the antiwar demonstrations and the roles Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon played in the growth of militarism. Like myself, readers will have their own views about topics they believe deserved more attention — such as the draft, which is mentioned only sparingly.

Boyle, for the benefit of the reader, doesn't get in the weeds with topics like the radical Weathermen or the Black Panthers, which only get a few short paragraphs in the book. He said those topics already have many other indepth books written about them.

The author also deftly navigates the more popular pop culture of the '60s, avoiding topics like movies and music among others.

"I'm happy to say I wrote a book on the '60s and never mentioned Bob Dylan," he said.

After reading "The Shattering," I direct readers to a new thriller by T. Jefferson Parker, who uses the '60s as the backdrop to his new novel, "A Thousand Steps." The book is a coming-of-age story set in the wide-open Laguna Beach, California, and features a teenager who uses his street smarts to rescue his kidnapped sister.

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# A Hunter's Tale

City Pulse is serializing "A Hunter's Tale," by Ryan Claytor, throughout January. This is the third of four installments.



To learn more about "A Hunter's Tale," visit [ahunterstale.com](http://ahunterstale.com) • For the next installment, pick up the Jan. 26 issue of City Pulse.



# Capital Area United Way offers free tax services for those in need

By **CHELSEA PHILLIPS**

When tax season comes around, lots of people look forward to the financial relief a tax return can bring. But for others, tax season just creates anxiety over what they might owe. Even the cost of paying for tax services can be a barrier in filing. However, for certain taxpayers, there are tax services available through Capital Area United Way at no cost.

Services through VITA — Volunteer Income Tax Assistance — have been available since the IRS created the program in the '70s. Locally, it has been available since 2007, but it wasn't until 2018 that it merged with Capital Area United Way.

This nonprofit organization, which serves Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties, offers eligible taxpayers three options for filing. Households making under \$75,000 a year can file for free online through myfreetaxes.com. Online filing is also available through getyourrefund.org, which features a chat option, for households making under \$66,000 a year. Households making under \$57,000 a year can file through the VITA program. Those that are eligible for this assistance can call 211 to schedule an appointment.

Nationally, United Way has helped more than 1.3 million taxpayers with myfreetaxes.com, saving more than \$260 million in filing fees. On a local level, the VITA program helped 3,500 households in 2019, with just under 200 volunteers. This year, there are more than 300 volunteers ready to help even more individuals and families.

VITA director David Reyes said there has been an increase in clients and the organization's volunteer num-

## Nonprofit News



This occasional feature highlights events and milestones at local nonprofits. If you would like to submit a suggestion please email [skyler@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:skyler@lansingcitypulse.com)

**Capital Area United Way**  
**Located within Marshall Armory**  
**330 Marshall St., #230, Lansing**  
**Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**  
**Micauw.org**  
**517-203-5000**

bers.

"People are much more willing to volunteer, and the clients are more willing to come and be engaged with people," Reyes said.

Capital Area United Way focuses on three main pillars: health, education and financial stability. Reyes cites free tax services as key in creating financial stability naming returns as "income sources that help bring people out of poverty."

Regarding access to tax services working in conjunction with financial stability, Reyes said the fees that other tax services charge can get in the way of other life necessities. By providing free tax services, families can use that money toward what they really need.

"If families are paying up to \$300, or sometimes more depending on how complicated their tax return is, that can basically be a month's worth of food," Reyes said.

For some families, this time of year is their largest financial trans-



action leading to longer-term plans. "Longer-term thinking usually leads to better outcome," Reyes said.

There are some important changes made to filing taxes this year that can apply to many families, such as the reimbursement for childcare expenses up to \$8,000. For parents that opted out of the advanced child tax credit last year, \$3,600 can be claimed for each child under the age of 6

and \$3,000 can be claimed for each child under 17. Additionally, parents that had children in 2021 can claim a \$1,400 stimulus payment.

Reyes said that Capital Area United Way is always hoping to bring more volunteers on board. "Our community is more robust when people are participating and engaged with what we're doing and helping one another," he said.

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### Jonesin' Crossword

**"The Best of 2021"--keeping things positive.**

by Matt Jones

**Across**

1 Kerosene lantern material

6 Invitation's request

10 Current measures?

14 Displeased with

15 "A Change is Gonna Come" singer Redding

16 Cafe supplement

17 Basketball venue

18 Gymnastics gold medalist who made news in 2021 as the first Hmong-American Olympian

20 Horror movie revived in 2021 (with a script co-written by Jordan Peele)

22 "The \_\_\_ Ballerina" (Degas work)

23 Luggage checkers, for short

24 Crash maker

25 Low poker hand

28 Swampy land

32 Young \_\_\_ (small children)

33 British tennis star who won the 2021 U.S. Open, only the second Grand Slam tournament she had entered

37 Full of energy

38 Judges' gp.

39 Rampageous revelry

43 2021 documentary directed by Questlove about the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival

46 Dad joke, generally

49 Ed of "Up," "Elf," and "JFK"

50 Sanitizer's target

51 Battery poles

54 Occupational suffix

56 Prepared potatoes, as for hash browns

57 2021 Adele chart-

By Matt Jones

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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69					70					71				

topper that broke records on streaming services

62 2021 Netflix series that made Lee Jung-jae a star outside South Korea

65 Scheduled to arrive

66 Baseball scoreboard data

67 Make Kool-Aid

68 First class, briefly

69 Squirrel's home

70 Where a Yankee follows November?

71 Ford's failure

Down

1 Auto financing co., formerly

2 "Tomb Raider" protagonist Croft

3 Yemeni port on the Red Sea

4 Course hazards

5 Sticks around

6 "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" detective Diaz

7 Shock and amaze

8 Diesel in an automotive vehicle?

9 Pressure unit, briefly

10 Warning signal

11 California surfers' mecca

12 Nursery rhyme merchant

13 Swipes

19 Person with intelligence?

21 One of the Berenstain Bears

24 Dance step syllable

25 Treat in collectible dispensers

26 "\_\_\_ seeing things?"

27 Rapscallion

29 Surname shared by two presidents

30 "American Idol" winner Studdard

31 Sudden fright

34 Protagonist of the "Street Fighter" series

35 Bounced-check abbr.

36 Shipping option that skips air travel

40 Eggs in the water

41 Moldova's cont.

42 Shady tree

44 Postgrad degrees

45 Metal minerals

46 "Winter Wonderland" clergyman

47 Matchless

48 "Wait your turn!"

52 Jefferson, by belief

53 "Ed, \_\_\_ n Eddy" (Cartoon Network series)

55 "Blame It on the Bossa Nova" singer Gorme

57 Cast forth

58 Dynamic prefix

59 Court dividers

60 Swampland

61 Organic compound

63 Channel that aired "Lingo" (which is pretty much what all your Wordle results posts are)

64 \_\_\_ high level

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Answers on page 24

### SUDOKU

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

### Advanced

#### TO PLAY

Fill in the grid so that every row, column, and outlined 3-by-3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 exactly once. No guessing is required. The solution is unique.

Answers on page 24

### Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsky

January 19-25, 2022

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** In October 2021, the Vancouver Canucks hockey team played the Seattle Kraken team in a Seattle arena. A fan named Nadia Popovici noticed that the Canucks' equipment manager Brian Hamilton had an irregular mole on the back of his neck—possibly cancerous. She found a way to communicate her observation to him, urging him to see a doctor. In the ensuing days, Hamilton sought medical care and discovered that the mole was indeed in an early stage of melanoma. He had it removed. In the spirit of this inspiring story, Aries, I invite you to tell the people in your life things they should know but don't know yet—not just what might be challenging, but also what's energizing and interesting. Be their compassionate advisor; their agent for divine intervention.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** Canadian-Jamaican songwriter and recording artist Kreesha Turner isn't a mega-star like Beyoncé or Rihanna, but she has had a successful music career. What's the secret to her constant creative output? Here's what she has said: "I love to surround myself with people who are the best at what they do. My idea is I want to be a sponge and absorb everything they teach, experience their energy, view them in their element, and have the opportunity to ask them questions." The coming year will be one of the best times ever for you to emulate her strategy, Taurus. And now is a perfect moment for formulating plans to make it happen.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** Gemini author Lisa Cron says that when we're telling a story, we should give each successive scene "new information, rather than rehashing things we already know. Never tell us the same fact twice. Because it's boring and stops the flow of the story. Never tell us the same fact twice. Because it's boring and stops the flow of the story." In accordance with astrological omens, Gemini, I suggest you apply this counsel to everything you say and do in the next three weeks. Don't repeat yourself. Keep moving right along. Invite novelty. Cultivate surprises and unpredictability.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** Years ago, I reluctantly gave up my music career. To do so was sad and hard. But it enabled me to devote far more time and energy to improving my writing skills. I published books and developed a big audience. I'm glad I did it. Here's another redemptive sacrifice I made earlier in my life: I renounced the chaotic pleasure of seeking endless new romantic adventures so I could commit myself to a relationship with one particular woman. In so doing, I learned a lot more about how to be a soulful human. I'm glad I did it. Is there potentially a comparable pivot in your life, my fellow Cancerian? If so, the coming weeks and months will be a favorable time to make a move.

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** Leo actor Claudia Christian has appeared in over 50 films, including many in the science fiction genre. She has played a variety of roles in movies with more conventional themes. But as for the sci-fi stuff? She says, "Apparently, I've been typecast: I'm a Russian bisexual telepathic Jew." If Christian came to me for astrological advice right now, I would suggest that the coming months will be an excellent time for her and all of you Leos to slip free of any pigeonholes you've been stuck in. Escape the mold! Create niches for yourself that enable you to express your full repertoire.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** The coming weeks will be a favorable time to meditate on your job and your calling—as well as the differences there may be between your job and your calling. In fact, I regard this as a phase when you can summon transformative epiphanies about the way you earn a living and the useful services you provide to your fellow humans. For inspiration, read this quote from photographer Margaret Bourke-White: "Even while you're in dead earnest about your work, you must approach it with a feeling of freedom and joy; you must be loose-jointed, like a relaxed athlete."

**LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22):** Author Marguerite Yourcenar wrote, "All happiness is a work of art: The smallest error falsifies it, the slightest hesitation alters it, the least heaviness spoils it, the slightest stupidity brutalizes it." If what she says is true, it's bad news, isn't it? She makes it seem like cultivating joy and well-being is a superhuman skill that few of us can hope to master. Personally, I am not as stringent as Yourcenar in my ideas about what's required to generate happiness. But like her, I believe you have to work at it. It doesn't necessarily come easily and naturally. Most of us have never been taught how to cultivate happiness, so we must train ourselves to do it and practice diligently. The good news, Libra, is that the coming weeks will be an excellent time for you to upgrade your happiness skills.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21):** In 1891, a cultural organization commissioned Scorpio sculptor Auguste Rodin to create a statue of beloved French author Honoré de Balzac. The piece was supposed to be done in 18 months, but it wasn't. For seven years, Rodin toiled, producing over 50 studies before finally finishing the piece. We shouldn't be surprised, then, that one of his mottoes was "Patience is also a form of action." I'm recommending Rodin-like patience to you in the coming weeks, Scorpio. Yours will be rewarded long before seven years go by.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** "I am ashamed of confessing that I have nothing to confess," wrote author Fanny Burney. Actor Jennifer Lawrence said, "I started to write an apology, but I don't have anything to say I'm sorry for." I nominate these two souls to be your role models for the coming weeks. In my astrological opinion, you are currently as immune to karmic boomerangs as it's possible to be. Your guilt levels are abnormally low. As far as I can determine, you are relatively free from having to answer to the past or defend your actions. How do you plan to make maximum use of this grace period?

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19):** "New truths become evident when new tools become available," declared Nobel Prize-winning medical physicist Rosalyn Sussman Yalow (1921–2011). She was referring to developments in science and technology, but I think her idea applies to our personal lives, too. And it so happens, in my astrological opinion, that the coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to acquire new tools that will ultimately lead you to discover new truths.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** Self-help teachers and New Age gurus are fond of using metaphors about opening doors. They provide a lot of advice that encourages us to knock on doors, scout around for doors that are open just a crack, find keys to unlock doors, and even kick down doors. I will not be following their lead in this horoscope. In my opinion, the coming days are an excellent time for you to heed the contrary counsel of author Paulo Coelho: "Close some doors today. Not because of pride, incapacity, or arrogance, but simply because they lead you nowhere." Once you carry out this assignment, Aquarius, I believe you'll start finding interesting new doors to open.

**PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20):** In 2017, Piscean film director Jordan Peele released his debut film, "Get Out". It was a success with both critics and audiences. A year later, Peele became the first Black screenwriter to win the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. As he accepted the Oscar, he said, "I stopped writing this movie about 20 times because I thought it was impossible." Personally, I'm glad Peele didn't give up his dream. Here's one reason why: He will serve as an excellent role model for you throughout 2022. As you reinvent yourself, Pisces, don't give up pushing ahead with persistence, courage, and a quest for what's most fun.

Go to [RealAstrology.com](http://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.

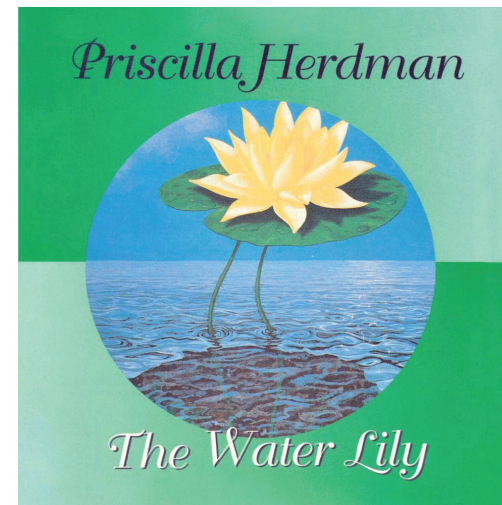


# TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

LIFE CHANGING ALBUM: SALLY POTTER TALKS  
'THE WATER LILY,' BY PRISCILLA HERDMAN



Sally Potter is a local folk musician, song leader and promoter at Ten Pound Fiddle. (courtesy photos)

## Local folk fixture recalls a pivotal 1977 album

Sally Potter has long been a driving force in the Mid-Michigan folk music community as a singer, song leader and promoter at the Ten Pound Fiddle concert series.

Over the years, her passion for music has been reported by outlets ranging from PBS to The New York Times. In this week's edition of "Life Changing Albums," Potter talks about "The Water Lily" by Priscilla Herdman. Recorded in 1976 and released in 1977, it's a stunning traditional folk record that showcases Herdman's striking vocals and expert guitar playing, with backing from Jay Ungar on fiddle and mandolin, and Abby Newton on cello. The result? A striking, unique LP. "Herdman put melodies to several haunting poems written by Australian Henry Lawson," Potter explained. "Also included are Eric Bogle's 'The Band Played Waltzing Matilda,' and the traditional classic, 'Jock O'Hazeldean.'"

While, last week, The Ten Pound Fiddle postponed all of its weekly concerts through early March, feel free to take in some folk-music knowledge through reading how this Priscilla Herdman full-length changed Potter's life.

**How did you discover "The Water Lily" LP?**

**Sally Potter:** I found the album in

1980 at a used record store while at the University of Illinois, Champaign. I spent a lot of money at four used record stores in Campus Town. There were six or seven coffeehouses on campus, including the iconic Red Herring coffeehouse, and lots of interest in folk music, so each store had a pretty healthy section to sort through. I was looking for new material and took a chance.

Little did I know, it was already making waves in the established folk music world. Take the stunning, descriptive poetry of Australian Henry Lawson, add beautiful melodies written and sung by Priscilla Herdman, add top notch musicians to help bring the points home, and the result is one of the most beloved recordings in the folk music world.

**Did the album have an immediate impact on you?**

It was immediate. Her voice is gorgeous, and in my range, so I was singing along pretty quickly. Then, I found the lower harmony and sang that through the whole thing. Then, a third part. It was great practice, and I learned ten terrific songs. I performed "The Bush Girl" and "Jock O'Hazeldean" for years.

It was one of those albums where your favorite song switched every time you played the album. I played it over and over for years. Later, when it was

issued on CD, I went through another phase of playing it a lot.

**What aspect of the album moves you the most?**

After spending high school singing along with Chicago, Earth, Wind and Fire, Fleetwood Mac, Three Dog Night, the Mamas and Papas and Creedence Clearwater, I suddenly realized that less can be a lot more. Herdman sang all of the songs and plays guitar. She had instrumental help from folk music heavyweights Jay Ungar, who wrote "Ashoka Farewell," on fiddle and mandolin, and Abby Newton on cello. Newton has played on hundreds of folk albums, and is the mother of fiddler Rosie Newton of Richie and Rosie. Also, Lawson's lyrics are front and center. Herdman, Ungar and Newton figured out how to both maximize the presentation and stay out of the way. Less was more.

**In what ways has this album directly affected your life, or musical style?**

It taught me that when putting together a set list, the strength of the songs really matters. There are no weak songs on this recording. The recording is a delight, all the way through.

Herdman wrote terrific melodies to match Lawson's poems, and then chose four more fabulous selections to fill out the recording. So long as both the music and the message is strong, a per-

formance does not have to be crowded or complicated.

**Anything in the works for you musically?**

I just finished writing the liner notes to a solo recording, "Summer's Child." Twelve of my favorite songs; two written by a college housemate and me. It was recorded during the pandemic by Dylan Rogers on the Robin Theatre stage. Both the CD and digital copies will be available through Goldenrod Music in Lansing.

**Have any honorable mention albums?**

Two of my other favorite albums by women singers are Mary Black's "Collected," released in 1991 and Karla Bonhoff's self-titled first album from 1977. Same idea — both albums are full of marvelous songs that are fun to sing with.

**Other Sally Potter picks:**

Creedence Clearwater: "Willy and the Poor Boys" (1969)

The Roches: self-titled (1979)

The Mamas and Papas: "Farewell to the First Golden Era" (1967)

"Oliver! Film Soundtrack" (1968)

Fleetwood Mac: "Rumors" (1977)



# OUT on the TOWN

## Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at [lansingcitypulse.com](http://lansingcitypulse.com). Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesdays for the following week's issue. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Suzi at (517) 999-6704.

### LIVE + LOCAL

**B&I Bar**  
5247 Old Lansing Rd., Lansing  
**Flipside**  
Thurs., Jan. 21, 8:30-11:30 p.m.

**Blue Owl**  
1149 S Washington, Lansing  
**Elden Kelly and Gregg Hill**  
Thurs., Jan. 20, 6-8 p.m.

**Classic Pub & Grill**  
16219 N. US 27, Lansing  
**Parted Waters**  
Fri., Jan. 21, 8:30 p.m.  
**Fragment of Soul**  
Sat., Jan. 22, 8:30 p.m.

**Eaton Rapids Craft Co.**  
204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids  
**Kevin Parker**  
Fri., Jan. 21, 7-10 p.m.  
**Liz Contay**  
Sat. Jan. 22, 7-10 p.m.

**The Exchange**  
314 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Cloud Hoppers**  
Fri., January 21, 5 p.m.- close  
Sat., January 22, 6 p.m.-close

**Green Door**  
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Miranda & the M-80s**  
Fri., Jan. 21, 8:30 p.m.  
**Double Shot**  
Sat., Jan. 22, 8:30 p.m.

**Lansing Brewing Company**  
518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing  
**Remember3things**  
Fri., Jan. 21, 8 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

**Peanut Barrel**  
521 E. Grand River, East Lansing  
**The Swift Brothers/Dan Dan**  
Fri., January 21, 8 p.m.

**Urban Beat**  
1213 N. Turner St., Lansing  
**Artist's Umbrella: Art of Aquarius**  
Fri., Jan. 21, 7-11 p.m.  
**The Fame Factory**  
Sat., Jan. 22, 7 p.m. - midnight



### Snowshoe hiking class at Harris Nature Center

Saturday, Jan. 22

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
\$15/person with equipment, \$20/person with rented equipment  
Harris Nature Center  
3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos  
[Facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter](https://www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter)

Ever wanted to learn how to trek a snowy landscape using traditional snowshoes? Well, now you finally have the perfect opportunity. The Harris Nature Center is hosting a snowshoe training class that not only teaches you how to use snowshoes, but also goes in-depth with crucial tips on how to stay warm in the cold. Attendees to the course should dress appropriately for bitter winter temperatures. Snowshoe rentals are available and must be reserved, and the class is dependent on snowfall.

### Wednesday, January 19

**2022 MLK Celebration Features Jazz, Community Conversation, Art Festival**  
- Michigan State University's 42nd annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. now through Jan. 21. For events and times go to [inclusion.msu.edu](http://inclusion.msu.edu).

**Allen Farmers Market** - 3-6 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1611 E Kalamazoo, Lansing.

**Battle of the Books Kickoff Kits** - Grand Ledge Area District Library, through Jan. 23. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Blind Date with a Book** - Adults and Teens: through Feb. 13. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Diabetes Support Group** - 6:30-7:30 p.m. Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr, Lansing. 517-321-4014.

**Snowman Painting** - Make snow paint and paint a snowman! 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Steak Night at Reo Town Pub** - \$14 Dine in and \$16 Take out 5:30-8 p.m. Reo Town Pub, 1145 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

**Threads of Wisdom: Herstory** - in-person or Zoom for a discussion of Book of Shadows. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St, Ste 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. [weaversoftheweb.org](http://weaversoftheweb.org).

### Thursday, January 20

**Introduction to Tarot Workshop** - 3-4:30 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center Street, Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

**Roller Derby Boot Camp | Winter 2022** - 8-10 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing.

**Switch Gaming** - Grab your Nintendo Switch, or play ours! All skill levels! 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

### Friday, January 21

**Focus Tour: Solace** - Virtual. One artwork.

One guest. One theme. In January, we'll look at the artwork Recovery by artist Beverly Fishman. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum. For link: [broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu).

**Jr. Geologist** - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. [impression5.org](http://impression5.org).

**Try Curling with the Lansing Curling Club** - If curling has been on your to-do list since the last Olympics, now is the time to give it a try! 6:30-8:30 p.m. Suburban Ice, 2810 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing.

**Winter Take-Home Crafts @ GLADL** - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E Jefferson St. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org).

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

G	L	A	S	S	R	S	V	P	A	M	P	S
M	A	D	A	T	O	T	I	S	L	A	I	T
A	R	E	N	A	S	U	N	I	S	A	L	E
C	A	N	D	Y	M	A	N	P	R	I	M	A
T	S	A	C	Y	M	B	A	L				
P	A	I	R	M	A	R	S	H	U	N	S	
E	M	M	A	R	A	D	U	C	A	N	U	
Z	I	P	P	Y	A	B	A	S	P	R	E	E
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### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 22

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



# Events

from page 24

## Saturday, January 22

**Embroidery Workshop: Visible Mending**  
- Renew, refresh, and refurbish your clothing. 1-4 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800. broadmuseum.msu.edu.

**Jr. Geologist** - 9:45 a.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-485-8116. impression5.org.

**Learn to Snowshoe** - 9:30-11:30 a.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Rd., Okemos. 517-349-3866.meridian.mi.us.

**Winter Birding in the Eastern U.P. Tour**  
- Michigan Audubon, 2310 Science Parkway, Suite 200, Okemos. michiganaudubon.org.

**World Love Tour Deux 2022** - 3-4 p.m. Weavers of the Web, 809 Center St, Ste 7, Lansing. 517-657-5800. weaversoftheweb.org.

## Sunday, January 23

**Forest Therapy Guided Walk** - 1-3 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta, Okemos. meridian.mi.us.

**Roller Derby Basic Skills Boot Camp**  
- 8-10 p.m. Court One Training Center, 7868 Old M-78, East Lansing.



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## Monday, January 24

**Comedy Night** - 9-11:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. 517-351-2506. crunchyseastlansing.com.

**Monday Night Bingo** - Adult Bingo at the Reo Town Pub. 7-9 p.m. Reo Town Pub, 1145 S. Washington Ave., Lansing.

**Rest with Music** - MSU's monthly free concert series. 12 p.m. Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Rd, East Lansing.

## Tuesday, January 25


**Board Game Meet Up** - Ages 18 & up. 6:30 - 10:30 p.m. Spare Time Bowling Alley, 3101 E Grand River, Lansing.

**Forensic Art: Identifying the Living and the Dead** - 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org

**Preschool Family Storytime** - 11-11:30 a.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. gladl.org.

**Sporcle Live! Trivia** - 7:30 & 8:30 p.m. Crunchy's, 254 W Grand River Ave, East Lansing. crunchyseastlansing.com.

**Toastmasters Meeting (via Zoom)** - Want to improve your speaking skills? Want to develop leadership abilities? 6:30-7:30 p.m. toastmasters.org



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Teacher, Artist

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Tiki Appleton | Apple Vodka, housemade  
Chocolate Martini | Vodka, housemade  
Cranberry Martini | Vodka, housemade  
Koi Lime Dream | Vodka, housemade  
Bloody Mary | Vodka, housemade  
Salted Caramel Apple | Vodka


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American | Kentucky, single grain, dry aged in  
Michigan | Michigan, single grain, dry aged in  
Bourbon | Kentucky, single grain, dry aged in  
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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](http://ac.ingham.org).

Sponsor a pet on the next Adoption Page for only \$35, \$6 goes to the shelter. To sponsor, call 999-5061 now!! Adopt a pet on this page and Soldan's will thank you with a \$10 gift certificate. Contact (517) 999-5061 after you adopt.



**Peanuts** is a lovely older lab mix. She is housebroken, has good leash manners and is well behaved. Good with kids. She is in foster care so please call ahead.



**Dire Straits** is a sweet senior lady who still has a lot of love to give. Would do best in a quieter home that give her lots of snuggles and lap time.



**Donna and Diderik** are siblings that would love to stay together, preferably in a quieter home. They are very sweet and friendly.



**Mears** is about 8 yrs old. She's a little nervous around other cats but does ok with dogs if they are easygoing and give her time to settle in.



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**Harold** is a well behaved gentleman who can be a goofy guy. He enjoys occasional walks, chew toys and would be fine with kids.  
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**In memory of Rodica's cats**



# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Aloha Cookin': Hawaiian cuisine that leaves you wanting more

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

A close friend of mine is an officer in the Navy stationed in Honolulu. While visiting over the holidays, I asked him if they've been trying much traditional Hawaiian cuisine. He gave me some side-eye and told me that a lot of Hawaiian food is very heavy, includes a lot of Spam, and wasn't something that they were enjoying very much.

So, it was with trepidation that I placed my first lunch order from Aloha Cookin'. I enlisted the help of two coworkers, one of whom is absolutely crazy for sushi and ramen, and we tried to sample a wide cross-section of the menu. One of my colleagues had the huli huli chicken; grilled chicken thighs in teriyaki sauce with rice. Her two side item selections were kimchi and Portuguese bean soup. The chicken smelled absolutely delicious, and she reported that the teriyaki sauce was sweeter than she was expecting, but that it was a safe bet for someone who isn't typically a very adventurous eater. The Portuguese bean soup, she said, tasted strongly of tomato and not much else.

My other colleague, the one who loves ramen, tried the miso ramen, which came with braised pork, fish cakes, marinated egg, bean sprouts, onions, green onions and bamboo shoots. Her bowl was missing the fish cakes, which she attributed to fate as that addition to the dish was giving her minor heart palpitations. She was pleasantly surprised with the overall taste, since the dingy color of the broth didn't look particularly appetizing. She reported the pork to be quite dry and a bit lacking in flavor, but wondered if that phenomenon would be different had we dined in the restaurant and the pork had been served already in the broth.

The clear winner of the afternoon was my poke bowl. Poke is becoming quite prevalent in the Greater Lansing area, and I noticed at least two new poke restaurants on a recent jaunt through East Lansing. Poke bowls are a delight on the senses and have a base of rice topped with thinly sliced raw fish, seaweed salad and vegetables like eda-



Lawrence

mame, avocado, chickpeas, carrots and fresh greens. I chose the tuna poke with roasted sesame dressing, and my bowl was aggressively colorful and fresh. I loved it and would gladly eat a poke bowl for a perfectly balanced lunch every single day. If you're looking to infuse a lot of health and a ton of flavor into your diet, try a poke bowl. Aloha Cookin' even offers a vegan version, and if you are wary of raw fish, I'm certain they could throw your tuna or salmon on the grill for a quick sear.

My next lunch order included a barbecue pork plate for Mr. She Ate and the chicken katsu for yours truly. Chicken katsu is, essentially, a thinly pounded chicken cutlet, breaded and fried. Fried chicken cutlets are not my typically preferred lunch fare, but this was in the name of research, and I hoped that it would mentally transport me away from looking at the snow and rain combination that was pouring from the sky and make me think of the paradise that I imagine Hawaii to be.

Alas, the chicken was so dry that it was near inedible. I chose French fries as one of my side items, hoping as I always do for something inspired, but these were French fries that my 2-year-old would gobble down. That's to say they were saltless and limp, clearly having recently broken free from their home in the freezer. My other side item was kimchi, something that I love for its unmistakable pickled flavor and also for its health benefits. Mr. She Ate's barbecue pork was better, although it verged on unacceptably sweet. It was far and away the best selection of the day, and still, it wasn't something that would ever get me to drive to East Lansing and pay a meter again.

In short, I'll wait to visit my friend in Hawaii before trying another Hawaiian meal. It can't all be Spam, right?

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

Back in 1989, when I was 10 years old, my family took a trip to the Aloha Bowl in Honolulu. It is one of my earliest food travel memories, and I recall the vibrant fruit



Beverly

flavors, the linguini and steamed calamari in white sauce, and the luau hosted by the Michigan State Alumni Association — complete with roast pua'a (pork) and poi (a taro root-based paste). I also recall many menus having Spam as a staple in both upscale and takeout restaurants. These fond flavor flashbacks were evoked by my recent visits to East Lansing's Aloha Cookin'.

Located along a diverse food corridor on Albert Street, Aloha Cookin' offers unique flavors and ingredients for our region. The restaurant interior is contemporary, but comfy — not trying too hard and, thankfully, not propped up by Hawaiian kitsch. I found the space to be clean, the staff friendly

and the ambience granting a chance to focus on the food. A chance you all should be willing to take.

#### The Good

During my first visit to Aloha Cookin', my companions and I tried a little bit of everything. I think by now you know I'm a fan of calamari and am likely to sample it everywhere. Aloha Cookin's calamari was lightly breaded, thick cut and tubular. Given its unique flavor profile, I was expecting Aloha Cookin' to offer sweet chili or duck sauce, rather than a plain tartar sauce for dipping. We tried two types of wings — huli huli (sweet teriyaki) and the Korean fried wings with a sweet and spicy peanut sauce. I would only order the Korean fried wings again, but the huli huli was flavorful. The

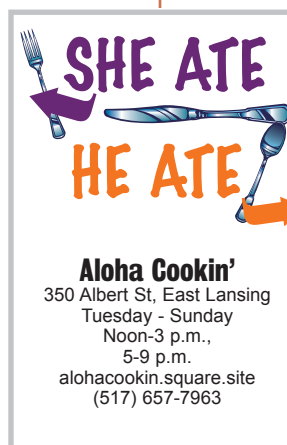
kalabi (grilled short ribs), on the other hand, tasted rather flat with a non-descript barbecue sauce — it certainly didn't benefit from the accompanying nearly raw sliced onions. However, the Hawaiian chili was unique in the best way. Aromatic and packed with beef, beans, onions and tomatoes, the chili gently snuggled with a generous link of Portuguese sausage on a bed of warm rice, an utterly delicious surprise.

#### The Better

On the night of our second visit, the temperature outside was a balmy 18 degrees, not exactly tropical. Thankfully, Aloha Cookin' has wonderful corn tea that is light and not overpowering, serving as a nice palette prep for the delights to come. Both the pork fried dumplings and shrimp tempura stand up against many of the others in the area. Crispy but not too hard, the dumplings have hint of ginger, and the tempura comes with an onion ring and a fried sweet potato. Similarly, the tofu and eggplant stir-fry gives most sweet and sour chicken or pork dishes in the area a run for their money. The sweet chili sauce with sliced red peppers and other veggies made a perfect complement for the sticky rice. One of the side dish options is a side salad with a very yummy lemon ginger dressing. The dressing is also available on the poke bowls with tuna, salmon or octopus. I'll be back for one of those for sure.

#### The Best

This month's best bite was an absolute dead heat between the garlic butter shrimp and the kulua pig. Both dishes come with the same sticky rice that would be great for sushi. The shrimp dish is pan-fried with peppers and onions, a savory garlic sauce and grilled pineapple. I swear I wanted another order after the first bite. The kulua pig is like a pulled pork with cabbage and is wonderfully salty, but not overpowering on its own. It had me reliving the luau from my youth. When I drizzled the sesame garlic sauce on the meat, I found a new level of umami that could only be described as "more" — as in, I want more! I need that sauce recipe, so I can pour it on every protein in my refrigerator. I promise it won't disappoint.



Courtesy

A poke bowl from Aloha Cookin'.



# Is this the end for Mr. Taco in Lansing?

By KYLE KAMINSKI

One of Lansing's most legendary taco shops may soon be listed for sale, according to an online post from Bill Bonofiglo, the owner of the last Mr. Taco in south Lansing.

"We are going to try to sell the restaurant to someone so all of you can enjoy it," Bonofiglo wrote on his Facebook page last week, which was shared with a private Mr. Taco Facebook group.

The drive-thru restaurant — the last of what was once four Mr. Tacos — was reportedly resurrected by Bonofiglo, the son of one of Mr. Taco's original founders, in 2018. It has since developed a bit of a cult following in Lansing for its infamously inconsistent hours and sporadic menu changes.

In a series of social media posts over the last several weeks, Bonofiglo has pleaded with customers to continue patronizing his taco shop amid the pandemic, subsequent staffing shortages and various operational challenges — including an apparent shortage of taco sauce.

In late December, Bonofiglo announced that "it is no secret Mr. Taco will be sold or will be forced to close." Another social media post from Bonofiglo also noted that "our future is up in the air."

Last week, those financial struggles appeared to have reached a head — with Bonofiglo again noting that he was working to "sell the restaurant to someone so all of you can enjoy it."

Bonofiglo has ignored several Facebook messages from City Pulse,



Skyler Ashley/City Pulse

Mr. Taco's iconic sign.

though he confirmed that he had plans to sell the building in a brief chat last week at the Mr. Taco drive-thru window. He agreed to an interview "as long as it wasn't for a hit piece," but hasn't returned subsequent calls.

Mr. Taco originally opened in Lansing in 1967, according to reports in the Lansing State Journal. Before Bonofiglo decided to reboot the restaurant in 2015, all four of its locations had been closed for more than a decade. The location on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard hasn't been publicly listed for sale. The drive-thru is set to be open again from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

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