

www.lansingcitypulse.com

February 16 - February 22, 2022

# CityPULSE

Locally owned  
A newspaper for the rest of us

## The African Diaspora

Educator reflects on a  
lifetime collecting artifacts  
see page 13

# ABOOD

L A W F I R M 1 9 5 6

517-332-5900



## sidebar

dine & tap  
East Lansing



 [www.ceicmh.org](http://www.ceicmh.org) [facebook.com/ceicmh](https://facebook.com/ceicmh)

**Community**  
MENTAL HEALTH  
CLINTON • EATON • INGHAM  
*Together we can.*

# 2022 Virtual Annual Event

**LOG IN TUESDAY, MARCH 29th  
FROM 8:30AM to 11:30AM FOR THE  
2022 VIRTUAL ANNUAL EVENT**

Presenting the CMHA-CEI  
2021 Report to the Community

**WATCH THE TELEVISED EVENT ON  
SUNDAY, MAY 15th, 2022 FROM  
11:00AM to 12:00PM ON WILX**

Register by visiting:  
<https://bit.ly/AnnualEvent2022>

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DR. BRENDA JONES-HARDEN** *Children and Families Expert*



Dr. Brenda Jones-Harden is the Alison Richman Professor for Children and Families, at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. She directs the Prevention and Early Adversity Research Laboratory, where she and her research team examine the developmental and mental health needs of young children who have experienced early adversity and toxic stress, particularly those who have been maltreated, are in foster

care, or have experienced other forms of trauma. A particular focus is preventing maladaptive outcomes in these populations through early childhood programs. She has conducted numerous evaluations of such programs, including early care and education, home visiting services, parenting interventions, and infant mental health programs. Dr. Jones-Harden is a scientist-practitioner who uses research to improve the quality

and effectiveness of child and family services and to inform child and family policy, especially in the area of child welfare. She is currently the Vice President of the Board at Zero to Three, and serves on various federal, state, and local advisory boards. She received a PhD in developmental and clinical psychology from Yale University and a Master's in Social Work from New York University.



# KAHLO WITHOUT BORDERS

AN EXHIBITION OF NEVER-BEFORE-SEEN CLINICAL FILES AND FAMILY ARCHIVES

Antonio Kahlo, Frida with a telephone, 1946. Courtesy Cristina Kahlo.



OPEN THURSDAY-SUNDAY, 10AM-6PM

ADMISSION IS ALWAYS FREE.

547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing, MI  
[broadmuseum.msu.edu](http://broadmuseum.msu.edu)



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.

We were voted Top of the Town for a reason. It's because we have a vision for a better and more just society. And it starts with the work we're doing right now.



LANSGING'S  
BEST



PACZKI  
JUST GOT BETTER!!

PRE-ORDER YOUR PACZKI AT  
**QDEXPRESS.COM**  
& GET FRESH NEXT DAY PICK-UP\*  
AT YOUR FAVORITE QD STORE!

WITH THE ADDITION OF 2 GREAT  
CUSTOMER INSPIRED FLAVORS!

KEY LIME! AND DEATH BY CHOCOLATE!

\*QDEXPRESS.COM ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BEFORE 12 NOON FOR NEXT DAY PICK-UP!





© 2022 Jen Sorensen - Be a subscriber! jensorensen.com/subscribe

# CityPULSE

**VOL. 21  
ISSUE 28**

(517) 371-5600 • Fax: (517) 999-6061 • 1905 E. Michigan Ave. • Lansing, MI 48912 • www.lansingcitypulse.com



Who is Lansing Legend Mitzi Allen?

**PAGE  
7**


Celebrating historic Black-owned businesses in Lansing

**PAGE  
12**


Lansing punk band PET ME comes back with a new single

**PAGE  
22**

**Cover  
Art**

By Skyler Ashley

**ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:** (517) 999-5061  
or email [citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:citypulse@lansingcitypulse.com)  
**CLASSIFIEDS & OBITUARIES:** (517) 999-6704

**EDITOR AND PUBLISHER** • Berl Schwartz  
[publisher@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:publisher@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5061

**MANAGING EDITOR** • Kyle Kaminski  
[kyle@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:kyle@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6710

**ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR** • Chloe Alverson  
[chloe@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:chloe@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5068

**EVENTS EDITOR/OFFICE MANAGER** • Suzi Smith  
[suzi@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:suzi@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6704

**PRODUCTION** • Skyler Ashley  
[skyler@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:skyler@lansingcitypulse.com)  
(517) 999-5066

**STAFF WRITER** • Lawrence Cosentino  
[lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lawrence@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5065

**SALES EXECUTIVE**  
**Lee Purdy** • [lee@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:lee@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-5064  
**SALES ASSISTANT**
**Caleb Woloszyn-Duffy**  
[caleb@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:caleb@lansingcitypulse.com) • (517) 999-6707

**Contributors:** Andy Balaskovitz, Capital News Service, Bill Castanier, Ryan Claytor, Mary C. Cusack, Tom Helma, Todd Heywood, Dedria Humphries Barker, Ari LeVaux, Gabrielle Lawrence, Kyle Melinn, Tom Perkins, Dennis Preston, Carrie Sampson, Jen Sorensen, Nevin Speerbrecker, Tom Tomorrow, Rich Tupica, David Winkelstern, Paul Wozniak

**Delivery drivers:** Dave Fisher, Michael Gross, Garrett Clinard, Melodee Mabbitt, Curtis Lauck

**CITY PULSE**  
on the  
**AIR**

**NOW AT 10:00 A.M.  
SUNDAYS** on

**WDBM  
IMPACT**  
88.9FM

## THIS MODERN WORLD

### LIFE IN THE STUPIDVERSE SPECIAL INSURRECTION EDITION

#### ORDINARY CITIZENS ENGAGED IN LEGITIMATE POLITICAL DISCOURSE

AS MADISON WROTE IN FEDERALIST 51, "JUSTICE...WILL BE PURSUED UNTIL IT IS OBTAINED, OR UNTIL LIBERTY IS LOST IN THE PURSUIT!"

TRULY INSPIRING WORDS! NOW LET'S SMEAR MORE POOP ON THE WALL! AS THE FOUNDING FATHERS INTENDED!



#### LET BYGONES BE BYGONES

REAL AMERICANS DON'T CARE IF TRUMP WAS PLOTTING TO OVERTHROW THE ELECTION! BESIDES, EVERYONE KNOWS THAT A CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT CRIMES DOESN'T COUNT IF IT FAILS!

ESPECIALLY IF IT HAPPENED MORE THAN A YEAR AGO! THIS IS JUST HOW THE LEGAL SYSTEM WORKS!



#### CANCEL CULTURE IS OUT OF CONTROL

CHENEY AND KINZINGER DESERVED TO BE CENSURED! THE JANUARY 6TH COMMITTEE'S ONLY REAL GOAL IS TO MAKE REPUBLICANS LOOK BAD--

--BY INVESTIGATING THE THINGS THEY SAID AND DID! HOW LOW WILL THESE DIRTY TRICKSTERS GO?



#### LEOPARDS EATING YOUR FACE

WHEN I DEVOTED MY LIFE TO THE "HANG MIKE PENCE" PARTY-- --I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WOULD TRY TO HANG ME!



### by TOM TOMORROW

#### SCHRÖDINGER'S INSURRECTION

NOTHING ILLEGAL HAPPENED THAT DAY! THOSE WERE LAW ABIDING PATRIOTS TAKING AN IMPROMPTU TOUR OF THE CAPITOL!

UNLESS YOU'VE ACTUALLY WATCHED THE VIDEOS, IN WHICH CASE IT WAS ALL A FALSE FLAG OPERATION CONDUCTED BY THE F.B.I. AND/OR ANTIFA!



#### THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

THE INSURRECTION WAS GOOD, ACTUALLY! AND YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD BE EVEN BETTER? MASSIVE PROTESTS IF ANYONE TRIES TO INDICT ME FOR THE MANY ILLEGAL THINGS I HAVE OBVIOUSLY DONE!

WHO WILL RID ME OF THESE MEDDLESOME PROSECUTORS?



@tomtomorrow...IG: @realtomtomorrow...twitter: @tomtomorrow...www.thismodernworld.com...© 2022 ... TOM TOMORROW



## PULSE

## NEWS &amp; OPINION

## Fire captain fired for harassment — then allowed to retire

City officials conceal records in sexual harassment, discrimination case

More than six months have passed since retired Lansing Fire Department Battalion Chief Shawn Deprez alleged to City Pulse that she had been sexually assaulted by a superior and subjected to unchecked homophobic and sexist harassment among her former colleagues.

And city records released this month help substantiate portions of her claims — including how former city officials failed to take action and allowed one of her alleged abusers to keep his job.

Deprez, 54, became the first woman in the Fire Department's history to hold the rank of battalion chief in 2017, shattering a 160-year-old glass ceiling in the process. After more than 20 years working in Lansing, Deprez alleged last summer that widespread sexist and homophobic harassment — as well as a “middle-of-the-night” sexual assault at a fire station — had pushed her into an early retirement in 2019. Her claims were first published in City Pulse in July.

Afterward, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor promised responsive action and promptly committed to a “review” of those allegations. City Pulse also filed a public records request that sought to uncover all allegations made by Deprez, as well as records to show how they were handled.

City officials, in turn, billed City Pulse about \$170. Delays followed delays. And all told, this writer spent about 200 days periodically pressuring Schor's administration to step on the gas and fulfill the request. It finally arrived last week after Schor personally intervened — in the form of a nine-page document.

More than 600 pages of records, however, were withheld because city officials consider them to be “frank communications preliminary to a final agency or determination” — messages and notes between city officials that are best kept secret, according to the City Attorney's Office.

And Schor is still keeping relatively tight-lipped about the accusations at the Fire Department.

“I reviewed several documents regarding that situation and had many conversations internally with human resources, our City Attorney's Office and the fire chief,” Schor told City Pulse in a statement. “Because this is a personnel issue, I cannot comment on this individual case.”

Deprez told City Pulse last year that her old personnel file would be “thick” due to all of the complaints she filed — many of which were allegedly ignored or dismissed by the department's top brass. She also alleged that she had been sexually assaulted by a superior at a fire station.

“I have the names. My personnel file will show all of the people who harassed me. More importantly, I was also sexually assaulted on the job,” Deprez said then.

She added: “It was a superior. It was in the middle of the night. Let's just leave it at that.”

The records released last week by the city helped to substantiate portions of Deprez' claims, but they also raised more questions — including over why a former captain could retire about four years ago after he was found by city officials to have sexually harassed and intimidated Deprez.

Among the nine pages released last week was a 2011 letter from former human resources director Terri Singleton that noted that former LFD Captain Jon Daniels was found to have verbally intimidated and embarrassed Deprez “on a daily basis” — even once ignoring her request for assistance at the scene of a fire. Those documents also showed that city officials had suspended and later fired Daniels that year for several policy violations, including breaking departmental rules on sexual harassment, discrimination and the handling of staff complaints.

The records provided to City Pulse did not include any reference to an alleged sexual assault.

Daniels, however, didn't stay fired. City records showed that Daniels was allowed to return — even against the wishes of then-Fire Chief Tom Cochran — after he filed a union-related grievance and was offered a “last chance agreement” under former May-



Courtesy Photo

Former LFD Battalion Chief Shawn Deprez speaks at a press conference in 2019.

or Virg Bernero's administration, which brought him back as a low-ranking engineer ineligible for any promotions.

The only discipline that stuck: A mandatory training on sexual harassment and discrimination.

Daniels was able to retire in 2015. He still collects a gross yearly pension of about \$61,000. Attempts to interview Daniels for this story were unsuccessful. He initially said that he would meet to talk on Friday evening, but then he backed out on Monday after he hired a lawyer.

“Since there is no lawsuit against the city, I am not willing to meet with you,” Daniels said. “I've been retired for six years now. I've moved on from her false allegations against me and quite frankly, this is not something that is worthwhile to me. I've moved on and this isn't worth it.”

Cochran said last week that he wanted Daniels to be fired to “send a clear message” that harassment wouldn't be tolerated at the Fire Department. After union officials got involved, however, Daniels was demoted and allowed to return to work, Cochran said.

“From what I remember, the administration and the union allowed Daniels to come back under a last-chance sort of agreement. He was busted down to the rank of engineer,” Cochran said. “It was really difficult to get anyone to step forward in that investigation, but it was my clear recommendation to fire Daniels — and I honestly don't know what more I could've done.”

Cochran added: “I wanted to make a statement that this type of behavior wasn't to be tolerated. His last-chance, return-to-work agreement wasn't my decision. That was above my pay grade as chief. He was a good firefighter. He did his job well, but he obviously had some issues.”

Cochran remembered Deprez (then Shawn Meyers) complaining about Daniels' alleged sexual harassment, but never any mention that she was sexually assaulted by anyone, he explained.

“There were rumors, but it was difficult to get anyone to step forward to tell me what had actually happened — including Ms. Meyers,” Cochran recalled. “I don't recall anything about a sexual assault. If I had known that Ms. Meyers was sexually assaulted, I would've contacted police.”

In addition to the harassment, Deprez also alleged that top brass failed to acknowledge her “ongoing battle for men to be held accountable for their actions” despite “begging and pleading” for help from the city's Human Resources Department. As a result, she said she spent \$97,000 to buy out early retirement credits “because no one cared or did anything to stop the abuse.”

Cochran added: “If that is the case, I'd be shocked if the city didn't do a formal investigation. Those are some serious charges and I would think the city would call in the Police Department, the Michigan State Police — some outside entity to come in and investigate

See Fire, Page 10



# BWL coal ash pollutes private wells in Delta Twp.

## Boron levels far exceed state limits

After a month-long initiative to calm fears over potential groundwater contamination caused by toxic waste from the Lansing Board of Water & Light's Erickson Power Plant, the publicly owned utility company announced Friday that at least six private wells in Delta Township were found to contain at least five times more boron than is considered safe for human consumption.

The wells are within three-quarters of a mile of the coal-burning power plant. Four serve private residences and two serve businesses. The BWL did not identify them.

None of the BWL's drinking water wells tested positive for the chemical, a BWL statement said.

4.17 mg/L — significantly higher than allowed under Michigan rules and regulations.

The discovery in private wells is not necessarily a surprise. City Pulse reported last month high levels of dangerous chemicals were detected in containment areas around the plant in 2020.

Documents submitted by the BWL to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency showed that high levels of lithium, TDS and molybdenum as well as boron had leached from three ponds that were used to store coal by products, though it's unclear exactly when the leaks actually started.

The plant, which is located off Canal Road in Eaton County, has operated the ponds since 1974.

Those documents also showed that the BWL violated federal rules by failing to monitor groundwater near the ponds for about three years. As a result, the EPA preliminarily denied BWL's request to delay the ash ponds' closure. Regulators could force the ponds to be shuttered later this year.

Lisa Evans, an attorney with environmental watchdog Earthjustice, labeled BWL's cleanup plan as "inadequate" in an interview with City Pulse last month. She also said the utility needs to take far more action than it has proposed if it's to fix the problem, including testing drinking water.

BWL is overseen by a board of mayoral and Council appointees, and the utility company's administration appears to have kept quiet on the contamination problems. Board Chairman David Price said administrators



Courtesy Photo

This photo of the Erickson plant in Delta Township includes the coal ash ponds that have leaked boron into six private wells in Delta Township.

left the board in the dark until City Pulse asked questions.

Price also said that he was told that the ponds were not contaminating groundwater, which is directly contradicted by BWL and EPA documents. A BWL spokeswoman said the board wasn't initially alerted of the issue because the utility company hadn't been fined for its violations.

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

That included requiring BWL to test drinking water supplies. Among the other cited violations were 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 near the plant.

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. The size of the pollution plume is unknown. No other test results were released.

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 had characterized last month as a "toxic soup."

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 has since revived enforcement — in part, by addressing the situation at Erickson.

"BWL takes responsibility for this situation, and we'll move mountains to make it right for those who are affected," General Manager Dick Peffley said in a press release issued Friday. "When I think about how I would feel if my home was impacted, I'd want to know that immediate steps are being taken and a permanent fix is in the works. That's exactly what we are going to do."

— **KYLE KAMINSKI, TOM PERKINS and TODD HEYWOOD**

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
PROBATE COURT  
INGHAM COUNTY  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Decedent's Estate  
Case No. 22-123-DE**  
Estate of Denise Lynn Patrick.  
Date of birth: 03/23/1954.  
**TO ALL CREDITORS:  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:**  
The decedent, Denise Lynn Patrick, died 01/01/2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Michael Edward Brock, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., #1, Lansing, MI 48933, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.  
Date: 2/16/22  
Michael Edward Brock  
2047 W. Miller Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48911  
517-455-1220  
**CP#22-037**

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### Act-1-2022 Sale of 1020 W. Hillsdale Street (33-01-01-17-478-007)

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on February 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan, to consider a resolution selling the parcel commonly known as 1020 W. Hillsdale Street, specifically described as:

West 20 FT Lot 7, All of Lots 8,9,10,13, 14 and 15, Also Lots 11 and 12 excluding used as used as Street ROW; Block 8 Bush, Butler and Sparrow Add.

Details of the sale are on file with the City Clerk's Office and are available at Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. or [www.lansingmi.gov/clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/clerk). For more information about this sale, phone City Council Offices on City business days, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 483-4177.

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

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMC**  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

**CP#22-040**

### Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting bid proposals for **Comprehensive Residential Energy Audit Services** at various properties. The RFP # EnergyAudit-2022 is available February 16, 2022, at Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing, MI 48906, or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Bids are due at the Land Bank office by 10:00am, on March 2, 2022. Bid Review will begin March 2, 2022 at 10:00am. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

**CP#22-046**



# Lansing Legend: Mitzi Allen

Unless you've met Mitzi Allen, 72, you've yet to meet Sexton High School's most die-hard fan. She's the matriarch leading three generations of Lansing Sextonites and has lived in the same house on Lenawee Street her entire life. The following interview uncovers some of Allen's longest memories and dreams of pristine marching bands, Black extrafamilial organizing and serving on the Westside Neighborhood Association.

## What has kept you in Lansing?

My family. I have three girls. I came to Lansing when I was 2. I was fortunate to live with a grandmother, a great-grandmother, my mother, my dad and aunt. I didn't know when I was growing up as an adult that it was a blessing. To live in a house with so many women.

## Do you consider yourself a caretaker?

I am the oldest of my siblings, but I don't consider myself a caretaker. I want everyone to follow my rules. And that doesn't happen (laughs).

## What was it like to grow up in your childhood neighborhood?

I'm 72 and just about all my friends today are from Lenawee and the surrounding neighborhoods. My friend Sharon Demyers lived in an identical house next door and we started kindergarten together. Had classes all through our childhood and both graduated from Sexton. I didn't experience discrimination during my formative years.

## Can you tell me more about a demonstration you were a part of outside a "drug house"?

I had two young girls at the time and

## Lansing Legends

This is the third in a four-part series during Black History Month with longtime Lansing residents who witnessed a generation of Black excellence. Interviews have been edited and condensed.

was working with the Westside Neighborhood Association. Dorothy Matthews was the head of the crime and safety committee. We had on yellow construction hats and yellow vests and we stood in front of the drug house. Can you believe that? We did that. Not one time, but many times. One evening I was on the news and my father called me up, "Was that you that I saw on the news in front of the drug house?" and I was like Yeah, yup — that was me.

We worked together to stop the selling of drugs in the neighborhood. That particular house we were successful in getting it shut down. But in hindsight that was dangerous as is not a practice that would work today.

## How is neighborhood surveillance different from police surveillance?

This neighborhood had neighborhood watch in the '50s way before it was a thing. There were all these eyes watching us going to and from school. The neighbors just looked out for us, Black and white. My great-grandmother was born in 1900, and everyone in the neighborhood called her Mama Ocie out of respect and love. She had made a habit of sitting on the front porch and watching and she would notice when one of us was missing from school. Every day, my grandmother's friends would check-in on one another. Not by voicemail — actually talk to make sure everyone was up, alive and well and ready to start their day. They weren't calling to chit chat.

## Is that a strategy still used today?

Oh no, not at all. Today, we struggle. When the "family" started moving from the front porch to the backyard, I think that was the change of neighborhoods. It's now possible to have no interaction with your neighbors, and that's how crime seeps into the neighborhood.

The Westside Neighborhood Association has had relationships with all the police chiefs. Chiefs often come to our crime and safety committees, and



Skylar Ashley/City Pulse

Mitzi Allen beside a Westside Neighborhood Association sign on Lenawee Street.

we maintain a relationship with local law enforcement. We used to have community officers but not anymore. They were assigned, and we even had an officer housed in the Letts Community Center — not anymore. However, we do have an officer that has been assigned to work with the neighborhood watch.

## What other events has the Westside Neighborhood Association done?

Before the pandemic, I helped organize a homecoming parade. We invited alumni and all the old Sextonites to come back for the parade. But, you know, there weren't that many people in the neighborhood who participated. People used to come out on their porch to watch the parade. I had to go to parks and rec and really beg to extend the parade route so it went through a neighborhood. Maybe two or three people came out to wave.

One young lady did come up and said to me, "I would like to go to the parade," and I asked her well why aren't you going? She said "I don't have any money." That was so sad to me. Because that makes me think she has never been to a parade. There were a lot of flaws with that parade, but it was there and it happened. To see the young lady's face, I could tell she was happy to be there.

## What do you think is the reputation of Sexton?

Sexton is doing some big things over there. Things that people need to hear more about. They recently had some remodeling and there is a coffee shop there now where the kids are working. There is an excellent robotics class. Mr. Boggan, the principal over there, is doing great work too. The school is a safe haven for everything.

## What makes a school safe?

I really think it's parental involvement. If you think Grand Ledge, Dewitt and East Lansing have all the answers — they don't. You have to have involvement, so I rather have involvement right here in Lansing. My dad went to Sexton, and all his children went to Sexton, the grandchildren went to Sexton.

## What would you like to see replace abandoned schools in Lansing?

I'd like to see something that benefits the community, not necessarily a community center. Lincoln was one of the first recreation centers, but it was much more than that. Kids learned how to sew, play piano, they learned different things after school. We need a place where you can go and learn sewing. To learn coding. In this community we have all these people — resources — just walking around that know all this stuff. It is the community's job to build up a generation with skills that they can pass on.



Audrey Matusz, the author of this series, is a former arts and culture editor of City Pulse who was born in Lansing and grew up in Okemos. She is a graduate of the Residential College of the Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University. She is a digital and instructional designer for the Michigan Victim Advocacy Network.



# REWIND

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By KYLE KAMINSKI



### Cops search home of ex-speaker's chief of staff

The Michigan State Police and officials from the Attorney General's office arrived at the Bath Township home of Rob Minard, who was chief of staff to former House Speaker Lee Chatfield, on Tuesday morning to press forward with "an ongoing investigation," authorities told City Pulse. Rob and his wife, Anne, are considered a GOP power couple, whose income from Chatfield to run political campaign organizations has raised recent concerns — namely after Chatfield was accused of living an overly lavish lifestyle in office, in part, by misappropriating political funds. Read more at [lansingcitypulse.com](https://lansingcitypulse.com).



Minard

### Fowlerville investigates racist students

A school investigation found that a Fowlerville High School basketball player used a racial slur against a Black player from Haslett during a game on Jan. 27, reported Michigan Advance. Fans in the student section also made what were reportedly described as "loud monkey motions and sounds" directed at Black Haslett High School players. Subsequent discipline is unknown.

### Lansing doles out art grants

Nearly \$90,000 in grants were awarded to seven local arts and culture organizations through the Arts Council of Greater Lansing. The funding is designed to support artistic projects that contribute to a "sense of place" in the region. This year's recipients included Lansing 5:01; Capital City Film Festival; the Lansing Art Gallery; and the Lansing Symphony Orchestra.

### Hertel decides against House race

Term-limited State Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr. has decided against a run for the state House, noting he'd much rather spend the last year of his term concentrating on unfinished work in the Senate.

### Ingham Co. hires diversity director

Feliz Rodriguez was hired as Ingham County's first-ever diversity, equity and inclusion director. Rodriguez has spent 14 years at the Community Mental Health Authority of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties — including the last five years as the authority's diversity and inclusion officer.

### Fire damages Charlotte factory

Two firefighters and one employee were injured in a Monday morning fire at Linn Products, an aluminum fabrication plant on Lipsey Drive, media outlets report. The building was vacated by the time crews arrived, though one firefighter injured his finger, another was treated for exhaustion and one company employee had a bad reaction from apparent smoke inhalation. The cause of the fire, estimated to have caused at least \$750,000 in damage, is unknown.

### Health officer rescinds mask order

A longstanding emergency order from the Ingham County Health Department that requires masks be worn inside all educational institutions, including schools and daycares, will no longer be in effect beginning on Feb. 19, officials announced. Weekly COVID-19 caseloads in Ingham County have decreased by 78% over the last two weeks. Local school districts have now been left to decide individually whether face masks should still be worn. The Lansing School District Board of Education plans to take up the issue on Thursday.

### Lansing woman charged in shooting

Clara Jean Delgado, 29, of Lansing, was charged with open murder — among other felony charges — in the Nov. 30 shooting of Stephen James Christy-Valdez. Christy-Valdez, 24, of Lansing, died from his injuries on Dec. 29 after he was shot near the 4000 block of South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Delgado was denied bond and is due back in court later this month.

### Man killed in Valentine's Day shooting

A 43-year-old man police identified as Arthur Artavius Newcombe died after authorities said he was found with a gunshot wound near the 100 block of East Mount Hope Avenue following reports of a shooting at about 8 a.m. Monday (Feb. 14) in the nearby 2000 block of Teel Avenue. An unidentified 42-year-old woman has been arrested, but no charges have been filed, police said in a statement Tuesday. Anyone with information about the incident has been asked to contact the Lansing Police Department, even anonymously, at (517) 483-4600.

### New billboards slam Tom Barrett

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee launched a series of billboards in Lansing that attack Republican congressional candidate and State Sen. Tom Barrett, reminding local voters that Barrett did "everything he could" to stop General Motors from opening its planned electric vehicle battery plant in Delta Township. As a lawmaker, Barrett tried to block the measures that created the tax incentive framework for the automaker to expand in his district.

### Students jazz up construction project

A series of 38 colorful panels illustrated by local students were installed at the construction site for Michigan State University Federal Credit Union's new seven-story office building in downtown East Lansing. The panels are designed to help liven up the otherwise boring nature of the construction site and are set to remain in place until the project is finished next spring.

### City Council slams ORV proposal

The Lansing City Council unanimously passed a resolution to oppose a proposed ordinance in Eaton County that would allow off-road vehicles on certain Eaton County roads. Council Vice President Carol Wood said that she feared the newly proposed allowance for ATVs in Eaton County would somehow result in four-wheelers and other vehicles infiltrating the city's parks. The proposed ordinance, however, clearly states that Lansing roadways would remain off limits.

### Schor seeks new stolen gun laws

Making good on a pledge he made at a news conference in December, Lansing Mayor Andy Schor is moving forward with plans for a new city ordinance that would require firearm owners to report to the Police Department when their firearms have been lost or stolen. The City Council is expected to set a public hearing next month in consideration of those proposed city ordinances.

### Man killed in hit-and-run crash

A 63-year-old man was struck and killed at about 5:30 a.m. Tuesday near the intersection of West Saginaw Highway and Deerfield Avenue by what authorities suspect was an older-model Pontiac G6, reports the Lansing State Journal. Those with any additional information about the incident have been asked to contact the Lansing Township Police Department at (517) 999-0291.



### Eye Sore: 1228 Allen St.

This home near Potter Park Zoo is no stunner with its grimy, half-painted cinder block façade. But it's the massive assortment of various yard and porch decor that earned it a spot in this recurring feature.

There are a few old push mowers; a rototiller or two; a 1970s wood chipper; a busted snowblower; several rusty shelving units; plastic containers filled with scrap metal and a half-dozen used propane tanks — all scattered across the property as if it was a yard sale that ended about 35 years ago.

Unfortunately, homeowner Kevin Meese has no plans to tidy up his collection.

And he has a message for any neighbors who may be tired of looking at his messy yard: "Fuck you then. If you've got a problem, then come over and help. Otherwise, shove it up your ass."

Meese bought the 579-square-foot home for about \$16,000 in 2014. It didn't come with a garage — and Meese said he doesn't have enough cash to build a shed or rent storage space.

"As it stands, most of this stuff either runs or it needs a carburetor or something. Social Security doesn't pay the fucking bills, so where does that leave me? A lot of this shit has been given to me and I still need to buy parts to fix it and resell it, so it's just sitting there," Meese explained.

Code enforcement officials in Lansing are generally OK with children's toys and outdoor equipment — like lawn mowers — being stored outdoors, even piled up in front yards. But collections this large can rise to the level of a ticketable offense, city officials told City Pulse.

— 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.



# Churches and child abuse

One of the key takeaways from the sordid and still unfolding saga of former Michigan House Speaker Lee Chatfield — who is accused of sexually abusing a minor child who attended his father's church and school in northern Michigan — is yet another disturbing illustration of the toxic religious fundamentalism that treats women, and apparently children, as second-class citizens who exist only to serve their male masters. According to multiple witnesses, allegations of child sexual abuse are routinely ignored or trivialized by officials connected with the Independent Fundamental Baptist Church, of which Chatfield's church is an affiliate. The witnesses, including the mother of a child who was sexually abused by another young person at an IFBC church in Gaylord, say church officials are more likely to blame the victims than to take any action to support and protect them. Although it is unclear if Chatfield's father, pastor of the IFBC-affiliated Northern Michigan Baptist Bible Church, was aware of the abuse allegedly perpetrated by his son, this episode highlights the importance of the state's child protection law, which requires people in positions of authority, such as teachers, social workers, medical professionals and members of the clergy, to report suspected child abuse to state authorities. But that does not apply to minor-on-minor abuse.

Children are always at risk of further abuse when they are the victim of sexual predations, no matter the age of their assailant. We must be diligent about protecting young victims and taking appropriate steps to make sure that their abuser don't commit additional assaults. That's

not possible if the abuse is never reported. Fortunately, state Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., D-East Lansing, plans to address that legislative oversight with an amendment. The Michigan Legislature would also do well to revisit the child protection law to determine if criminal penalties associated with failing to report should be elevated from a misdemeanor to a felony. Investigators should also get to the bottom of what Chatfield's father and other church officials knew, when they knew it, and what they did about it.

## Council appointment process deserves scrutiny

We have no complaints about the newest member of the Lansing City Council. Brian Daniels, a U.S. Army veteran and founder of Empower Lansing, a boxing and fitness studio on the city's east side, was appointed by the Council two weeks ago to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of embattled former Councilmember Brandon Betz. Daniels seems like a solid choice, and we have every hope that he will be a fine representative for the city's First Ward residents. We do have concerns, however, with the way he was appointed to the position, which had every appearance of a process that was designed for one purpose: to ensure Daniels got the job. Ostensibly at the direction of City Attorney Jim Smiertka, a series of prewritten questions were asked of each of the three finalists for the position. No

followup questions were permitted, which effectively prohibited Council members from digging any deeper into the candidate's responses to gain more insight into what they believe and their agenda for the city.

We think such a heavily scripted and constrained process pokes a finger in the eye of the First Amendment — and the notion of due diligence — by limiting what questions can be asked, which in turn diminishes the quality of the process for selecting such an important position. We know greased skids when we see them, and this appointment was pushed through faster than a bobsled on the Olympic track.



a whole raft of people who had already received and spent their PUA assistance. What followed was a fiasco of epic proportions. The state sent nastygrams to tens of thousands of Michigan residents demanding that they repay the benefits they had received.

As it turns out, plenty of actual fraudsters pretended they were eligible for PUA and got paid millions in illicit benefits. No one is sure exactly how much they stole, but in recent months headlines have blared about more than \$8 billion in "fraudulent claims." Legislative Republicans had a field day calling for Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's head on a platter over the allegations.

No doubt it will become a key message point in their campaign to unseat her later this year. To her credit, Whitmer recognizes that innocent citizens are being blamed and punished for the ineptitude of both state and federal agencies. She is now asking the feds to allow the state to forgive the erroneous payments that were made to innocent citizens. We encourage Michigan's congressional delegation to support the governor's request and to pressure U.S. Department of Labor leadership to sign off on it.

## The CP Edit

### Opinion

less, about the contenders for key appointments in the future.

### Whose fraud is it?

Among the many forms of assistance the federal government provided to take the financial sting out of the pandemic was the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, or PUA. Michigan's oft-maligned unemployment agency issued PUA checks to hundreds of thousands of Michiganders who met the eligibility criteria outlined by the feds shortly after the program was announced. In a move that surprised absolutely no one, the feds then proceeded to change their mind, issuing new rules that suddenly rendered ineligible for assistance

## LETTER to the editor

### Karen by any other name

*Editor's Note: We'd prefer not to make a habit out of publishing anonymous letters to the editor, but this one was too good to pass up. It comes from a Lansing woman named Karen, who is "sick and tired" of hearing her name used as a pejorative term for an overly*

*entitled and annoying white woman.*

Attention all chickenshits, Quit insulting women. There are almost 900,000 good people in the U.S. alone named Karen. If you are going to lower yourself to argue, muster up the guts to say the word "bitch" rather than hide behind someone's name. It is wrong to stereotype. What part of that do people not understand? This needs to stop now. Mental health affects people who happen to be named Karen too.

**Karen**

## Clarification

A story that appeared in last week's print edition titled "Study pegs Lansing among fastest growing cities in Midwest" requires clarification. Migration trends examined by CommercialCafe were between metropolitan statistical areas, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau — which locally includes the entirety of Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and Shiawassee counties. Several references to "Lansing" in that story should have instead read "Greater Lansing." The story has been corrected online to reflect this clarification.

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

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

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

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



# Fire

from page 5

that allegation.”

Cochran retired in 2012 and went on to become a state representative. And while he cautioned that he doesn’t necessarily remember all of the finer details, he insisted that he did “all he could” to hold staff accountable for allegations of sexual harassment and discrimination against Deprez.

“I wanted him fired. I recommended that he be fired,” he said. “The rest was out of my hands.”

Collective bargaining agreements with the firefighters union spell out a grievance process for any employee who disagrees with disciplinary action — including the potential for outside arbitration. Daniels’ return-to-work agreement was handled entirely in-house, city officials said.

Calls to the International Association of Firefighters Local No. 421 were not returned. Bernero, who was in his second term as mayor at the time, said he had “no recollection” of the issue.

Deprez said she took a job at LFD in

1995 and was sexually assaulted as a newbie firefighter. She told City Pulse in July that she had contemplated filing a lawsuit against the city over the alleged abuse, but noted that she only spoke up last year to bring about “internal change.”

“I can also name former chiefs and others who have gone on to become politicians,” Deprez said. “We’re talking about high-ranking members of Local 421 and the MSU firefighters’ union. These people don’t want me talking about this. They should all have reasons to be fearful.”

Deprez added: “I was abused and harassed for being a lesbian female. Until my final day, I was treated poorly by men at the Lansing Fire Department. I was even harassed by other females, and not one person was brave enough to take a stand and hold themselves responsible for the hate they allowed to happen that damn near destroyed me. I’ve begged and pleaded for help from HR and many of Lansing’s fire chiefs, and no one stopped the harassment of lesbians.”

Her claims were also corroborated by other former female Fire Department employees.

In part because of the harassment, Deprez said she checked herself into a hospital and was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. She said

speaking out last year was part of that healing process, though she also added: “I still suffer everyday. LFD literally broke me.”

“People need to know that it’s not a safe place to be,” Deprez said. “I think right now, the only thing I’m looking for is to shed some light on the blatant harassment that was allowed to take place. The Lansing Fire Department has truly been out of control for many, many years.”

Deprez told City Pulse that she planned to reveal more details about her allegations after she hired an attorney. No lawsuits have been filed. Deprez also hasn’t returned subsequent calls.

Her allegations of discrimination, however, are also far from the first to be levied against the Fire Department. Several current and former Black staffers are still pushing forward this year with lawsuits against Schor and the city that allege discrimination and race-based retaliation.

Schor has also since recognized and apologized for alleged racism at the Fire Department in an audio from 2019 that was leaked to City Pulse: “If I said that there are no racial issues within the Fire Department, it may have been something that I said earlier on because there are. I know there are. I’ve had folks talk to me. There definitely are. I know there have been in the past.”

Though Schor wouldn’t comment on Deprez’ claims, he added: “I will not

tolerate discrimination or sexual harassment. Every allegation will be taken seriously and investigated thoroughly, and we will take action when there is evidence of wrongdoing. We have acted several times while I have been mayor with everything from discipline to termination, and that practice will continue.”

Schor couldn’t cite any policy changes that would prevent the same scenario from repeating itself at the Fire Department, though he insisted he has “zero tolerance” for sexual harassment.

Fire departments nationwide have long struggled to attract minority applicants. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 95% of all firefighters are men and 85% of them are white. In Lansing, that makeup is 94% men, 70% white, according to records provided by Schor’s office.

Withholding records about alleged misconduct of its first responders is a familiar ball game for Schor’s administration. It’s the same legal tactic that was used in 2020 when the city flatly refused to release hundreds of records on internal investigations of alleged police misconduct.

Like then, City Pulse plans to file an appeal with the City Council for additional documentation. Newly selected Council President Adam Hussain will then decide whether they’re released.

— KYLE KAMINSKI



**Kyle Melinn's column  
will return next week**

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

**Notice is hereby given** of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on **Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**, at the **East Lansing Hannah Community Center**, 819 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

- A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Maria Gisting for the property at 166 Orchard Street to replace all the original 1930 windows in the house with uPVC composite (uPVC and Fiberglass) windows.
- A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Diane Wing for the property at 1024 Huntington Road to replace all of the existing vinyl storm windows with metal storm windows and the existing storm door with a wood storm door with the same design as the existing storm door.
- A public hearing will be held to consider a request from Wendy Longpre, City of East Lansing Parks, Recreation, and Arts Assistant Director, for the Bailey Park property (parcel number 33-20-02-18-177-002) bordered by Bailey Street to the west, Linden Street to the north and Collingwood Drive to the east to add a gazebo to the property.

For more information on the request please contact Darcy Schmitt at (517) 319-6941 or dschmitt@cityofeastlansing.com. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at the Department of Planning, Building, and Development, East Lansing City Hall, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm 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 Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to [coelhistoricdistricts@cityofeastlansing.com](mailto:coelhistoricdistricts@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#22-043

## NOTICE OF ADOPTION ORDINANCE 1513

### AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 22 OF THE CITY CODE TO ADD A NEW ARTICLE V REQUIRING FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS IN CITY OWNED PUBLIC RESTROOMS.

**The City of East Lansing ordains:**

#### Section 1. Amendment

Chapter 22 of the City Code, entitled “Human Relations,” is amended to add a new Article V to read in its entirety as follows:

#### Section 22-65 – Sanitary Products.

The City of East Lansing shall provide free sanitary products in public restrooms located in buildings owned and operated by the City of East Lansing.

#### Section 22-66 – Definitions.

*Sanitary products* means menstrual pads, tampons, or similar products for menstruating individuals.

*Public restrooms* means restrooms located in buildings owned and operated by the City that are available for public use. This includes restrooms designated for men, women, single-person use, and family use. This does not include temporary restrooms provided by the City (i.e., port-a-johns).

**Section 2.** If any portion of this Ordinance is held invalid for any reason, that holding will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance, which will continue in full force and effect.

**Section 3.** Any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are repealed, but only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Jennifer Shuster  
City Clerk

CP#22-038



Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is soliciting bid proposals for **Stake Surveys** at various properties. The RFP # StakeSurvey-2022 is available on February 16, 2022, at Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing, MI 48906, or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Bids will be due at the Land Bank office by 11:00am on March 2, 2022. Bid Review will begin March 2, 2022, at 11:00am. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

CP#22-048

Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting bid proposals for the **Lead Based Paint Hazard Risk Assessment and Clearance Services**. The RFP # LBP-2022-25 is available on February 16, 2022, at Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing, MI 48906, or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Bids are due at the Land Bank office by 2:00pm, on March 2, 2022. Bid Review will begin March 2, 2022, at 2:00pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

CP#22-047

NOTICE  
TO  
QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP of LANSING  
VACANCY ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Charter Township of Lansing is seeking a township resident to fill the vacancy of Treasurer on the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees meet every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. The Treasurer also serves on various committees that meet throughout the year.

Township Board will be making an appointment to serve until the next General Election in November of 2022. You will be required to follow the procedures to put your name on the ballot for the August 2022 Primary Election. You can obtain more information on the position and filing requirements from the Clerk's office.

Interested parties must be 18 years of age, a US Citizen, and an elector of the Township. Please submit your application, resume, letter of interest and references by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, 2022 to Supervisor Dion'trae Hayes, 3209 W. Michigan Ave, Lansing, MI 48917, or [dhayes@lansingtownship.org](mailto:dhayes@lansingtownship.org) or Clerk Maggie Sanders, [clerk@lansingtownship.org](mailto:clerk@lansingtownship.org).

Maggie Sanders, Clerk  
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#22-035

CITY OF LANSING  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides City of Lansing Council Chambers, Tenth Floor, Lansing City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933, for the purpose stated below:

To afford an opportunity for all residents, taxpayers of the City of Lansing, other interested persons and ad valorem taxing units to appear and be heard on the approval of Brownfield Plan #80 – Pleasant Grove & Holmes Mixed-Use Development Project pursuant to and in accordance with the provisions of the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Public Act 381 of 1996, as amended, for property commonly referred to as 2130 W. Holmes Road located in the City of Lansing, but more particularly described as:

COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 29, THENCE EAST 283 FEET, NORTH 214.5 FEET, EAST 267 FEET, NORTH 247.5 FEET, WEST 550 FEET TO THE WEST SECTION LINE, SOUTH 462 FEET TO BEGINNING, SECTION 26, TOWN 4 NORTH, RANGE 2 WEST  
Tax Parcel No. 33-01-01-29-305-122

Approval of this Brownfield Plan will enable the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to capture incremental tax increases which result from the redevelopment of the property to pay for costs associated therewith. Further information regarding this issue, including maps, plats, and a description of the brownfield plan will be available for public inspection and may be obtained from Kris Klein – Director of Economic Development, Lansing Economic Area Partnership, 1000 South Washington, Suite 201, Lansing, MI 48910, (517) 702-3387.

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

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](http://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

CP#22-039

PUBLIC NOTICE OF VEHICLE AUCTION  
February 25, 2022 - 12 p.m.  
2010 Mercedes C300  
PJ's Towing  
7721 Lanac St Lansing MI 48917  
NO PHONE CALLS

CP#22-041

Public Notice

The Ingham County Land Bank is accepting proposals for **Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) Building Survey Services** at various properties. The RFP #ACM-2022-25 is available on February 16, 2022, at Ingham County Land Bank, 3024 Turner St, Lansing, MI 48906, or at [www.inghamlandbank.org](http://www.inghamlandbank.org). Bids will be due at the Land Bank office by 1:00pm on March 2, 2022. Bid Review will begin March 2, 2022, at 1:00pm. The Ingham County Land Bank is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer. Women- and Minority-Owned Businesses are encouraged to apply.

CP#22-045

PUBLIC NOTICE OF VEHICLE AUCTION  
February 25, 2022 - 12 p.m.  
06 Mercedes S500  
PJ's Towing  
1425 Rensen St Lansing MI 48910  
NO PHONE CALLS

CP#22-042

2022 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW  
MEETING SCHEDULE  
Charter Township of Lansing, Ingham County

The Lansing Charter Township Board of Review for March 2022 will be held in-person at the Lansing Charter Township Hall, 3209 W Michigan Avenue Lansing, MI 48917. Taxpayers are able to protest by letter or email, sent to: Board of Review, 3209 W Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48917 Or to [DeeAnnO@lansingtownship.org](mailto:DeeAnnO@lansingtownship.org), provided protest is received prior to 5:00 PM, March 16, 2022.

The Lansing Charter Township March Board of Review will meet on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 11:00 a.m. - **Organizational Meeting**
- Monday, March 14, 2022, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - **Appeal Hearing**
- Monday, March 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - **Appeal Hearing**
- Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - **Appeal Hearing**
- Friday, March 18, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - **Appeal Hearing**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2022 are as follows:  
\*Commercial.....49.95%.....1.00000  
\*Industrial.....40.86%.....1.22369  
\*Residential.....46.92%.....1.06565  
\*Personal Property...50.00%.....1.00000

Americans With Disabilities (ADA) Notice  
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 2 day notice. Contact: Margaret Sanders, Clerk, 3209 W Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48917 517-485-4063

DeeAnn Overton, Secretary of Board of Review

CP#22-028

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF LANSING  
LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Charter Township of Lansing Board of Appeals to be held Monday, February 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Offices located at 3209 West Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan, for the purpose of hearing the following appeal:

BA-22-03: Applicant is requesting a 12-foot dimensional variance to the rear-yard setback requirements in an "H" Industrial Zone to allow for building expansion.

Address: 623 N. Rosemary, Lansing, MI 48917

Additional information may be examined at or obtained from the office of the Township Clerk, 3209 West Michigan Ave. Lansing, Michigan 48917. Written comments regarding this request may be submitted to the Township Clerk at that address or via email at [clerk@lansingtownship.org](mailto:clerk@lansingtownship.org)

Maggie Sanders, Clerk  
Charter Township of Lansing

CP#22-044



# ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

## A slice of history of Lansing's Black-owned businesses

By **CHLOE ALVERSON**

When Orabe “Ora” Fuller and her husband opened Shanora’s Beauty and Barber supplies nearly 40 years ago, it was the first such shop specifically for Black men and women in the Lansing area.

“There was a need for Black businesses during that time,” Fuller said. “We could only find Black products in stores every now and then.”

Back then, it was difficult to find lipsticks and hosiery that matched her skin tone as a Black woman. “We could only find nude, and nude wasn’t our color.”

When she could find these products, they were expensive. Fuller was able to find a hosiery supplier in Chicago for her store, where she could sell the products cheaper. Shanora’s carried anything from haircare products to clothes for Black men and women.

Though the shop on Saginaw Street is no longer in business, it can be recognized by the colorful mural painted on the outside wall, showcasing notable Black figures throughout history.

Before Shanora’s there was the Garage, in Downtown Lansing. When Gregory Eaton opened up his restaurant more than 50 years ago, he said that the area could use a Black-owned restaurant to appeal to the growing Black population in Lansing.

“I thought it was time for a Black restaurant,” Eaton, 82, said. “It’s a place for African Americans to have as a place of their own, but everyone’s welcome.”

The Garage was in the basement level of a parking ramp at 316 S. Capitol Ave. It saw instant success, no doubt helped by being the first African American-owned restaurant in Lansing to be granted a liquor license.

The restaurant wasn’t his first business. He founded Greg’s Janitorial Service 62 years ago. Eaton cleaned offices in his hometown of Lansing, and he didn’t have any Black clients. He also went on to be the first African American multi-client lobbyist in the state.

Twenty-five years ago, Eaton lost his lease for the Garage, so he took a risk and opened Gregory’s Soul Food, at

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Grand River Avenue on the north side. He feared customers wouldn’t travel there, but they did. Now it’s a Lansing mainstay.

Eaton says Gregory’s has been closed for dine-in services because he can’t get employees as a result of the pandemic. The restaurant recently installed a to-go window for patrons to use when picking up their food. Though the lack of employees has hurt Gregory’s, it hasn’t hurt Eaton’s spirit.

“It’s tough for Black businesses,” he said. “I try to support Black businesses in the area. A lot of businesses will never open up again. I’m fortunate that I have no debt, I’ve been in business so long.”

During the pandemic, Dr. Alane Laws-Barker knew that Black businesses would be suffering more than others. With the help of her daughter, she started the nonprofit Melanated Business Alliance in April 2020. Formerly called the Black Business Alliance of Greater Lansing, its initial goal was to alleviate the stress that Black businesses were under during the beginning of the pandemic.

On her journey to becoming an obstetrician-gynecologist, Laws-Barker said she gained a love for entrepreneurship through odd jobs like doll sculpting. She earned a master’s degree in business administration, which she has used to continue aiding Black businesses in the area.

“I had a few smaller businesses that helped fund my way through college,” she said. “I knew what it was like trying to run your own business to gain a better future.”

Before founding the alliance, Laws-Barker was involved in the Lansing Black Chamber of Commerce, which aimed to help Black businesses gain information about how to run and develop. She says the organization eventually went on to a “more national focus.”

“A lot of times, the problem with Black and brown businesses that belong to people in underserved communities is that they just need a little support and understanding of what’s expected



Chloe Alversen/City Pulse

Gregory Eaton opened his first restaurant more than 50 years ago in downtown Lansing. That evolved into Gregory’s Soul Food, on N. Martin Luther King Blvd.

of them when it comes to applications,” she said.

She hopes that the Melanated Business Alliance will “educate and empower” businesses so that they can be sustainable within the community.

“There are so many Black-owned businesses in the Greater Lansing area that have services and products that are high quality, and they are ready to serve the community,” Laws-Barker said. “When you buy local, you know your dollar is recirculating in the community. It creates jobs, it creates opportunities and it’s better for everyone.”

Businesses like the African-inspired restaurant Tatse, which had its grand opening on Friday (Feb. 11) at 221 S. Washington Square, hope to prosper as Laws-Barker described.

When Taiwo Adeleye, 36, first opened up Tatse last summer, he was operating it as a ghost kitchen at the Allen Neighborhood Center. He took his cre-

ations to farmers markets.

“I wanted more,” he said. “I wanted a place where people could sit and enjoy the food.”

Adeleye is from Nigeria, where he grew up learning about food and cooking from his grandmother. He felt that African food was hard to come by when he came to the United States. Menu items will be inspired by his African roots, and made with locally sourced, fresh ingredients.

With his new restaurant, Adeleye wants to bring the culture of Africa to Lansing. Tatse will be in the same space as Alobosa, an African bar also owned by Adeleye. He has planned for AfroBeat night on Fridays and salsa music on Sundays.

“We want to enrich Lansing in the area of culture, fashion, lifestyle and food,” he said. “When I give something to someone, I want it to be an extension of what I am.”



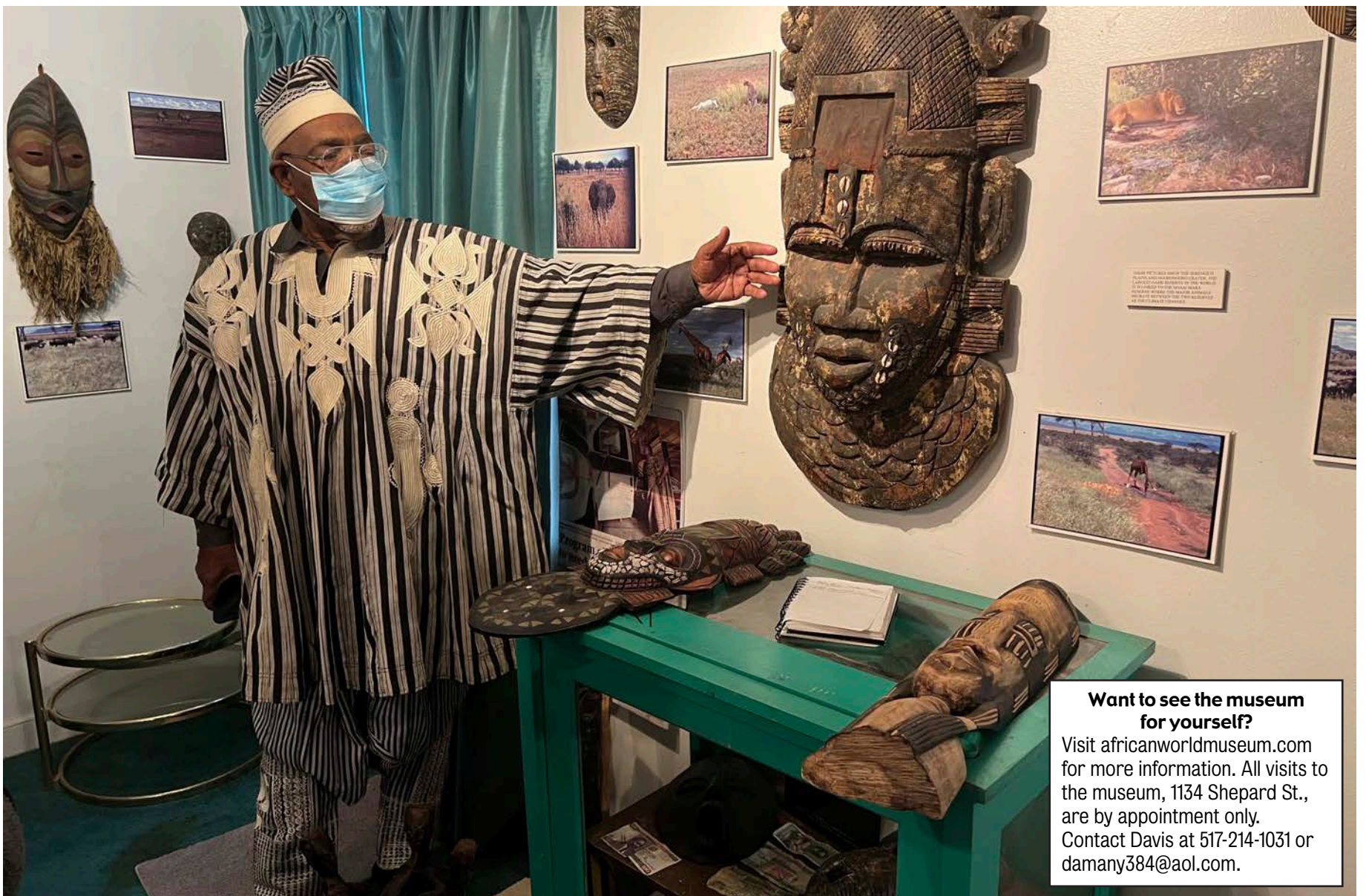
TUNE IN TO  
**89.7 FM**

**LCC**  
**CONNECT**  
VOICES VIBES VISION

SATURDAYS AT 1 P.M. • SUNDAYS AT 6 P.M.

# Educator brings Africa to Lansing with at-home culture museum

Travel ‘All Around the African World’ — without ever leaving the Capital City



#### Want to see the museum for yourself?

Visit [africanworldmuseum.com](http://africanworldmuseum.com) for more information. All visits to the museum, 1134 Shepard St., are by appointment only. Contact Davis at 517-214-1031 or [damany384@aol.com](mailto:damany384@aol.com).

Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Willie Davis, a professor from Lansing Community College, stands in front of the sign advertising his museum and education center in Lansing. The museum features artifacts and photos he's taken throughout his life in various parts of the African continent and the African Diaspora.

By **TODD HEYWOOD**

Standing on the street in front of three houses, one of which has several flags rippling in the cool afternoon breeze, one could be forgiven for not knowing this trio of neighboring homes on Shepard Street contain a trove of photographs and artifacts from across the African diaspora.

One house features items from African, Europe, Asia and Australia. Another house boasts a collection of history from the Americas. The third plays host to communal gatherings and educational conversations. This unlikely trio of homes — tucked into an out-of-the-way neighborhood sandwiched by I-496, the Potter Park Zoo, Aurelius Road and Pennsylvania Avenue — compose the All Around the African World Museum and Resource Center.

Standing in the first house, Willie Davis, a Ph.D. in comparative and international education, stands

with excitement, sharing stories of each item in his displays. He knows where they came from, because each item has been collected by him over more than 22 years.

Wearing a traditional African outfit presented to him and former Lansing Mayor David Hollister during a Sister City's signing agreement in Togo, Davis pointed to his favorite photo. At first, it appeared like any other late evening streetscape in the city. But a closer look shows what Davis enthusiastically calls an example of “the modernity and the traditional of Africa.” On the sidewalk is a woman wrapped in a traditional cloth wrap, carrying something on her head. Behind her, a crane looms, frozen in time during the construction of a building.

The photo, he said, has become the keystone to his presentations to visitors. And before the pandemic there were many. Each year, his humble houses would be visited by 300 or more people, often in groups that

hailed from various schools, colleges and local nursing homes.

After reading books about the dispersal of people of African descent across the world, Davis was determined to seek out the diaspora — and bring it back to Lansing to be put on display.

“Studying African history, it got me thinking and wanting to study the African Diaspora,” he said.

That curiosity sent him around the world, visiting China, Australia, the African continent and more. From those travels, he developed a collection of artifacts, art and hundreds of photos.

Today, they're available for any visitors who want to call in an appointment to view them.

“Why don't I take everything, take pictures and mount them — you know blow them up and mount them — and put some of the artifacts that I've gathered throughout my travels and make a museum and

See Museum, Page 14





Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse



Kyle Kaminski/City Pulse

Inaugural celebration poster of the Ghana president in 2001 – President John Kofi Agyekum Kufour. He served until 2009. During his presidency he established a national health care system, erasing a pay to play system that left the poor without access to medical care. He also established a national ambulance service and maternal health centers throughout the country. The National Patriotic Party often wins elections when Republicans in the U.S. are on the rise, while its main opposition party, National Democratic Congress, often rises as Democrats succeed in the U.S.

Statues of a Massi man and woman stand at attention on a table of other artifacts from Africa, including masks. In the back upper right of the table, one can see the Sonkfa bird statue from East Africa. Likely Massi. The bird symbolizes the saying “to be looking backwards to move forward.” There is also Kinara on the table, which is used to hold the candles to symbolize Kwanzaa principles.

# Museum

from page 13

look at the African presence throughout the world,” Davis explained last week. From his own collection, Davis has added posters and educational materials. Some items one might expect: masks of traditional African religious ceremonies, carvings and drums. But there are also items to challenge visitors’ presumptions about African influences and presence throughout the world. This includes a presentation on England’s first (and only) Black queen. Her name was Charlotte, and she was a German princess when King George III agreed to marry her. But her blood traces back through Portugal and a series of African rulers and elite. Charlotte was born with mixed race features, but discussion of her lineage has often been ignored. The recent controversy of Prince Harry leaving the royal family with his wife, Meagan Merkel, rekindled discussions of racism in royal circles — and some are now speaking openly for the first time in hundreds of years about Queen Charlotte, the only Black queen of England. On the walls of the first building, Davis has inscribed the names of people





# Museum

from page 14

who have inspired him or influenced him throughout his life. There are local authors, family members and prominent African American thinkers' names written in careful script on the stark white wall.

In the Americas displays, housed in the second of three museum buildings, there is no reference to the brutality of slavery in the American South; no pictures of the dogs and water hoses from the '60s Civil rights era. And that's a deliberate decision, Davis said.

"I chose the positive side," he added. "Don't call me an historian, because I am biased."

Davis' collection includes a gas mask and a corn planter — both designed by Black men.

He also proudly points to a statue in one building that features a large carved face being held up by workers. On the top, a man and a woman are carved in an embrace across the mask. Davis said the statue represents the idea of unity and self-determination that has underpinned the Civil Rights movement but also connects to a community with its own discoveries and inventions.

"I wanted our history and presence to be reflected traditionally, historically and contemporarily," he said.

Davis demonstrates the didgeridoo, a native Australian horn. The origin of this instrument dates back at least 1,500 years. They can range in size from 3 feet long to 10 feet long, although traditionally they are four feet. To this day it continues to be used as accompaniment for singers and dancers in cultural displays.



Davis calls this photo "Modernity and Traditional Africa," noting it shows both sides of the African continent, but specifically in Lome, Togo in West Africa. He snapped this photo during a visit to the country in 1987. It now serves as the starting point of his tours in the museum.



## ***Favorite Things***

### **Ariel Rogers and her late brother's T-shirt collection**



*Ariel Rogers' favorite thing is a collection of T-shirts that belonged to her musician brother, Pierce Rogers, who died in 2018 and left many in the Lansing music scene in mourning. Adding to the collection of shirts is one of the ways she keeps the spirit of her brother alive.*

It's a bunch of various shirts — band shirts and other stupid shirts that Pierce collected throughout the years that I've hung onto. Even after he wanted to get rid of them, I still hung onto some of them



Rogers

because they're so much fun. I'm just glad I've got them now, it's another piece of him I think I'm hanging onto. It's nostalgic. There are also tie-dye shirts he made himself that are special.

I like his Hunter S. Thompson shirt. I love his shirt from an animal farm that says "I Got Slimed" and it has a picture of a yak — or something — on it drooling. The bands on these shirts include Andrew WK, Iron Maiden, Mac DeMarco, The Black Lips, The Ramones and Trash Talk. All of them, except for The Ramones, he got from the actual shows. If he didn't get his shirts from concerts, he liked to thrift them. He was always getting cool ones from Goodwill and garage sales. He also had a couple of Grateful Dead shirts he bought from artists on

Instagram.

He was super involved with the Lansing music scene, everybody knew who he was. He played with Cosmic Priest a stoner-doom metal band and then he was in Stop Bobby Hatch with Troy Burris — they were a little psychedelic and kind of folksy. They had a lot of fans and a lot of people have reached out to me — people I didn't even know — since he died and told me how much his music meant to them. I still feel his presence in my life. It was fun playing with Pierce in Girl Band. He helped me out a lot even if he didn't want to necessarily. He was always down to be the good guy and help his sister out. His energy at shows was really contagious. He'd always pick up the musicians and tell them, "That was the best show ever!"

I still wear these shirts. It makes feel closer to him. It's really cool. He was my baby brother and the coolest guy I think I'll ever know. He was super kind to everybody he met. He never treated anybody poorly and he would always show interest in the things you were interested in. He'd always have something to talk about and he'd be your friend. It makes me sad that his collection won't be growing, but I will keep it up. If I see a silly, fun shirt — I'll pick it up and carry on the tradition because I miss him.

*Interview edited and condensed by Skyler Ashley. If you have suggestions for Favorite Things, please email [Skyler@LansingCityPulse.com](mailto:Skyler@LansingCityPulse.com)*

## **Brewing a fresh business: Lansing's newest coffee shop**



Courtesy

Tarek Chawich, 24, opened his coffee shop on Lansing's west side last month.

**By CHLOE ALVERSON**

When he applied to Starbucks, Tarek Chawich was rejected. Now, he's running his own coffee shop.

Chawich, 24, opened Château Coffee Co. last month on Lansing's west side on South Waverly Road.

The inspiration for the coffee shop stems from Chawich's childhood. He grew up in Lebanon, drinking coffee and eating baklava. Everything on the menu will be Lebanese or French inspired, as is his home country, which was part of the French colonial empire.

He said customers can anticipate a rapidly changing menu full of items such as Arabic coffee, baklava and macaroons. Most of the treats will be made in-house, while the coffee beans are from 517 Coffee Co., another Lansing business that Chawich says is high quality. Chawich plans to continue supporting fellow local businesses.

Chawich graduated with a supply chain degree from Michigan State and minored in entrepreneurship and innovation. He's earning his master's degree

in marketing research from MSU. He says he wasn't ready to enter the corporate workforce "just yet."

Many of Chawich's employees are also MSU students, and the shop works closely with the university. He had help from MSU's interior design student organization when decorating the inside of the shop, which includes trendy elements like a hedge wall.

"We don't hire just because of coffee skills, but what else they can add to the company," Chawich said. For example, a marketing major is his marketing specialist.

Chawich is learning to balance running his business while still studying. When the coffee shop is slow, Chawich can be found doing homework.

"It's definitely different, but I like a challenge," he said. "It's a good experience, and I like working hard."

When asked what sets Château apart from the competitors, Chawich said that he wants his business to be considered "innovative" compared to others. He wants customers to have unique, authentic options to choose from when they come into his coffee shop.

"We never say how we can be better than the competition," he said. "We ask ourselves how we can be different. We want you to have a different experience, and a great customer experience."



### **Château Coffee Co.**

1701 S. Waverly Rd.,  
Lansing  
6 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday  
through Friday  
8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and  
Sunday  
[www.chateaucoffeeco.com](http://www.chateaucoffeeco.com)

## **EARN WHILE YOU LEARN!**



**Women In Skilled Trades** is taking applications now.  
To find out more, or to apply, go to  
[www.wistmichigan.org](http://www.wistmichigan.org)

Promoting better lives for women through skilled trades.



# Ballot initiative aims to legalize psychedelic shrooms — and more

**By KYLE KAMINSKI**

Sorry, stoners. I’m taking this column in a bit of a different direction this week to shed some much-needed light on a statewide ballot proposal that just had its language approved last week by the state’s Board of Canvassers. It’s called the Michigan Initiative for Community Healing.

And if its organizers can collect 340,000 signatures by June, and if those signature are deemed legit, the language will go on the ballot so voters can decide in November. If voters approve, Michigan will have scored a major victory in the war on drugs. And I might just start up a new column dedicated to psychedelic trips.

The proposal seeks to amend state law by decriminalizing the production and use of all-natural plants and mushrooms — including “magic mushrooms” that contain hallucinogenic psilocybin and psilocin; cacti-like peyote and others that contain dissociative mescaline; ibogaine from the roots of Tabernanthe iboga; and the potent psychedelic dimethyltryptamine — known as DMT.

Home cultivation and possession of all entheogenic plants would be made entirely legal in Michigan, as would be “giving away” any of the resulting harvest. Only religious organizations and state-certified hospitals and medical professionals would be able to offer



them for sale.

The proposal would also reduce the criminal possession penalties for all controlled substances (including heroin and cocaine) by watering down several currently imprisonable felony offenses to simple misdemeanors that are punishable by a ticket and a fine, regardless of the amount.

I’ve dabbled with shrooms and DMT in college — both of which provided

some truly enlightening experiences. But, since my expertise is primarily in cannabis, I spoke last week with several activists from Decriminalize Nature and Students for Sensible Drug Policy — the two groups spearheading the initiative locally — to better understand their two-fold battle plan.

Myc Williams, the co-director of the Michigan chapter of Decriminalize Nature, has a 10-point plan on why voters should hop aboard the shroom train this year and fully legalize psychedelics. And at the root of it all are basic American liberties and personal freedoms. Put simply: Cops have better stuff to do than worry about the cultivation and possession of all-natural plants.

Archaic laws prohibiting them have only stood in the way of personal and spiritual growth through entheogenic plants, which research shows can help people overcome addiction and other mental health concerns, Williams said. Decades of research shows a scientific connection between psychedelics like shrooms — and the profound experiences that come with them — and their ability to help people overcome addictions to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Entheogenic plants, when used properly, have also been shown to be effective at treating other mental health problems like suicidal thoughts, depression and anxiety, Williams explained.

While research shows that psychedelic plants are extraordinarily safe and not addictive, cocaine and heroin are a bit of a different story — making the second leg of this recent ballot initiative an arguably steeper (but no less important) hill to climb in the state’s war on drugs.

But hold on to your pearls, because it’s still a proposal that’s well worth your consideration.

Broader reforms buried in the petition language would notch down possession of any amount of all Schedule I or II controlled substances from a felony to a misdemeanor. Possession of less than 25 grams would decrease from a four-year felony charge and up to \$25,000 fine, to a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum of only 93 days in jail and a fine of no more than \$250.

The potential punishments would cap out at a year behind bars and a \$1,000 fine — but only for those convicted of hauling around 1,000 grams or more. It would still only be a misdemeanor.

✉ info@pureoptions.com

📱 @pureoptionscannabis

📺 @pureoptions

Order Online at

pureoptions.com

P

PURE OPTIONS™

PRECISION CRAFTED CANNABIS

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Pure Options  
1g Pre-Rolls



Precision Crafted Cannabis

50% off (\$7.50 each)

Adult-Use

North Coast  
Extracts Carts



1g Full Spectrum

6/\$100

Adult-Use

1g Cured Resin

4/\$100


Adult-Use

.5g Live Resin

2/\$55

Adult-Use

Use your  
CREDIT CARD  
for purchases.



LANSING SOUTH

5815 S Pennsylvania Ave

Lansing, MI 48911

FRANDOR

125 N. Clippert St.

Lansing, MI 48912

LANSING NORTH

2905 N. East St.

Lansing, MI 48906

LANSING EAST

1900 E. Kalamazoo St.

Lansing, MI 48912

MUSKEGON

1965 Holton Rd.

Muskegon, MI 49445

MT. PLEASANT

2157 S. Mission St.

Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

FOR USE BY INDIVIDUALS 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER ONLY.

Keep out of reach of children. It is illegal to drive a motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana.

National Poison Control Center

1-800-222-1222.

See Ballot, Page 18



# Willcuts not in over his head in 'Head Over Heels'

By DAVID WINKELSTERN

The complexity and challenge of "Head Over Heels" drew director Bradley Willcuts to helming the musical.

"It's hard," he said. "Stylized Elizabethan language, tons of choreography and virtuosic demands, vocally."

When Michigan State University Department of Theatre's "Head Over Heels" begins a two-week run Thursday (Feb. 18), Willcuts takes on the challenge of directing and choreographing the jukebox musical that features songs by the Go Go's.

"I enjoy the total control of the show, rather than dividing up the work in a musical," Willcuts said. "I market myself professionally as a combo director/choreographer. It suits me, and it's often desirable for professional theaters to have two jobs in one."

## "Head Over Heels"

\$23.50, General admission  
\$21.50, MSU faculty, staff, seniors  
\$13.50, Students  
Tickets available at  
whartoncenter.com  
and 1-800-WHARTON  
Friday, Feb. 18, 8 p.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 19, 8 p.m.  
Sunday, Feb. 20, 2 p.m.  
Tuesday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.  
Friday, Feb. 25, 8 p.m.  
Saturday, Feb. 26, 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.  
Sunday, Feb. 27, 2 p.m.  
For more information  
visit: theatre.msu.edu

and choreography joined the MSU faculty in 2015. He teaches multiple classes, ranging from choreography to acting in musical theater.

His last professional, live show gig

was as an assistant fight choreographer for "Porgy and Bess" at the Metropolitan Opera, in New York. Prior to that, Willcuts was in San Luis Obispo, California, doing "Hello, Dolly!"

He really enjoys the opportunity to be a part of "Head Over Heels."

"It's been two years, and we are all ready for live theater," Willcuts said. "Even though we still have to sing and dance with masks on."

Attendees at the Fairchild Auditorium shows must be masked and show proof of vaccination, or a negative COVID-19 test from the last 72 hours. Despite performing in a pandemic, Willcuts found the cast outstanding.

"I was nervous at first, since it is such a demanding show," Willcuts said. "All this time without the demanding rehearsals because of COVID-19, I thought they would be pretty soft."

Willcuts said they are proving him wrong "big time."

"They are working so hard and are incredible," he said. "One of my favorite casts here at State."

Willcuts is proud to surround himself with a strong cast. He says they benefit from each other's unique perspectives and talents during the two-hour running time of "Head Over Heels." At that length, the cast rarely has time to breathe.

"You won't notice the length, it is very fast-paced and comedic," Willcuts said. "It feels short, honestly."

Willcuts said that the vocals from the leads are demanding, too. He's impressed by their stamina.

"Head Over Heels" is based on "The Countess of Pembroke's Arcadia," by



Courtesy

"Head Over Heels" is directed by Bradley Willcuts.

Sir Philip Sidney. It was written at the end of the 16th century and includes Greek influences. Like most of us, Willcuts had "zero" familiarity with Sidney's play.

His appreciation for the Go Go's changed after being involved with a musical that features songs like, "We Got The Beat," "Vacation," and "Our Lips Are Sealed."

"I'm almost 40," Willcuts said. "I was not an original Go Go's fan, but definitely a fan of rock and punk music."

He doesn't have a preferred song in the musical and said he enjoys the entirety of the show. Many of the cast were unfamiliar with the Go Go's. The average age of the cast is about 20.

"We have one graduate student, and the rest are undergrads," he said. "I don't think many knew anything about the Go Go's, but they sure do now."

The team has been rehearsing since Jan. 6, Monday through Friday, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Willcuts began preparation for his dual roles long before that.

"It's not uncommon to have roughly 40 to 60 hours of preparation or

pre-production work before starting the first rehearsal," he said.

"Head Over Heels" debuted in Oregon in 2015. The licensing rights became available in 2018.

"Most versions are unique since the rights were only just released recently," Willcuts said. "We put a really artful spin on the design and approach. It's minimalistic with an assertive voice."

The Fairchild stage for "Head Over Heels" will feature a moveable floor, something that Willcuts hasn't used at MSU before.

Willcuts sees many reasons the audience should be excited about seeing "Head Over Heels."

"It is hilarious, high energy, poignant and impressive," he said. "It's one of those shows that helps you escape the doldrums of February in Michigan during a pandemic."

## Ballot

from page 17

Williams said reducing criminal penalties is a vital step in putting rehabilitation over retribution.

"The drug war has been an epic failure in terms of sending people to prison — often with life-changingly long sentences — for simple possession and from choices made at a younger age," Williams said. "All that has done is take away opportunities to recover and get ahead."

He compared the proposal to a simi-

lar measure passed in Oregon last year, which was modeled on Portugal's full decriminalization of all hard drugs in 2001. Decriminalization there has been attributed to expanded treatment services and a subsequent 80% decrease in overdose deaths. Prioritizing health and safety over punishment could help save the state costs by redirecting law enforcement to more serious crimes and reducing the overall prison population, Williams said.

Kat Ebert, a recent MSU graduate who co-founded the campus' chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, said that predominantly Black communities, rural areas and other lower

socio-economic pockets of the state have had tougher times with stigmas surrounding drugs. As a result, the proposed solutions could also help to create a more equitable future, she noted.

"This has only perpetuated systemic racism and oppression," she said. "Nobody should be going to prison for a non-violent drug offense. This would be a huge step in the right direction for us."

If organizers are able to collect 340,000 voter signatures, the amendments could be adopted by the legislature or make their way directly to the November ballot to be decided by vot-

ers at the polls. And then, theoretically, you could be off on your first legal shroom trip before Christmas.

Visit [micommunityhealing.org](http://micommunityhealing.org) for more details on where and when to sign the ballot initiative.

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. Editor & Publisher Magazine has also labeled him as "arguably, the state's authority on everything you need to know about cannabis." Have a suggestion for a cannabis product? Email [kyle@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:kyle@lansingcitypulse.com).



# Riverwalk play asks tough questions about morality and heroism

By **DAVID WINKELSTERN**

“Lobby Hero” exposes how moral decisions can cause many different reactions. After seeing Riverwalk Theatre’s production of the Kenneth Lonergan play, I had just one unwavering reaction — admiration.

“Lobby Hero’s” quartet of very vocal characters personifies New Yorkers

## “Lobby Hero”

Thursdays through  
Sunday, Feb. 17-20  
Tickets (\$10-\$17) available  
at [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com)  
Office: (517) 482-5700  
(Tue-Fri 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.)  
Masks are required  
for all audience members.  
Reduced seating/social  
distancing is in place.

each role, director George Popovich chose an admirable cast.

As the play unfolds, the characters reveal more of their history and personality. All the actors fit their roles well. They made the audience feel like they were watching believable people, not just actors, interact over the course of two hours (including intermission). Ndegwa McCloud is William, a captain

of a security team assigned to a fading Manhattan apartment. McCloud succeeds in expressing William’s anguish and inner turmoil. There is nothing pretentious about William’s image or McCloud’s portrayal.

Andrew Stewart has the ideal posture and voice for a New York street cop named Bill. The confidence and cockiness of the officer — and Stewart’s acting chops — never falter. He does a terrific job of making Officer Bill intimidating.

Rachel Daugherty plays Officer Dawn, Bill’s newbie partner, with style. Her consistent city accent is remarkable. Daugherty can also project strong emotions by only eye movements and body stance. Despite a too-obvious wig, she makes us care about Dawn’s struggles as a female cop.

Ayden Soupal is the night guard in “Lobby Hero.” Jeff is part philosopher, part nerd, part decent guy and part loser. Soupal gives Jeff a realistic persona. More and more, we feel like we know the always-thinking, hard to keep quiet, fast-talking jokester. Soupal helps elevate what first seems to be an inci-



Courtesy

Rachel Daugherty and Andrew Stewart in Riverwalk Theatre’s “Lobby Hero.”

dental role to have spotlight qualities.

Lonergan’s knack for layered characters and potent dialogue is evident in “Lobby Hero.” Our impressions and respect for the foursome change often as their conversations continue. Just as the play’s dilemma of lying or telling

the truth has many sides, the characters are similarly faceted. Popovich keeps the often quick and sometimes overlapping exchanges rolling. The meant-for-adults “Lobby Hero” is a mix of chuckles and frequent brow-wrinkling moments. Popovich adjusts the pace to accommodate both and takes the actors extremely close to the audience, with effective results.

Lighting by Joe Dickson precisely illuminates the shifting action. Authentic guard and police costumes by Rachel Kay add to the realism. An uncomplicated-yet-detailed lobby designed by Popovich and Leroy Cupp is a fitting backdrop.

A few minor opening night line stumbles and occasional, too-fast speeches were never significant distractions.

For “Lobby Hero’s” curtain calls, I wanted to cheer Jeff’s accomplishments and comfort William for his hard choices. I felt like shaking Officer Dawn’s hand for her integrity and booing Officer Bill because he became so unlikeable. Instead, I clapped even harder for the performances by actors I admired.

# Ever After Opportunities is a fairytale nonprofit for youth

By **CHELSEA PHILLIPS**

Ever After Opportunities is a nonprofit organization focused on serving youth in seven counties across mid-Michigan. Its goal is to help youth 12 to 18 years old live their “happily ever after” by offering a variety of services to overcome obstacles. All services are free and do not have income limits.

The organization is most known for its Cinderella’s Closet Events. Each year at these events, formal dresses, shoes and accessories are given away for free. Dresses are available for farewell dances, homecoming dances and prom. Star Bolden, board president of the organization, says they are “helping young ladies have a Cinderella moment.”

The first dress giveaway of 2022 happened Feb. 5 at the Lansing Mall. Giveaways will continue on the first Saturday of each month until April. Those wishing to donate dresses may do so by dropping them off at Maurer’s Cleaners, 2815 E. Saginaw St., Lansing. Due to concerns with COVID-19, Ever After Opportunities asks that dresses be professionally cleaned at Maurer’s for a discounted price.

Life skills sessions are also available



This occasional feature highlights events and milestones at local nonprofits. If you would like to

submit a suggestion please email [chloe@lansingcitypulse.com](mailto:chloe@lansingcitypulse.com)

**Ever After Opportunities**  
**Located within Lansing Mall**  
**[everafteropportunities.org](http://everafteropportunities.org)**  
**(517) 894-3733**

to young ladies through the organization. Classes include: Beginner’s knitting, financial planning, cooking, resume writing, etiquette, CPR and beginner’s car maintenance. After the classes are completed, participants get to pick out a professional outfit and apply for scholarships. The scholarships are available to assist with college or trade school costs.

Community mentoring is offered after completion of the classes to help transition the young ladies into wom-

anhood and into the workforce. Classes have been temporarily paused, but are expected to resume in March. Bolden says they are looking at expanding these classes, as well as exploring the options of offering eyelash and hair classes.

Through a partnership with Michigan State University, Ever After Opportunities will be offering free tutoring services to youth. Tutoring will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday nights in the Lansing Mall. The program returns Monday (Feb. 21) and Tuesday (Feb. 22).

Transportation assistance will also soon be available on CATA buses to young people.

Bolden said she has seen a decrease in volunteers with the pandemic.

“A lot of people have not volunteered,” she said, referring to in-person events like the dress giveaways.

She wants community members and volunteers to know that they are taking precautions at the dress giveaways. Only five people are allowed in at a time, and masks are required at every event.

Bolden added her organization is



Courtesy

These girls picked out their free dresses at Ever After Opportunities.

still looking for volunteers to help with the dress giveaways. Volunteers must fill out an application and complete a COVID-19 questionnaire. Anyone wishing to volunteer may call Bolden directly at (517) 894-3733, through the nonprofit’s Facebook page, or just by coming into the Lansing Mall on the event days with a valid ID and filling out paperwork.



# The past paradise of Michigan's 'Black Eden'

By **BILL CASTANIER**

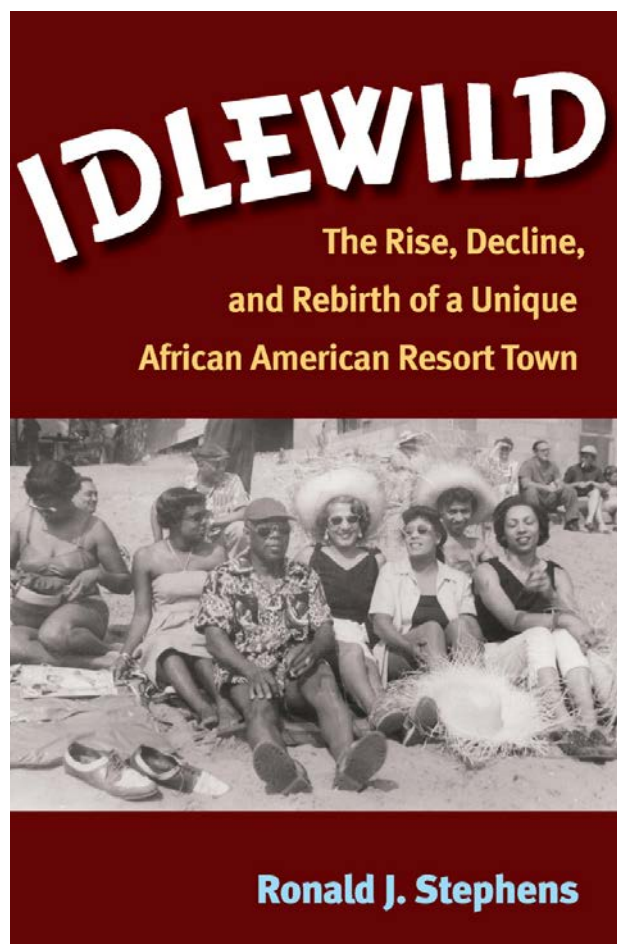
Starting in 1912, for as little as "\$1 down and a \$1 a month," perspective vacationers could buy their own little piece of paradise in Michigan's Idlewild, or Black Eden as it was later affectionately called.

Idlewild, a delightful Black vacation destination in Lake County, Michigan, had an unusual beginning in that it was founded by a consortium of white investors, including two brothers who were members of the Ku Klux Klan in nearby White Cloud. Their goal was to make a little money by creating a Black summer utopia for the newly emerging middle class of African Americans who had made their way north to escape the Jim Crow South following World War I.

Unfortunately, those Jim Crow attitudes followed African Americans north. They were still unable to take part in traditional summer vacations, to visit entertainment hot spots and to go fishing, swimming and hunting.

Cottages, mostly hand-built, soon dotted the landscape of the 2,700-acre Idlewild site just outside of Baldwin, Michigan. The consortium targeted perspective buyers through aggressive advertising in Black newspapers, like the Michigan Chronicle and the Chicago Defender.

As the number of cottagers grew, Black entrepreneurs began opening businesses, including nightclubs featuring some world-class musical performers and dancers. Nightclubs with the distinctly plush names like the Flamingo Club and the Paradise Club began offering entertainment extravaganzas rivaling big cities attracting the likes of Della Reese, BB King, Jackie Wilson, Etta James, Cab Calloway and



Sarah Vaughn. As the Great Migration accelerated in the pre- and post-World War II era, the resort would attract more than 25,000 vacationers during a summer. Black-owned businesses flourished.

The list of high-profile cottagers drew as much acclaim as the high-octane performers. Visitors included the likes of W.E.B. DuBois and Joe Louis, along with the scores of doctors, lawyers and dentists alongside the growing middle class of auto workers.

Purdue University Professor Ronald

J. Stephens writes in-depth about the history of Idlewild in his book, "Idlewild: The Rise, Decline and Rebirth of a Unique African American Resort Town." Stephens grew up in Detroit and received his master's and bachelor's degrees from Wayne State University. He earned a Ph.D. from Temple University. Today, he teaches African American studies at Purdue University.

Even though he grew up in Detroit, it wasn't until much later he learned about Idlewild. A couple of students who lived there gave him a tour in the early 1990s.

"I was in awe and, I have to admit, my book started that day," Stephens said. "I was especially in awe of the entertainment, and I had a romanticized view of Idlewild until a longtime resident told me that the history of Idlewild was more than the entertainment."

Stephens began researching Idlewild by reading microfiche of the Black newspapers from that time, and also the Lake County Star, which contained a weekly article titled "Heard in Idlewild." He also spent copious amounts of time researching the university archives at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he

discovered some details about Gov. Fred Green's visits to Idlewild in 1927 and 1929. The visits would have been unusual for a politician at that time in history.

"I did a lot of digging, and despite of that, I still have unanswered questions," he said.

In his book, Stephens delves in-depth into the life of Arthur Braggs, a bar owner, numbers runner and booking agent for Black entertainment. Briggs put together a traveling group of dancers and musicians called the Arthur Braggs Review.

"Briggs was a shrewd dude and a legal and illegal businessman who understood both domestic and international issues relating to race," he said.

To counterbalance the night life, homeowners sponsored a Chautauqua that focused on African American speakers and entertainment, along with athletic competitions like sack races, horseback riding and field events.

Stephens said the glory days of Idlewild came to an end ironically with the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which ended separation of the races. The uniqueness of Idlewild ended, because African Americans could, in theory, go wherever they wanted to.

"Entrepreneurs didn't see it coming, and Idlewild floundered," Stephens said.

Surae Eaton of Lansing recalled spending idyllic summers at Idlewild visiting her grandparents, who were among the first owners. Surae described their "simple cottage," and how the grandchildren slept on pallets on the floor.

"It was a lot of good time, and we would spend weeks at a time there," she said.

The family later sold the cottage, which Eaton says she wished they still had. Eaton recalled the carefree days of summer there, especially one day when she and her brother, Gregory, snuck his Thunderbird convertible for a drive to the island. The island was a centerpiece for summer activities at Idlewild.

Stephens said Idlewild was different from the upper-class African American enclaves like Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard.

"Idlewild was the only black summer resort that had its own church," Stephens said.

## Curious Book Shop



307 E. Grand River, E. Lansing  
332-0112 \* We validate parking  
Mon.-Sat. 10-7, Sun. 12-5  
[curiousbooks.com](http://curiousbooks.com)



*The snow is falling....  
and books are calling!*

## Archives Book Shop

519 W. Grand River, E. Lansing  
332-8444 \* Free Parking  
Mon.-Sat. 11-6, Sun. 12-5  
[thearchivesbookshop@gmail.com](mailto:thearchivesbookshop@gmail.com)



**ART BY NEVIN**

As Seen On the Cover of CityPulse

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

[nevin@nevingraphics.com](mailto:nevin@nevingraphics.com)  
**517-703-4655**

ArtByNevin Art\_By\_Nevin



Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Mixed Emotions"--feeling a little unusual.  
by Matt Jones

Across

1. "Pee-wee's Playhouse" genie

6. Wing measurement

10. Rack purchases, briefly

14. Burger topping

15. "Pam & Tommy" streamer

16. Singletons

17. One of the "Friends: The Reunion" attendees

20. Boo-boo

21. March time

22. Filing target

23. Yang's complement

25. Dept. of Justice agency

26. Setting the new mark, as in the Olympics

35. Book, in France

36. Felt badly

37. "La \_\_\_\_" (Debussy opus)

38. Stuff in batteries

39. Chunk of grass

40. Upcoming Paramount+ series based on a video game

41. "Volare (\_\_\_\_ Blu Dipinto Di Blu)"

42. Absolutely not

43. "\_\_\_\_ the Mirror" (song in the Broadway musical "MJ")

44. Call center activity

47. "Winnie-the-Pooh" character

48. "No Time to \_\_\_\_"

1. (2021 Bond film)

49. Grad

51. Kiss, in British slang

54. Song from "Turandot"

58. Like Peru and Mexico

61. Sex Pistols' genre

62. Vital spark

63. Gate part

64. Planet dwellers of film

65. Indicate boredom

66. Stated further

Down

1. Reduplicative name in a "Bizarre Adventure" manga

2. Over again

3. Smaller version

4. Cemetery

5. "Here Comes the Hotstepper" singer Kamoze

6. Lawnmower's building

7. Untarnished

8. "What a shame"

9. Sister or mother, maybe

10. Art made of tiles

11. Prefix for body or gravity

12. Earth sci.

13. Tax ID

18. Foreign film ender

19. Asleep, usually

24. Actor Barinholtz

25. Worry (about)

26. Mel who voiced Yosemite Sam

27. Houston campus, for short

28. Bad things

29. Gullible

30. Charitable person

31. "Zut \_\_\_\_!"

32. Sultanate inhabitant

33. Historical object

34. Aerial photography aid

39. Audition tape

40. Give birth, informally

42. "Prometheus" actress Rapace

43. 3-D screening

45. Certain swimwear

46. Do landscaping work

49. "\_\_\_\_ Named Scooby-Doo" (cartoon spinoff of 1988)

50. Daily Planet reporter

51. "Transformers" actor LaBeouf

52. "Clicker beware" letters

53. Not hidden

55. Fruit peel

56. "Bus Stop" dramatist William

57. Like some steaks

58. Relaxation spot

59. Shifty

60. "A clue!"

©2020 Jonesin' Crosswords (jonesincrosswords@gmail.com)

Answers on page 28

SUDOKU

Advanced

4

2

3

9

8

5

2

9

4

7

6

5

8

6

8

1

7

1

9

2

6

8

4

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 28

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsný

February 16-22, 2022

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You're slipping into a phase when stuff that has been invisible will become visible, at least to you. You will have extra power to peer beneath the surfaces and discern the hidden agendas and study the deeper workings. Your interest in trivia and distractions will dissipate, and you'll feel intensified yearnings to home in on core truths. Here's your guiding principle during this time: Favor the interests of the soul over those of the ego. And for inspiration, have fun with this quote by religious scholar Huston Smith: "The Transcendent was my morning meal, we had the Eternal at lunch, and I ate a slice of the Infinite at dinner."

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "You cannot have fun with anything that you don't love or admire or respect," declared comedian Mel Brooks. I agree! The joyous release that comes through playful amusement is most likely to unfold when you're in the presence of influences you are fond of. The good news, Taurus, is that in the coming weeks, you will have a special inclination and knack for hanging around people and influences like that. Therefore, you will have an enhanced capacity for mirth and delight and pleasure. Take full advantage, please! As much as possible, gravitate toward what you love and admire and respect.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): "The thing about inspiration is that it takes your mind off everything else," says Gemini author Vikram Seth. I bring this truth to your attention because I believe you will soon be the beneficiary of steady, strong waves of inspiration. I also predict that these waves will transport you away from minor irritations that are best left alone for now. Be alert and ever-ready to spring into action, my dear, so that as the inspirational surges flow, you will harvest the maximum rewards from their gifts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The advice that Reb Nachman of Breslov offered two centuries ago is just right for you now: "Never ask directions from someone who knows the way, or you will never be able to get lost." In the coming weeks, you will attract tricky but palpable blessings from meandering around without knowing exactly where you are. It's time for you to find out what you don't even realize you need to know; to stumble upon quiet little wonders and marvels that will ultimately prove to be guideposts for your holy quests in the future. Yes, I understand that being in unknown territory without a reliable map isn't usually a pleasure, but I believe it will be for you. PS: Our fellow Cancerian, author Rebecca Solnit, wrote a book entitled "A Field Guide to Getting Lost". It might be helpful during your wanderings. Read a summary of it here: [tinyurl.com/GuideToGettingLost](https://tinyurl.com/GuideToGettingLost)

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "You face your greatest opposition when you're closest to your biggest miracle," wrote author and filmmaker T. D. Jakes. According to my analysis of upcoming astrological omens, that's good advice for you. I suspect that the problems you encounter will be among your best and most useful ever. With the right attitude, you will harness the challenges to generate magnificent breakthroughs. And what's the right attitude? Proceed with the hypothesis that life is now conspiring to bring your soul exactly what your soul needs to express its ripest beauty.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): "Always remember this," said actor Hattie McDaniel (1893-1952). "There are only 18 inches between a pat on the back and a kick in the rump." Metaphorically speaking, I believe her advice will be useful for you in the coming days. Lately, you've had to deal with too many experiences and influences akin to kicks in the rump. But now that will change. Soon there'll be a surge of experiences and influences that resemble pats on the back. In my estimation, you have finished paying your dues and making course corrections. Now it's time for you to receive meaningful appreciation and constructive approval.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Author Gayle Forman offers a set of truths that I suspect will be useful

for you in the coming weeks. They may even be inspirational and motivational. Forman writes, "Sometimes fate or life or whatever you want to call it, leaves a door a little open, and you walk through it. But sometimes it locks the door and you have to find the key, or pick the lock, or knock the damn thing down. And sometimes, it doesn't even show you the door, and you have to build it yourself." Are you ready for the challenge, Libra? I think you are. Do whatever you must do to go through the doorways you want and need to go through.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Singer-songwriter Rosanne Cash described her process. "I dream of songs," she began. "I dream they fall down through the centuries, from my distant ancestors, and come to me. I dream of lullabies and sea shanties and keening cries and rhythms and stories and backbeats." Scorpio, I would love for you to explore comparable approaches to getting the creative ideas you need to live your best life possible. I would love for you to draw freely from sources beyond your conscious ego—including your ancestors, the people you were in previous incarnations, gods and spirits, heroes and allies, the intelligence of animals, and the wisdom of nature. The coming months will be a favorable time to expand your access. Start boosting the signals now!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Author Madeleine Thien has lived in Vancouver, Montreal, and Iowa City, and has taught at schools in Hong Kong and Brooklyn. Her father was born and raised in Malaysia and her mother in Hong Kong. She has a rich array of different roots. Not surprisingly, then, she has said, "I like to think of home as a verb, something we keep recreating." That's an excellent meditation for you right now, Sagittarius. And it will continue to be worthy of your ruminations for another four months. What's the next step you could take to feel comfortable and secure and at peace?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The fastest animal on earth is the peregrine falcon, which can reach speeds of 200 miles per hour when it dives from a great height. The seventh-fastest creature is the humble pigeon. Having been clocked at 92.5 miles per hour, the bird outpaces the cheetah, which is the fastest land animal. I propose we make the pigeon your spirit creature for the coming weeks. On the one hand, you may seem mild and modest to casual observers. On the other hand, you will in fact be sleek, quick, and agile. Like the pigeon, you will also be highly adaptable, able to thrive in a variety of situations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): "Self-control might be as passionate and as active as the surrender to passion," wrote Aquarian author W. Somerset Maugham. Yes! I agree! And that's the perfect message for you to hear right now. If you choose to take advantage of the potentials that life is offering you, you will explore and experiment with the mysteries of self-discipline and self-command. You'll be a trailblazer of discernment and poise. You will indulge in and enjoy the pleasures of self-regulation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): In 1961, Piscean cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin was the first human to orbit the Earth in a spacecraft. As his feat neared its end, Gagarin left the capsule at 20,000 feet above the ground and parachuted the rest of the way. He arrived in a turnip field where a girl and her grandmother were working. They provided him with a horse and cart so he could travel to the nearest telephone and make a call to get picked up and brought back to headquarters. I foresee a metaphorically comparable series of events transpiring in your life, Pisces. Be flexible and adaptable as you adjust to changing conditions with changing strategies. Your exceptional and illustrious activities may require the assistance of humble influences.

Go to [RealAstrology.com](https://RealAstrology.com) to check out Rob Brezsný'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

## Q&A: PET ME RETURNS WITH HOOKY 'FIERCE FEMME RIOTPOP' SINGLE



PET ME releases its new single, "Ghost," Feb. 21. It's a follow up to the Lansing band's 2020 self-titled debut EP.

(Photo by Olivia Dejonghe. EP and single cover art by Vikki Vera)

## Lansing-based outfit also set to play 2022 Stoopfest

Back in February 2020, right before the world shut down, PET ME released its remarkable debut EP at Mac's Bar. Now, the self-described "fierce femme riotpop" band, returns Monday (Feb. 21) with a hooky new single, "Ghost." The group, which comprises Allie Hunt (guitar), Quinn Endicott (bass), Vikki Vera (vocals, lyrics), Jen Campbell (drums, backup vocals), is also set to play the 2022 Stoopfest lineup in April.

**What has the band been up to since the last release in early 2020?**

**Vikki:** We wanted to be safe and responsible, so we didn't meet up much. We planned to go on tour to build our following, but COVID hit right after our EP came out. Still, we managed to do some writing and recording. And Jen joined the band as drummer!

**Quinn:** With COVID we want to be responsible to our community and not contribute to spread, but playing out and the social aspect of music is a big motivator for me personally. It's been difficult.

**Allie:** COVID kind of made me take a look at my music fundamentals again. I went hard learning some music theory I'd been putting off for years. Having that time with no shows or playing in bands has really helped me become a better musician.

**Vikki:** We seem to write best when we can meet up in person and we have gigs to look forward to, so those things were off the table for a while. I know my mental

health has suffered and I had to use all the coping skills I could come up with. But we're still here, we're still writing and we've got some brilliant stuff in the works.

**Jen:** We've been working on writing new songs of the Midwest emo and grimy punk variety. We also have another banger single in the works right now that's in the mixing stage.

**Your new single is "Ghost." What inspired it?**

**Vikki:** The lyrics were inspired by a message I read in an advice column from someone who thought they had made the right life choices but still felt empty inside, jumping from one unfulfilling job or relationship to another. They talked about feeling alienated and rudderless, and I think they specifically mentioned feeling like a ghost. There's a call-out to a Kurt Vonnegut quote about being careful who you pretend to be. Allie had written a beautiful guitar riff that seemed to fit the lyrics that were taking shape, and the song grew from there.

**Quinn:** We've got a lot of different reactions to "Ghost." I think it's because it speaks to some pretty universal experiences, like: aging, the depersonalization of depression and the fundamental insecurity of trying to be cool.

**Did returning to the studio feel pretty good?**

**Allie:** It felt great to see familiar faces again, but also weird because of COVID.

**Vikki:** It was recorded and mixed locally

by Nick LaForge, and it was amazing being able to work with them again. They're so good at what they do and they really knew how to get the best out of us and the song. Grey Matter pitched in to record gang vocals and Tyler Floyd did the mastering. Allie's guitar parts were recorded on a gorgeous seafoam green amp that Allie built. It sounds incredible!

**Jen:** It was my first time being recorded in a studio. I loved Nick's enthusiasm with the song and it was fun to add little textures like the drums building intensity at the end of the song. We even added beads on the cymbal at one point. Backups were also fun. I loved bouncing off ideas with Vikki and having the freedom to add something to the song.

**Vikki:** Our songs really seem to grow through collaboration. It's one of the things I love most about working with my bandmates. Everybody brings something unique and has a creative input. We play around and experiment with a lot of different ideas and see what gels.

**What are you up to when you're not working on music?**

**Jen:** Drinking lots of tea and cuddling my dog.

**Allie:** I build amps and pedals. Most of my hobbies revolve around music.

**Quinn:** I like hanging out with my partners and our dogs. Lately, I read a lot and play "Cyberpunk."

**Vikki:** During the pandemic, I learned how to make art on an iPad. For practice, I

drew the band members as cartoon characters, riffing on a Gorillaz album cover. I learned how to screen print and made some PET ME shirts. I've also started learning how to do animation and made a short animation of the "Ghost" cover art with a clip from the song. It was super fun.

**What's inspiring your songwriting the most these days?**

**Allie:** I don't know if it comes out in PET ME, but I've been doing a deep dive into old R&B lately. I love the vibe it has. Been listening to a lot of Motown and Stax records.

**Quinn:** When we were writing this song I was listening to a lot of The Shins, Spoon and Shearwater.

**Jen:** Any raw bands out there that absolutely lose their freaking minds live. It's impossible for me not to see local bands without feeling inspired in some way. Also, female-fronted/queer bands.

**Vikki:** Emo when I want it loud, lo-fi beats or shoegaze when I want it quiet. I've been listening to a lot of Francoise Hardy lately, too. It's fun trying to sing in French.

**One last thing, where did the band name PET ME come from?**

**Allie:** A sticker on top of my amp.  
**Vikki:** We were in band practice and I looked down at Allie's amp. It had a sticker on it with a dog collar or something. It was captioned "Pet Me." I looked up and said, "what about PET ME?"

**Listen at:** [petme.bandcamp.com](https://petme.bandcamp.com)



# 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  
**Darin Larner**  
Thurs., Feb. 17, 7:30-10:30 p.m.  
**Joe Wright**  
Fri., Feb. 18, 8-11 p.m.  
**Helena Lost**  
Sat., Feb. 19, 8-11 p.m.

**Blue Owl**  
1149 S Washington, Lansing  
**Elden Kelly and Gregg Hill**  
Thurs., Feb. 17, 6-8 p.m.

**Classic Pub & Grill**  
16219 N. US 27, Lansing  
**Lady Luck**  
Fri., Feb. 18, 8:30 p.m.

**Eaton Rapids Craft Co.**  
204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids  
**Keegan Jacko**  
Fri., Feb. 18, 7-10 p.m.  
**Kurt Stone**  
Sat. Feb. 19, 7-10 p.m.


**Green Door**  
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing  
**Mix Pack**  
Fri., Feb. 18, 8:30 p.m.  
**Medusa**  
Sat., Feb. 19, 8:30 p.m.

**Lansing Brewing Company**  
518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing  
**Winter Warrior Party**  
Sat., Feb. 19, 1-5 p.m.

**Urban Beat**  
1213 N. Turner St., Lansing  
**Matthew James Adkins**  
Thurs., Feb. 17, 7-9 p.m.  
**The Further Adventures of Fatboy and Jive Turkey**  
Fri., Feb. 18, 7-10 p.m.  
**A Glamorous Night with Zakiya**  
Sat., Feb. 19, 7-9 p.m.

## Wednesday, February 16

**Allen Farmers Market** - 3-6 p.m. Allen Market Place, 1611 E Kalamazoo, Lansing.  
**"Best Books" Tiny Art Show** - Pick up your Tiny Art Kit 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)  
**Diabetes Support Group** - 6:30 to 7:30



### 9th Annual Art and Craft Beer Festival

Saturday, Feb. 19  
noon to 10 p.m.

**Check-in location: The Cadillac Room**  
1115 S. Washington Ave., Lansing

The annual Art and Craft Beer Festival is happening this weekend in REO Town. The festival, in its ninth year, will take place inside three venues: The Cadillac Room, ALT Printing Company and REO Town Marketplace. Short films, music, comedy and more can be enjoyed paired with a craft beverage. Sponsors include Blake's Hard Cider Co., Stormcloud Brewing Co. and Petoskey Brewing. All craft beer and cider will be from the sponsors. Adults must purchase a ticket, starting at \$5. Kids are free. The festival is adults-only after 6 p.m. Check-in is at the Cadillac Room.

pm at Delta Township District Library, 5130 Davenport Dr., Lansing.

**The Elements Series: Water** - 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Nelson Gallery, 113 S. Washington Sq., Lansing. [thenelsongallery.com](http://thenelsongallery.com).

**Hidden Hearts** - We've lost our hearts--can you help us find them hiding in the library? 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

**Our Beautiful World Art Show 2022** - 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through February. Framers Edge and Gallery, 1856 West Grand River Avenue, Okemos. 517-347-7400. [framersedge.net](http://framersedge.net).

**Studio Squad** - Calling all creative kids ages 9-12! 4:30-5:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

**"Whoooo's there?" It's an Owl (Full) Moon** - Learn about Michigan owls and other raptors and make an owl craft. 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

## Thursday, February 17

**Acrylic Painting Workshop** - for ages 10 years old and up! 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. [gladl.org](http://gladl.org)

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

**EMAR So Percussion Performance Reading** - free. 7:30-8:30 p.m. MSU College of Music Large Rehearsal Hall, 333 Circle Dr., East Lansing. [music.msu.edu](http://music.msu.edu).

**Lobby Hero** - 7-9:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com).

**Stitch 'n Bitch** - Come hang out with some fellow stitching witches! 5-8 p.m. Keys To Manifestation, 809 Center Street, Suite 7, Lansing. 517-974-5540. [manifestlansing.com](http://manifestlansing.com).

## Friday, February 18

**Focus Tour: Dandies** - One artwork. One guest. One theme. 7-8 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. 517-884-4800.

**Lobby Hero** - 8-9:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com).

**MSU Office of International Students and Scholars Coffee Hour** - 4-6 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. [msu.edu](http://msu.edu).

**MSU Professors of Jazz** - This instrumental "hard-bop" band performs a

variety of jazz standards. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Murray Hall, East Lansing. [msu.edu](http://msu.edu).

## Saturday, February 19

**2022 Winter Warrior Patio Party** - 1-5 p.m. Lansing Brewing Company, 518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing. 517-371-2600. [lansingbrewingcompany.com](http://lansingbrewingcompany.com).

**Lobby Hero** - 8-9:30 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. [riverwalktheatre.com](http://riverwalktheatre.com).

## Sunday, February 20

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

See Events on page XXX

### CROSSWORD SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

J	A	M	B	I		S	P	A	N		M	A	G	S
O	N	I	O	N		H	U	L	U		O	N	E	S
J	E	N	N	I	F	E	R	A	N	I	S	T	O	N
O	W	I	E		I	D	E	S		N	A	I	L	
		Y	I	N				F	B	I				
B	R	E	A	K	I	N	G	A	R	E	C	O	R	D
L	I	V	R	E		A	I	L	E	D		M	E	R
A	C	I	D		D	I	V	O	T		H	A	L	O
N	E	L		N	E	V	E	R		M	A	N	I	N
C	U	S	T	O	M	E	R		S	E	R	V	I	C
		R	O	O				D	I	E				
	A	L	U	M		S	N	O	G		A	R	I	A
S	P	A	N	I	S	H	S	P	E	A	K	I	N	G
P	U	N	K		L	I	F	E		H	I	N	G	E
A	P	E	S		Y	A	A	W	N		A	D	D	E

### SUDOKU SOLUTION

From Pg. 26

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



# Events

from page 28

**Lobby Hero** - 2-4 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr, Lansing. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com.

## Monday, February 21

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

**LEAP Into Science: Light & Shadow Family Workshop** - Children explore with story and activities. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. Register at gladl.org

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

## Tuesday, February 22

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

**Concert Band and Campus Band** - Program includes Panoramic Fanfare by Tyler S. 7:30-8:30 p.m. music.msu.edu for tickets and information.

**Music Theory Lecture: Dr. Yayoi Everett** - Professor of Music at the University of Illinois at Chicago. 12:45-1:45 p.m. Zoom link at theory.music.msu.edu

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

**Q&A with Branford Marsalis** - Free. 3 p.m. Zoom link: music.msu.edu

**What is CBD?** - 6:30-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

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



Software Engineer sought by Ambrose Care Management in Okemos, MI to dsgn, dvlp, modfy & mng comp sftwr for electrcn mgmt & retrvl prgm. Reqs BS in Comp Sci or rtd + 2 yrs exp in rtd occptn OR HS dip + 5 yrs exp in rtd occptn. Also reqs exp as full stack dvlp, spcz in PHP bkend, trdtnl HTML/CSSJS frntend & React frntend. Exp w LESS, jQuery, ES6, & React frntend stacks. Exp w Symfony bkend stack. Exp dplyng& usg of MongoDB bkend, POSTGRE bkend & MySQL bkend. Exp w mass file strg. Exp in intgrtn w ext svs like Twilio, Xero, Google. Exp as SysOp for Sftwr projs - orchtrt reposrts 7 dlymt of new vrsns. Exp maint svr undr Linux, hndlg all svcs needed for sftwr projs like Apache (NGINX), PHP, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, MySQL, emailing & vars utlits like wkhtmltopdf, pdftk, imaginemagick, etc. Emp will acpt any sutbl combo of edu & exp in lieu of BS. Mst hv perm auth to wrk in US. Snd rsm & cvr ltr to Elizabeth Piner, 1831 Newman Rd, Okemos, MI 48864.

## Feel the same? Give to CityPULSE

- Online at [lansingcitypulse.org/support-us](https://lansingcitypulse.org/support-us) •
- OR
- Call Suzi Smith at (517) 999-6704 •
- OR
- By Mail: City Pulse, 1905 E. Michigan Avenue Lansing, MI 48912 •

**Please make checks payable to City Pulse**

\* For a tax-deductible contribution, make checks payable to the City Pulse Fund or select City Pulse Fund online for credit card gifts. Questions? Please call Suzi Smith at (517) 999-6704.

### CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### Act-1-2022 Sale of 1020 W. Hillsdale Street (33-01-01-17-478-007)

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on February 28, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, Michigan, to consider a resolution selling the parcel commonly known as 1020 W. Hillsdale Street, specifically described as:

West 20 FT Lot 7, All of Lots 8,9,10,13, 14 and 15, Also Lots 11 and 12 excluding used as used as Street ROW; Block 8 Bush, Butler and Sparrow Add.

Details of the sale are on file with the City Clerk's Office and are available at Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave. or [www.lansingmi.gov/clerk](https://www.lansingmi.gov/clerk). For more information about this sale, phone City Council Offices on City business days, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 483-4177.

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

**Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/CMMC**  
[www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk](https://www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk)  
[www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope](https://www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope)

**CP#22-049**

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

**PAID FOR BY A BMF**

## Ingham County Animal Shelter

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

<p><b>Thidwick</b> is a big goofy mastiff mix who is full of enthusiasm and energy! He's about 3 years old and looking for a person that would take him on lots of adventures.</p>	<p><b>SOLDAN'S PET SUPPLIES</b> Sponsored by <b>Soldan's Pet Supplies</b> locally owned &amp; operated since 1955 <a href="https://soldanspet.com">soldanspet.com</a></p> <p><b>Lansing</b> 6201 W. Saginaw Hwy 5016 S. MLK Jr. Blvd <b>Okemos</b> 2283 Grand River Ave. <b>DeWitt</b> 12286 Old U.S. 27 <b>Charlotte</b> 515 Lansing St.</p>	<p><b>Peppa Pig</b> is a pint-size pibble who has a big zest for life and loves everyone! She should be fine with sturdy kids and tolerant dogs. <b>Sponsored by Anne &amp; Dale Schrader</b></p> <p><b>Horton</b> is a adorable 10 mo. old German Shepherd mix who like an experienced family to help him build his confidence. Other easy going dogs should be ok. <b>Sponsored by City Pulse</b></p>
		<p><b>Harold</b> is a well behaved older gentleman who enjoys the occasional walk, sniffing the yard and napping. In foster so please call ahead to meet him. <b>Sponsored by Schuler Books</b></p> <p><b>Amelia Bedelia</b> is a sweet little scared calico who wants a quiet home with easy, gentle people to love on her and other cats to hang out with. <b>In memory of Rodica's cats</b></p>



# FOOD & DRINK

## DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

### Is Kewpee's the best joint in town for a classic burger?

By **GABRIELLE LAWRENCE**

Resch Strategies' "Cold Oatmeal" podcast recently released an episode all about current and past favorite restaurants in downtown Lansing. The conversation on the podcast and on Twitter included such blasts from the past as Spad's Piz-za, Soup to Nutz (that backyard courtyard was everything) and the revolving door at the location that has housed Decker's, Jersey Giant and Soul Nutrition. By far, the most votes for favorite downtown eatery went to Weston's Kewpee Sandwich Shop.

Kewpee's is a classic. It's where my mom would take us to meet my state employee dad, who spent his days in his downtown office. It's where Mr. She Ate and I meet up for a quick lunch on the rare day that we are both actually working from our offices. If you're not familiar with it, the green awning above the unassuming front door marks the entrance to a downtown Lansing institution, where you are literally as likely to see groups of protesters fueling up before marching with their signs in front of the Capitol, groups of Cooley students on a break between classes, or the governor and other governmental officials wheeling and dealing. The take-out game is strong, which we learned over the course of the last two years, and Kewpee's has perfected the art of packaging fries in a way that ensures crispiness when you get them home.

There are always specials, like goulash, bean and ham soup and chili. For purposes of this article, I stuck to items that are always on the menu. During a lunchtime gabfest with a high school friend of mine, I chose the Kewpee Klub sandwich and sweet potato fries. The sandwich comes on Texas toast, which is without question my preferred sandwich bread. It is piled with sliced turkey, ham and crispy bacon, with Monterey jack cheese, lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise. The toasty, crunch bread gives the flavorful sandwich the perfect amount of texture, and if you know anything about Kewpee's, you know that they are frequently acknowledged as having the best mayonnaise in town (or is this just a weird thing that certain members of

my friend group and I think about?).

The sweet potato fries are my perpetual side item. They are ultra thick-cut and its dusted with large crystals of sea salt, which means that they are perfectly seasoned and impossibly crispy. If you think you don't like sweet potato fries, I challenge you to give these a try.

Mr. She Ate's long-standing order is the King Regular burger with fries. The fries are crinkle cut and, as previously stated and oft-tested, can withstand a 10-minute drive to Groesbeck to be delivered to a discerning 4-year-old while remaining hot and crispy. My brother recently joined us for lunch and sacrificed himself to the olive burger, another menu item that Kewpee devotees defend passionately. Mr. She Ate and I remain united on our

By **BRYAN BEVERLY**

What is the one flavor that speaks to mid-Michigan's core? Quality Dairy Chip Dip? A sip of Faygo or Vernor's? Uncle John's Cider & Donuts, or an order of chips & salsa from Handy's? For me, it's far

and away a bite of an olive burger. That combination of char-broiled burger and olive sauce does it for me every time. This month, I was elated we got to review one of the originators.

Weston's Kewpee Burger is a Lansing institution. There's little disputing that. Situated downtown on Washington Square, and using a recipe for olive



**Weston Kewpee's Sandwich Shop**  
118 S. Washington Sq., Lansing  
Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
(517) 482-8049  
westonkewpee.com



Lawrence



Beverly



Courtesy

The olive burger at Kewpee's is considered a signature Lansing dish.

disdain for anything olive, but I can objectively understand how the juicy burger patty is complemented by the tangy creaminess of olive sauce.

At least bi-weekly, I tear myself away from my office right around the corner

See *She Ate*, Page 26

sauce that is older than 95 years, the restaurant is nostalgic in all the right ways. The décor is unapologetic in referencing its history, and with good reason. Serving comfort food with quality service to downtown's current movers and shakers and former residents who

have returned and want an instant reminder of home is something they should be proud of. In pre-pandemic times, it wasn't unusual for a line out the door during the lunch time rush. During the pandemic, Weston's ownership was among the most compassionate with their staff, and worked hard to keep the business open, even as much of their traditional foot traffic has yet to return. However, you can tell the folks that work here enjoy not just one another, but also making great food for their customers.

#### Essential

During my visits to Kewpee's this month, I cheerfully tried the Kolossal Olive Burger. Appropriately named, as this sandwich is massive, the burger perfectly cooked and topped with a heaping serving of olive sauce (chopped, not minced) just the way I like it. There are several local establishments that offer an olive burger, and even a few national chains that attempt to offer local flavor. Few compare to this tried-and-true version. As I stood in line, there were two gentlemen from south of Jackson who were in town exploring the Capital City. They both ordered olive burgers and as I walked out, I asked them how it was. "It doesn't matter much what else we find today; this burger was worth the drive." Indeed.

#### Comfort-classics

My culinary comrades and I sampled several other items off the menu. The Turkey Burger was juicy, surprisingly flavorful and delightfully crispy, which is atypical of most turkey burgers. The onion rings were solid, but not as good as the sweet potato fries or the regular French fries. Both are seasoned brilliantly — brown sugar on the sweet potato, and a light dusting of Greek seasoning on the regular. The chili was hearty and balanced — not too many beans or tomatoes, or not enough meat, and welcomed on a chilly January afternoon.

The restaurant also offers several traditional daily specials — meatloaf and mashed potatoes, bean and ham soup, pot roast, tuna pasta salad, or macaroni and cheese, all depending on the day. I was fortunate to be in on a day that the goulash was available. Packed with herbs, tomatoes and ground beef,

See *He Ate*, Page 27



# Elk amino salad

By ARI LeVAUX

Wild game is the tastiest, cleanest and most ecologically-justifiable meat on the planet. The ultimate reward of hunting is neither the kill nor the thrill of the chase, but how you come out the other side — regardless of whether you bring meat. It requires competency on many levels, including navigation, shooting, wildlife biology, your own physical limits and reading a landscape. I look at mountains differently now, palpating each valley and fold with my eyes hungrily, like a lecher at a pool party.

My wintertime elk hunting trips in middle Montana are cathartic journeys. The bitter cold is invigorating



and demanding. The relentless wind is cleansing and therapeutic; When it shoves you around and screams in your ear, it's hard to not take it personally. After a hunt, I feel like I can do anything, and everything else feels easy by comparison.

This year, getting to where I wanted to hunt took three attempts. On my first try, I hit a chunk of private property that I stupidly hadn't noticed on the map. The next time, I almost got stuck in the snow drifts crossing the road. I came back a few days later with a new set of tire chains, and made it a few miles further up the road, and clicked into my back country skis. After a steep

climb, I finally got to the edge of the area where I was permitted to hunt. In the magical light of the setting sun, I spotted a massive elk herd in a large field, about two miles away, but had no time left on the clock to pursue. I was elated, knowing that they would likely be here when I made it back.

On the fourth day, I started before dawn, and got even further up the road. I skied up the ridge, climbing 1,000 feet out of the canyon and into the blasting wind.

When I got to the spot, I couldn't see the herd in the field where they had been, but I headed that way anyway. I had my eye on a forested ridge about halfway there, perpendicular to my line of travel. When I got close to the ridge, I veered off course, toward an open saddle, because cresting the ridge with wind at my back might bring the scent straight over. I crossed the saddle and slipped into the forest on the other side, my skis silent in the powder snow. The wind was noticeably less oppressive. Instead of screaming in my ear, it was screaming a hundred feet away,

giving a sense of peace and shelter like the sound of rain on a roof. Trees were creaking in the wind, which sounds a lot like the sound of elk talking.

I slunk along until I saw a large cow, bedded down, facing the ridge with her nose into the wind, barely a hundred yards away. It was a layup of a shot. I backed up until it was out of sight, which meant I was out of sight, and then took off my skis.

I snuck around the forest in the deep powder snow, missing my skis, but ready to lie down and shoot. My noise was completely muffled by the wind, which also carried away my scent. I saw more cows, and a massive body next to a tree, with billowing waves of bulging flesh all over the place. Its head was behind the tree, but its fur had a golden hue, which meant he was a bull. In that area, at that time, I was only allowed to shoot antlerless elk, a category that includes juveniles — calves — and females of any age.

I was three miles from the truck, the wind was picking up, and it was start-

See Salad, Page 27

## She Ate

from page 25

in the Boji Tower and rush to Kewpee's to pick up my called in order, most frequently a cup of tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwich. The combination is always welcomed, but especially on blustery days, and especially when a little bit of cheese has leaked out onto the griddle and become a crispy bit that you can

break off and nibble on while returning emails and trying not to spill soup on a client file.

Because I am nothing if not a thorough researcher, I even tried a salad. The Chef salad with grilled chicken was fresh, and the base included romaine as well as iceberg lettuce (I look down my nose at a salad with only iceberg.) I look forward to trying it again with tuna salad as soon as I can tear myself away from toasted sandwiches.

I have but one humble criticism. My longstanding favorite item, which was

my favorite downtown lunch item overall, was the Greek chicken pita. Last month, I learned that the chicken pita has been removed from the menu. The combination of hot grilled chicken, creamy feta cheese, tangy red onion and tzatziki sauce is to die for, and I live in perpetual hope that the Greek chicken pita reclaims its rightful place on the Kewpee's menu. Other than that, Kewpee's is perfect and can satisfy any appetite.

Featured on **DRIVE-INS** *Try our*

**Fish, Burgers & Steak**

*Fresh off the Grill!*

**BUY ANY DINNER GET 2<sup>ND</sup> DINNER 50% OFF**

One per customer  
Expires 2/28/2022

**2417 E. Kalamazoo**  
Lansing, MI 48912  
**(517) 993-5988**  
[www.eastsidefishfry.com](http://www.eastsidefishfry.com)  
Locally Owned and Operated  
Since 2012

**NOW OPEN FOR DINE IN**

**TUES-SAT 11 TO 8**  
**SUNDAY NOON TO 5**

**Meat**  
SOUTHERN B.B.Q. & CARNIVORE CUISINE

**580-4400 | MEATBBQ.COM**

**1224 TURNER ST. OLD TOWN, LANSING**

Full Menu Available for Pick Up & Delivery

A special just for you!

**Buy One Dinner GET ONE 1/2 OFF!**

**ACAPULCO MEXICAN GRILL**

Monday-Thursday 11AM-10PM  
Friday 11AM-10:45PM  
Saturday 11AM-10:30PM  
Sunday 11AM-9PM

**300 N. CLIPPERT STREET, SUITE 17**  
**LANSING, MI 48912 • 517.203.0096**

**El Oasis**  
Antojitos Mexicanos

**(517) 648-7693**

Lansing - Haslett - South Side

**WE CATER ALL EVENTS!**

voted #1 Top of the Town 2021

**Best Food Truck Best Tacos**

**Family Owned & Operated**

**eloasisfood.com**



# Salad

from page 26

ing to snow. I knew I might get snowed in, or not be able to come back the next day. I wanted an elk that was small enough to haul out that evening. The full-grown cows, in addition to being huge, were likely pregnant.

Finally, I spotted a small head atop a dark, skinny neck, 80 yards away. I lay on my belly and made a gun rest out of snow, and found its head in my scope. It took a breath, and shot. The rest of the herd stood up around me and silently vanished.

Then, the work began. I cut a piece of skin from its rib cage and knelt on the warm fur to keep my knees dry. An hour later I had removed the shoulders, the hindquarters, the long rib eyes (a.k.a. “backstraps”), two tenderloins and as much neck meat as I could carve off. I divided the load in half, clicked back into my skis and shouldered the heavier half, along with my .270. I could only make it about 200 yards.

I put down my load and rested my shoulders while I went back for the other half, which I carried further, grabbing my rifle as I passed the first load. I continued leapfrogging my loads until I got to the road. Then, I went down for the sled, and slid everything down to the truck. At this point, it had been 10 hours since I shot the elk, and 13 miles since leaving the truck.

After that kind of bloody struggle, I don’t want to eat meat right away. I want to wash off the smell of blood, change my clothes and decompress. Back at the cabin, I made a salad of parsley, onion and lemon juice, a pack of chicken flavored ramen with an egg cracked into it and fell asleep.

The next night, I sliced one of the tenderloins, fried it in garlic and added it to the same salad. Each elk amino coursing through my veins was a



Courtesy

Ari LeVaux says the Elk amino salad serves “one hungry, tired and happy hunter, or two mere mortals.”

trophy more delicious than any antler. But, more than meat or bone, the best part of hunting is the participation award.

### Elk amino salad

Move over the side salad, and pass that fried salad. If you don’t have wild game for the pan, seek out the most ecologically sound, most humane and yes, most expensive piece of red meat you can find. Beef is the closest, but not very close at all.

Serves one hungry, tired and happy hunter, or two mere mortals

- ½-to-1 pound of meat, cut into ½-inch chunks*
- 4 tablespoons lemon juice*
- ½ teaspoon each salt and pepper*

- 4 tablespoons olive oil*
- 2 large cloves garlic, pressed or minced*
- 1 bunch parsley*
- 1 cup minced onion*

Put the meat in a bowl with three tablespoons of the lemon juice and the salt and pepper and stir together. Add three tablespoons of olive oil, half of the garlic and half of the onions. Cut the parsley in half, so that one half is mostly leaves and the other half most-

ly stems, with a few leaves. Mince the stem half and toss it in with the meat.

Marinate in the fridge for as long as you can. At serving time, fry on medium heat in a heavy pan until the meat is browned on all sides. Transfer the contents of the pan to a bowl and add the remaining onions, garlic, parsley, lemon juice and olive oil. Season to taste.

# He Ate

from page 25

huddled up with macaroni spirals and served with garlic Texas toast, it was an absolute hit. I had to arm wrestle others in my house for the leftovers.

### Award-winning

The Weston Kewpee Burger team were recently awarded the judges award

for its olive burger at a competition on South Beach, Miami. In honor of that recognition, the restaurant now offers a Miami burger — a crumbled burger with a cheesy olive sauce. This olive burger 2.0 is my new favorite in town. It differs from the traditional olive burger in yummy, savory ways. The brininess of the olive sauce somehow works even better in this iteration, and the crunchy, flavorful crumbles are a wonderful twist. With this burger, Kewpee’s shows that the best innovations are rooted in tradition.

## Appetizers

**WANT YOUR RESTAURANT LISTED? CALL 517-999-5064**

 <b>El Oasis</b> 2501 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing (517) 648-7693 eloasisfood.com	<b>TRY THE CROWN JEWEL OF LANSING’S FOOD TRUCKS.</b> Serving the Lansing community for 13 years, we extend an invitation to all those to give us a try to find out why we were voted the best food truck in Lansing’s 2019 Top of The Town Contest.
 <b>Eastside Fish Fry</b> 2417 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing (517) 993-5988 eastsidefishfry.com	<b>GUY FIERI APPROVED!</b> We were featured on Food Network’s Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. Our fried home-style classics and fresh seafood are some of the best in Lansing. We’ve got the classics: fried chicken buckets, chicken wings, exotic fare, like frog legs and alligator tails and fresh seafood. Desserts, too!
 <b>Meat Southern BBQ</b> 1224 Turner Rd. Lansing (517) 580-4400 meatbbq.com	<b>WE BELIEVE EVERYONE DESERVES GREAT BBQ.</b> Award winning BBQ. Ribs, French fry bar, chili, sides including BBQ pit baked beans, mac n’ cheese. 18 rotating taps of craft, Michigan made beers. Craft cocktails. We cater, too!



# FAT TUESDAY CELEBRATION

F L O A T  
PRESENTS

## sensi MARDI GRAS PARTY

A MICHIGAN COMMUNITY EVENT  
WITH CANNABIS SALES  
& CONSUMPTION

PRIM **MARCH 1** <sup>DJ</sup> **ARLO**  
6PM TO 10 PM

**CAUSEWAY BAY HOTEL**  
6820 S. CEDAR STREET LANSING, MI 48911



SCAN ME

TO PURCHASE TICKETS  
\$25 - GEN. ADMISSION  
\$50 - VIP

RAIR



SPONSORING RETAIL PARTNERS

EXCLUSIVE™



**SENSIMAG.COM/MARDIGRAS2022**