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CityPULSE

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Turn it down: James Gardin talks Talib Kweli.


**Cover
Art**

Cover by Nevin Speerbrecker

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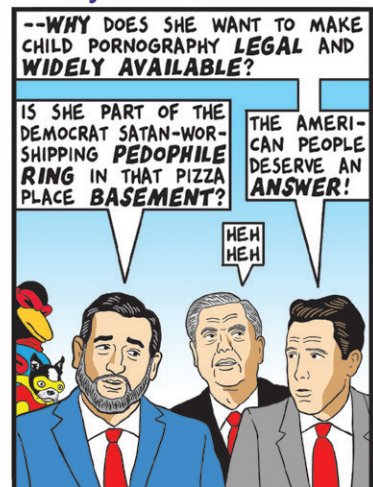
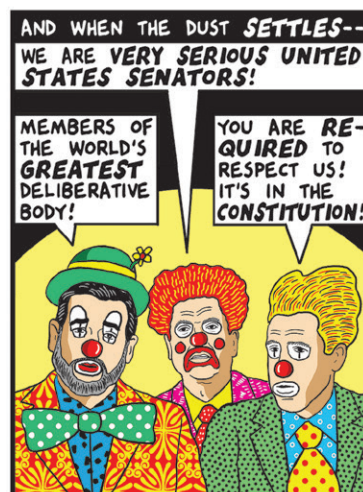
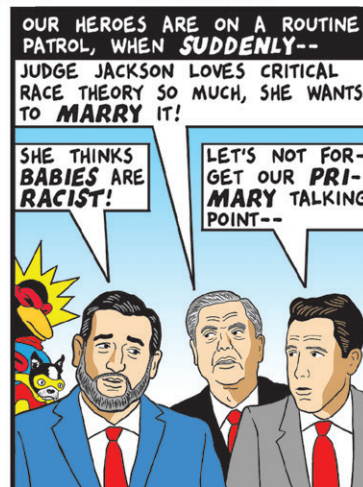
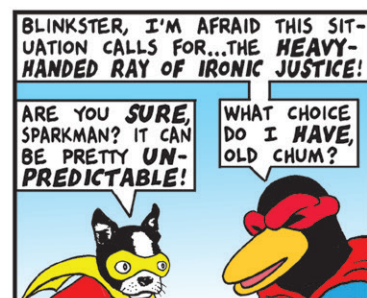
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW


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PULSE

NEWS & OPINION

Warmed-over MAGA conspiracy theories on a cold spring day

On Saturday (March 26), City Pulse sent a reporter to suffer through the election conspiracies and freezing cold of the MAGA rally at the State Capitol, and the mixer that followed at Royal Scot Golf & Bowl, so that you didn't have to waste your time. Here are eight takeaways:

#1: Yuge crowds!

Despite touting the event as a major rally featuring candidates endorsed by former President Donald Trump, the rally at the steps of the Capitol was only able to draw in about 65 people to stand on the snow-covered ground in the frigid cold. But they brought lots of flags, Trump stuff, and, of course, an abundance of conspiracy theories to appease everyone.

#2: How many trucks make a trucker convoy?

Four.

That's how many semi-trucks participated in the much-talked-about appearance of the so-called "People's Convoy" to oppose COVID-19 vaccine mandates, election fraud and who knows what else. But those truckers had nine — count 'em all — NINE passenger vehicles with them. All were festooned with American flags, and they honked their horns through mostly empty streets.

#3: Bigotry prohibited*

*sorta

Organizers announced beforehand that bigots and white nationalists need not attend, but attend they did. Shane Trejo, grassroots director for Republicans for National Renewal, denied last week having ties to former podcast co-host Alex Witoslawski, who had provided messaging training for the white nationalist group Identity Evropa. Trejo still spoke at both events.

One woman in the crowd at the steps wore a sweatshirt boasting that she is a "Proud wife of a Proud Boy," alluding to the western chauvinist white nationalist group. Some of those members have been charged with conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding of Congress — you know, that silly certification of the Electoral College vote on Jan. 6 that led to an insurrectionist riot and hundreds of federal indictments against defendants, who are from nearly all 50 states, the U.S. Justice Department says.

There was also an American flag with the Roman numerals "II" in the center of the 13 stars — a Tea Party throwback

calling for a "Second American Revolution." Of course, there was a genius at the Capitol proudly displaying his "January 6th Patriot" sweatshirt for eager photographers.

John Paul Moran, the head of Grand Opportunity USA, which cosponsored the MAGA Mixer,

couldn't help himself proudly announcing himself a "gay dude." That followed with opposition to "identity politics" and a tirade against equality for transgender people — calling the concept "radical gender bullshit agenda" and then declaring that "it has no place in our schools."

Moran also told mixer attendees that he's writing a global "bill of rights" that will finally define a man and woman so all this crazy transgender stuff stops. Even the losing GOP congressional candidate's Transgender and gay friends agree with him on it — so you know it's the real deal!

#4: Second Amendment: YES! First Amendment: What?

An armed man who identified himself as "head of security" at the Capitol rally demanded that multiple photographers — including City Pulse managing editor Kyle Kaminski — stop taking photographs and delete those in which he was pictured. Since the rally was obviously public, and there's no expectation of privacy in the middle of the sidewalk near the Capitol lawn, he didn't comply.

By the way, City Pulse was initially denied media entry to the MAGA Mixer at the bowling alley because organizers said they wanted "only friendly media" in the room. So, City Pulse bought a ticket and I decided to go anyway — sitting in a room with about 75 people who listened to the Trump candidates, munched away on rubber chicken marinara and paid for their own booze. And yes: I came back with photos and audio from the event. I guess Royal Scot isn't Las Vegas.

#5: Speaking of Royal Scot...

The staff told the crowd that the bowl-



Credit: City Pulse/Kyle Kaminski

A sparse crowd turned out for the MAGA rally Saturday (March 26) at the Capitol.

ing alley was a "Christian" business that fought the COVID-19 restrictions from the state and won. It was an odd sentiment, considering the company reached settlement agreements with both the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Liquor Control Commission wherein it temporarily lost licenses and paid fines.

They sure showed them big, meany-faced government types!

#6: The New World Order is coming.

Patrice Johnson, chairwoman of the Pure Integrity for Michigan Elections, blathered on a bit like a 1990s Militia adherent about the evil "New World Order" that President Joe Biden mentioned during a speech last week in Europe in reference to the loss of democracy in Ukraine.

But Johnson flung the words out like the black helicopters and UN troops were massing on the border of Eaton County to round us all up for the internment camps over in Grayling. Fear not, dear patriots: She soothed an unimpressed crowd with notice this was the "Great

Reset" — which is another framing of the New World Order, according to the Anti-Defamation League. She promised that it'll surprise all those elites when "we the people" finally take back elections.

#7: 'Dirty voter rolls' in East Lansing

Johnson claimed that her group knocked on 71 doors, spoke to 35 residents and collected 23 affidavits that showed false information from the election in East Lansing on March 5, 2020. She touts these "shocking" revelations and "noteworthy problems" on the group's website.

Ingham County Clerk Barb Byrum didn't mince words in response.

"I call bullcrap on such claims and activities perpetrated by these election conspiracy pushers," Byrum told City Pulse. "This is dangerous activity being done by election conspiracy proponents who have no understanding of Michigan election administration." Byrum encouraged anyone contacted by such groups to contact their local or county clerk.

#8: Nessel failed to defend Trump supporters?

Election conspiracy master Matthew DePerno (a candidate for the Republican secretary of state against nomination) whined that State Rep. Cynthia A. Johnson, a Detroit Democrat, should've been criminally charged for allegedly threatening violence toward Trump supporters.

Never mind that the alleged threat was a doctored video that had been pushed out through right-wing echo chambers until a Honduran YouTuber capitalized on it and made some cash while trashing Johnson's reputation. Johnson was also booted from committees by former House Speaker Lee Chatfield, along with condemnation by fellow Democratic leaders.

DePerno was whining about this injustice because a Republican-controlled Senate Oversight report on election conspiracies found that he and others were pushing false information to pad their pockets and should be criminally investigated by Attorney General Dana Nessel.

Nessel, a Democrat, was a frequent target throughout the day's events, with random calls to "Lock her up!" and during the MAGA Mixer, a call to put Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in Gitmo.

— TODD HEYWOOD

(Kyle Kaminski contributed to this story.)



City Pulse/Todd Heywood

A man poses with a "Jan. 6 Patriot" shirt.

SOE OF THE WEEK



Eye Sore: Trash at Bancroft Park

Since spring is here, we're de-touring around the many boarded-up and dilapidated buildings across Lansing this week in favor of a more scenic route through Bancroft Park on the east side.

There's a winding, wooded trail; a large grassy field that could probably use a picnic table or two; a few decks with water features; a playground; and last week — heaping piles of trash.

Fortunately, local neighbors caught the blockheads who dumped the mess on camera. Unfortunately, the suspects still haven't been apprehended by the Lansing Police Department.

Two vehicles — a late '90s or early 2000s dark blue Chevy or GMC extended cab pickup truck with a silver workbox in the back and a newer model, slate-colored SUV, possibly a Toyota — arrived at Bancroft Park at 2:02 p.m. March 18. Video footage obtained by police shows two hooded men heaving a mountain of garbage bags, broken furniture and other trash into the parking lot and then leaving the mess behind for city staffers and neighbors to clean up.

But because the video provided to police didn't capture the license plate numbers and there do not appear to be any other cameras at the park entrance, local cops have since turned to local residents to help with what could've easily been a routine, open-and-shut investigation.

Watch the video on LPD's Facebook page and dial (517) 483-4600 to report tips to authorities. In the meantime, city officials also told City Pulse that they're considering installing more police security cameras in the vicinity to help prevent the same thing from happening again next week.

— KYLE KAMINSKI

"Eyesore of the Week" is our weekly look at some of the seedier properties in Lansing. It rotates with Eye Candy of the Week and Eye for Design. Have a suggestion? Email Managing Editor Kyle Kaminski at eye@lansingcitypulse.com or call in a nomination at 517-999-6715.

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

By KYLE KAMINSKI



Two fire chief finalists in Lansing

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor could hire a new chief at the Fire Department as early as this week after the Board of Fire Commissioners recommended Battle Creek Fire Chief Brian Sturdivant (above right) and Sterling Heights Assistant Fire Chief Edwin Miller (above left). Nineteen applied. This will be the sixth Lansing fire chief in the last four years.

Read more about the candidates — and why they want the job — at lansingcitypulse.com.



Early voting begins for May election

The South Washington Election Unit at 2500 S. Washington Ave. has opened to Lansing residents for voter registration and voting on a \$130 million bond proposal for the Lansing School District that's on the ballot May 3. Walk-in early voting is available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and until 7 p.m. Wednesdays through April 29. Walk-in absentee voting is also available at City Hall 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Absentee ballots were mailed last week. Drop boxes are also available at both locations. Visit lansingvotes.com to request an absentee ballot or find additional ballot dropbox locations.

Teenagers charged in roadside shooting

Two unidentified Lansing teenagers — ages 14 and 16 — were charged in juvenile court with second-degree murder in the shooting death of 20-year-old Tomaz Shessia. Authorities said Shessia was shot and killed near a bus stop along the 4200 block of South Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard on Wednesday (March 23) morning. Five local teenagers have now been charged with murder in juvenile court in the past year, the Lansing State Journal reported.

Lansing Schools to fill board vacancy

The Board of Education at the Lansing School District is set to review applications, schedule interviews and vote this month to appoint a new board member to replace outgoing Vice President Nathan Burroughs. The choice will serve through November and then can run in November.

Whitmer: 'Michigan is on the move'

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced that the state has added jobs for 10 straight months with a low unemployment rate of 4.7% — down from a decades-long high of 20.7% reported last April. The latest state statistics show that 172,000 more jobs compared to last February.

Lansing rakes in weed cash

The tax revenues collected from Lansing's dispensaries led to a \$900,000 payday for the city after the state distributed its second revenue sharing payment. Last year's payment was \$280,000. Ingham County netted more than \$1 million from 19 licensed facilities, 16 in Lansing. East Lansing collected about \$169,000 from three dispensaries.

Cops: Stray bullets strike homes

Two homes along the 4000 block of Bowline Court in Delhi Township were struck by bullets at about 7:20 p.m. Sunday (March 26), the Ingham County Sheriff's Department said. Residents reported hearing three gunshots. Tips can be reported at (517) 244-1895.

Northern Tail Dog Park reopens

The park, at 6400 Abbot Road, will reopen Friday (April 1). Admission is free and the park will be open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. through the late fall.



Council condemns Russian invasion

The Lansing City Council unanimously passed a symbolic resolution on Monday (March 28) to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The resolution labeled the Ukrainian response as "strong and courageous" and denounced Russian President Vladimir Putin's "years-long aggression" against Ukraine.

Action on ex-firefighter's suit

A federal judge dismissed a portion of a longstanding lawsuit against the Lansing Fire Department that was levied by former firefighter Michael Lynn Jr. in 2019, finding that Lynn could not prove that he suffered an adverse employment action from racial discrimination, reports the Journal. Lynn billed the move as a "win" because another unresolved portion of the suit — a claim of a hostile work environment — can now continue on to a trial.

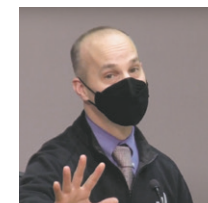


Schor rolls out new budget proposal

Lansing Mayor Andy Schor, who recently recovered from a COVID-19 infection, returned to City Hall on Monday (March 29) to submit his fifth annual budget proposal to the Council.

The plan focuses on "priorities for Lansing's future growth" and includes "strategic investment" in neighborhoods, parks and commercial corridors; community service needs; public safety; infrastructure; and continued racial justice work, Schor said in a press release.

Read more detailed coverage at lansingcitypulse.com.



Dear Reader,

I hope you've been enjoying the uptick in local coverage that City Pulse has been providing — much of it thanks to contributions by readers like you.

In print and online, donations are making a difference. Here are some examples since the first of the year:

- “Two years of pandemic survival” — a special issue on how Greater Lansing is dealing with COVID-19.
- “The Hunter’s Tale” — a serialization of a new graphic novel by local cartoon artist Ryan Claytor.
- BWL well water pollution — Freelance environmental writer Tom Perkins broke the story and continues to follow it with exclusive coverage.
- Former House Speaker Lee Chatwell’s sister-in-law accuses him of sexual assault. Todd Heywood broke the story online, then followed up with a look at the Up North church — or cult — that produced Chatwell.
- The Broad Museum at 10. Senior staff writer Lawrence Cosentino has followed the Broad from its inception. As the Broad marks a decade, he provided a knowledgeable look back and also broke the news that the museum will bring the Kresge collection out of storage in a new gallery.

Those and other stories, including weekly staples such as Kyle Melinn’s statehouse column, Rich Tupica’s Turn It Down music feature, restaurant and theater reviews, and much more — are thanks to your gifts to City Pulse and to the City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism.

You can give two different ways:

- Directly to City Pulse. That helps us with general expenses, including salaries for our dedicated staff, printing costs (and we have had six increases in the cost of paper — our biggest expense after payroll — since the beginning of 2021), distribution, the rent and everything else it takes to keep the doors open.
- To the City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism, a 501(c)3, for those of you who itemize your taxes and will benefit from a tax deduction.

However, you give, it will help keep City Pulse strong. We are now bigger on Wednesdays than any other print publication in our community. We did this together. Let’s keep up the good work!

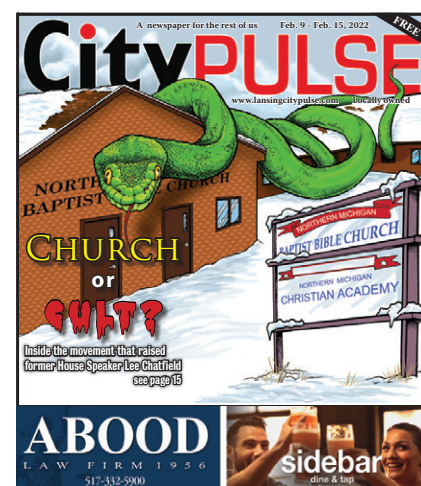
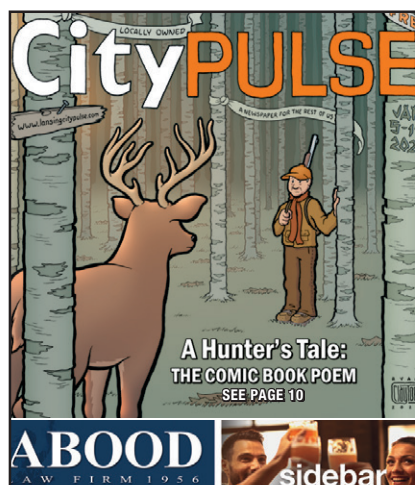
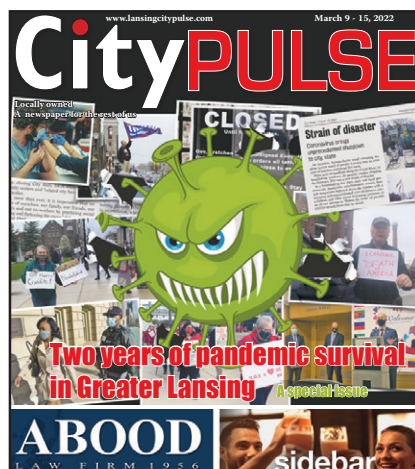
Sincerely,



Berl Schwartz
Editor & publisher

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Please make checks payable to City Pulse or City Pulse Fund for Community Journalism.**



School millage a no-brainer

We'll cut right to the chase. We're big supporters of the Lansing School District's bond proposal that aims to invest nearly \$130 million in another major round of modernizing the district's aging facilities. The "Zero Mill Increase" proposal will appear on the Tuesday, May 3, ballot in the city of Lansing, parts of East Lansing and neighboring townships that fall within the school district's boundaries.

If voters approve the millage, as we hope they will, the proceeds will finance the construction of four new buildings to replace the district's most seriously outdated elementary schools: Mt. Hope STEAM Magnet School, Willow Elementary, Lewton School and Sheridan Road STEM Magnet School — the oldest of which was built more than 70 years ago.

The district's plan also makes significant investments in J.W. Sexton High School on the city's west side, including upgrades to the auditorium, new ceilings and window coverings, improvements to athletic facilities and refreshing the learning environment. New systems to improve air quality and ensuring that every classroom has working air conditioning are also part of the program.

There are myriad reasons supporting the millage proposal is a good idea. Let's review a few of them.

First and foremost, the proposal doesn't raise anyone's taxes. It simply reups the LSD's existing education facilities millage, which the district previously used to finance the construction of the new Eastern High School and make significant improvements to Everett High School.

Every public institution eventually arrives at the need to renew its facilities. We've seen the consequences of decades of neglect of Michigan's transportation infrastructure. When infrastructure crumbles, the failure of the systems that depend on it is just a matter of time. That's why it's time to invest in modern educational infrastructure that will serve Lansing students for generations to come.

We know that the long-term prosperity of our city is inextricably tied to the quality of education in its schools and, just as important, the perception of that quality. There is a proven connection between the perception of high-quality schools and a region's ability to attract business investment, which creates jobs, increases property values and enhances our community's quality of life. The success of Lansing neighborhoods

depends on people choosing to live in them, and that decision is often informed by the perceived quality of neighborhood schools.

Consider the 1,000+ new jobs on the way to GM's \$2.5 billion battery plant in Delta Township. Where will its workers want to live? Most will be looking for

1960s and 1970s didn't do enough damage, schools of choice drained urban districts of both student talent and financial resources. Reversing the drain means continually raising LSD's game in order to narrow the margin between the perceived quality of Lansing schools compared to Holt or Haslett or East Lansing.

A vote for the bond proposal is a vote to take tangible steps toward reducing the still yawning disparities between Lansing schools and suburban districts. It's an investment in equity.

Approving the millage renewal won't solve the underlying challenges of economic stress on LSD students and their families. It won't erase the damage caused by the pandemic. It won't, on its own, close the achievement gap. But every worthwhile endeavor starts with a foundation and the bond proposal is a critical building block for the educational enterprise that will serve the needs of Lansing children for the next 50 years.

Within the broad success story of our nation's long-standing commitment to universal education are still too many examples of falling short, of inequitable distribution of resources, and of underinvestment in the single most powerful tool we can use to lift up young people and give them the best possible shot at success. We have a chance to do better in our own backyard. Let's seize the opportunity.

It's time to change the narrative about Lansing schools and that starts with believing in them and investing in them. State Rep. Sarah Anthony, who cochairs the millage campaign, said this one is a "hands-down, no-brainer."

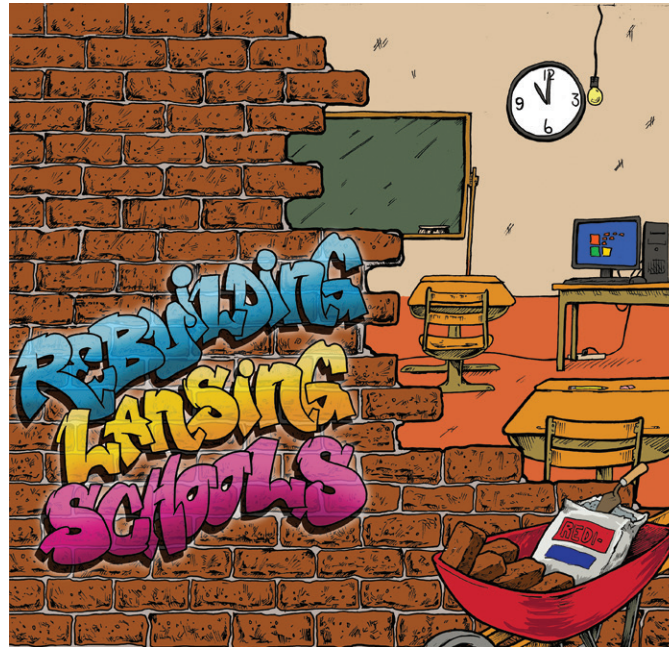
We concur. Vote yes on Tuesday, May 3. Learn more about the ballot proposal at yestolansingschools.com.

HOW TO VOTE

Register to vote by absentee ballot online or by mail by April 18 and then return a completed ballot by May 3. Voters can also register and vote in person on Election Day. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Absentee ballots returned within two weeks prior to Election Day should be hand delivered to avoid potential delays. Visit lansingvotes.com or michigan.gov/vote for more information.

Correction

Due to incorrect information provided to City Pulse, a story titled "Vandalized Malcolm X Historical Marker to be replaced — and refreshed" in the March 2 edition was incorrect. Photos provided to City Pulse indicate the sign was destroyed in March 2021, not in January, as previously estimated by Joy Gleason at Greater Lansing Destination Tours.



The CP Edit

Opinion

a community with quality housing, safe neighborhoods and good schools. Let's give them a good reason to choose Lansing.

Significant progress in elevating the academic success of LSD students also is a good reason to invest in better facilities. Student achievement may still rank in the bottom half of districts statewide, but LSD graduation rates have improved from just 54% to nearly 70% over the past five years. This remarkable success should be recognized, celebrated and rewarded with complementary investments in the district's facilities.

Investing in a going concern that shows progress and potential is always a smart move. Let's give the district's capable new superintendent, Ben Shuldiner, and our teachers the tools they need to provide Lansing students with the best we can afford to give them.

There is no doubt that schools of choice threw a wrench into urban education. As if white flight in the

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.)

Don't waste your cash on Councilman Brown's 'inspirational' book

By LUTHER VANWINKLE

Jeff Brown isn't just the newest member of the Lansing City Council. He's an author.

Review

And while his "inspirational" writing — at least so far — hasn't made any bestseller lists, I helped notch him one step closer to literary greatness this year when I bought a copy of his 2014 work, "Be Inspired," which Brown describes as "an inspirational journey." The foreword promised that the book would include "profound thought and truth that can unlock your greatest potential."

Unfortunately, the book didn't lead to any epiphanies. In fact, I finished it feeling quite the opposite: uninspired and disappointed for blowing about \$12 on a bunch of mostly blank pages.

The self-published softcover is about 200 pages. Half of them are filled with unattributed quotes that are designed to "inspire" the reader. The others are just filled with blank lines — presumably where readers are supposed to detail their own "moments of inspiration."

It's a fun concept, which would make sense if Brown's quotes were the least bit interesting.

Here are some of my favorite nuggets of wisdom from Brown. It's pretty deep stuff:

"Tasks are not priorities. Priorities are what's important."

"Many people see opinion as bad, but that is opinion."

"Our thoughts are kept in our most secret place, our heart."

"What is the point of pointing out the point if there is no point? Wow."

"Break through your barriers fighting. Left, right, uppercut. Boom."

"Tweedle dee and tweedle dumb. Sometimes people treat you like you are dumb."

Brown paid a few thousand dollars for his online master's and doctorate degrees in theology, so his book also included a few faith-based references that describe the role that God plays in his life: "I don't let God bring me down. I let him lift me up," Brown wrote across one of the pages.

Most of the other entries were just a hodgepodge of buzzwords without a coherent point: "Commitment. Connection. Confession. Confidence. Charisma. All require consistent humility compromising opinion to operate from a prism of perspective through the lens of com-

passion."

Here's another: "Inspired to elevate. Elevated to empower. Empowered to lead. Leading to equip. Equipped to prepare. Prepared to succeed. Succeed to inspire. Inspired to create hope. Hope to believe. Believe to help. Help to share. Share to love. Love to live. Live to love. Wow."

Brown also included one rather confusing entry about politics: "Politics is simply a word, in other words it doesn't actually exist. However, every situation that we must face locally, nationally and across the globe does exist. Just a thought, but you know I really don't get involved in politics."

Several entries also appeared to have been written on an airplane and only promote airline travel: "I know the cost may be less traveling by ground but is it worth the experience, the time, and the

possibility that where you are supposed to be cannot be reached by ground? Don't be afraid and fly to your next destination. Let the wind carry you." Others read: "Fly to your next destination. It's the only

way to travel." and "See yourself at the airport purchasing a plane ticket to that promotion, to that island, to that vision, to that new car, to that husband. It's FREE."

I bought this book with the hope of finding out a little more about Brown because, frankly, Lansing didn't really do its homework when it decided to elect him to the Council. And what we do know is troubling: He has a record of unsuccessful home healthcare businesses. He also filed bankruptcy in 2015, apparently costing employees

tens of thousands of dollars in income. He has been known to pal around with Trump Republicans. And he seems perfectly comfortable with operating in the shadows; He hasn't had an interview with local media outlets for months.

Unfortunately, this book only left me with more questions, like: Why did I waste my money?



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Let's **#FixTheDamnInternet** in Ingham County

THE MICHIGAN
MOONSHOT

The learning journey of a new artist

By **DEDRIA HUMPHRIES BARKER**

As I write my column, I am listening to the historic confirmation hearings for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson. She is the first Black woman to be nominated for the U.S. Supreme Court. This is Black history in the making. And it's not even Black History Month.

That was February.

Last month, in February, my column titled, "The Learning Ways of Black Clergy," paid tribute to the most vital, most active, most effective, most indispensable players in the freedom quest of Black Americans, going all the way back to 1619.

It was published with one of my little drawings of blue-skinned people that I have filled two notebooks with over the pandemic. It was suitable, if not literal; not meant to represent either of the two clergy persons whose learning ways were described.

Rather, the drawing of a human with outstretched arms and a downcast chin, but direct eyes, evoked a mood. It seemed to suggest Jesus, though there was no cross, or hill, or heaven.

How lucky I am to be able to have a place to display my art. Not all beginning artists do. But with support from my publisher, I applied for an art grant from the East Lansing Arts Commission, and I got it.

Almost as soon as the commission-



Barker

ers voted, my proposal for three spring shows fell apart. I'd been scheduled for The Public Gallery in the Hannah Community Center, but the COVID-spike undid that. Their next open date was August. My project period ends June 30.

The COVID-spike also seemed responsible for the MSU Broad Art Lab closing February through March, but then it closed for good, canceling my show in May. I don't know why it closed. A City Pulse report by Larry Cosentino on the 10-year anniversary of the Broad Museum detailed some of the background challenges there.

I needed to renegotiate my show at the East Lansing Public Library. Space has been tight there since the repurposing of its gallery operated by the Friends fundraising group. Thank goodness the eye-catching brick wall gallery near the big front windows remains, but recently, the Friends reaffirmed the fundraising purpose of that space.

So, there I was, scrambling like a student who could not register for required courses for their major. I combed the City of East Lansing for replacement venues, and new arrangements.

If only I was an MSU alumnus. The beautiful Union building gallery is open only to students and alumni. The art school also operates the city-owned (Scene) Metrospace, at 110 Charles Street. An invitation for local artist exhibits is written on the front windows, but as soon as the current exhibit of MSU critical race studies artist-in-residence, Dan Paz, ends Friday (April 1),

another show is going right up. And that's the case into summer.

As any student knows, just when you think you have studied enough, up pops another all-nighter. Bring on the vat of Red Bull.

I discovered non-traditional private spaces generally exhibit their own stash. Think Beggar's Banquet, or the new McLaren Hospital, or East Lansing City Hall. Or they are too-huge. Artist Zahrah Resh spent three months making the flowers to fill the Butterfly Garden show in the MSU Federal Credit Union headquarters lobby on West Road.

Or they host art as an event. Before the pandemic my church, All Saints Episcopal on Abbott Road, hosted the popular Potter's Guild sale of ceramics.

Art exhibit by Dedria Humphries Barker

April 15-16: Urban Cottage Art Show, 134 Leslie Street, Lansing.

May: East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbott Road, East Lansing.

June: Blue Owl Coffee Co., 213 Ann Street, East Lansing.

The big new building on Ann Street ushered in two new exhibit locations. The showcase in the pedestrian underpass of the building is curated by the National Alliance of Mental Illness, Lansing, but how to get in touch quickly? The store-front Foster Coffee Co. has no system for hanging art yet. Push pins secured lightweight fiber weavings on exhibit in March.

Across the street at Blue Owl Coffee, art hangs in the window. On a clothesline. Yep. And they use clothespins to hold up unframed work, and S-rings for framed art. This ingenuity also marks the art curated by Siso Dhladhla as being among the newest of the new.

Coming up for air, I craved the respite of Saper Galleries and Custom Framing. Of East Lansing galleries, private or pub-



Photo by Dedria H. Barker

Artist Zahrah Resh filled MSUFCU headquarters with paper flowers for the AgeAlive exhibition, now through May 9.

lic, Saper Galleries is the oldest. It's been on Albert Street for 42 years.

Owned and operated by the same committed individual, Roy Saper, Saper Galleries is a world class gallery which has hosted major exhibits including Picasso, Rembrandt and Hebron Glass. People lined up down the block to see the Dr. Suess exhibit. Maybe one day I will be among the 150 artists exhibiting there, but right now I just want to ace my first grant.

With its 59-year-old juried art festival, East Lansing was the logical place for newbie artists like me to test my new interest. However, the city itself falls short on spaces where a fledgling artist can exhibit. Unless they are perfect in their arrangements.

And the creek don't rise.

Every student knows and dreads group work. Yet, that seems to grow the arts in Greater Lansing. I am happy to recognize Lansing Mayor Andy Schor's Arts & Culture Commission on its announcement of a plan for a downtown performing arts center, which may provide room for the Lansing Art Gallery. Not soon enough for me, but I solved my show venue problem.

Dedria Humphries Barker, a Lansing resident, is the chairperson of The Andrew and Mary Jane Humphries Foundation, and the author of a book about education for girls, Mother of Orphans: The True and Curious Story of Irish Alice, A Colored Man's Widow. Her opinion column appears on the last Wednesday of each month.

CITY OF LANSING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Act-8-2021 Sale of "Lot 50" (PID #33-01-01-16-277-043)

The Lansing City Council will hold a public hearing on April 11, 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 Parking Lot 50, at the southwest corner of E Shiawassee St. and Pere Marquette Dr. specifically described as:

PARTS OF LOTS 40 & 41 COM NW COR LOT 40, TH S 309.15 FT, E 78 FT +/- TO W LINE PERE MARQUETTE DR R/W, N 09DEG W 49 FT +/-, N 00DEG 02MIN E 260 FT TO N LINE LOT 40, W 71.49 FT TO BEG; ASSESSORS PLAT NO 36

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. 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.

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

CP#22-075

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT INGHAM COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate Case No. 22-380-DE

Estate of E. Lynn John Bowers. Date of birth: December 26, 1948

TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:

The decedent, E. Lynn John Bowers, died March 11, 2022. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Jeffrey S. Bowers, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 313 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI 48933, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: March 17, 2022
Robert L. Refior II P43374
1515 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Ste 5
Lansing, MI 48910
517-394-8890

Jeffrey S. Bowers
612 Hawbrook Ave.
Kirkwood, MO 63122
314-378-2667 CP#22-074

ARTS & CULTURE

ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

Space Dogg Collective injects a dose of bass music into Lansing

By CHLOE ALVERSON

Space Dogg Collective might sound like a pack of K-9 astronauts, but it's not. If you listen closely, you'll hear the thumping sound of bass music. Passion for the hard-hitting genre is what started the group.

The Lansing-based collective, made up of "Space Doggs," are simply artists and musicians who are on a mission to further amplify the Capital City's bass and dance music scene. The goal of the group, what they call their ethos, is to create a welcoming environment where people can "be confident in their own skin and own minds and enjoy life in its most pure form."

Devon Kirby, Space Dogg's event coordinator and social media lead, described the collective as an event and production group. Kirby, 28, is from Lansing and is a "career bartender and server" currently working at Soup Spoon Cafe. He performs under the name Skeptic, and his music can be found on SoundCloud. He said the group is approaching live shows with a different mindset and style than typical event producers.

"I think there's a certain aesthetic to these DIY shows in basements, somewhere, stoned by some friends, that I think has a lot of character we can channel," Kirby said. "In addition to that, we're informed by festivals and EDM. We're melding a lot of what we like about both of those aspects together."

For those who want an in-person sonic sample, Space Dogg Collective hosts its next event, Bass Doggs, Friday (April 1) at The Avenue Café. The event features bass-focused dance and drum music from Kirby (a.k.a. Skeptic), and two other acts, Surge and PRIM. The free event is billed as a way to "inject a dose of bass music" into the Lansing community. This event is yet another passion project their team has masterminded over the last few years.

Kirby, who became involved with Space Dogg in 2018, after he and some friends threw a Christmas party. The friends rented sound equipment, threw together visuals and recordings and performed their music. Space Dogg had always been the name the friends called their camp at music festivals, so the name stuck.



Shelby Robinson

Space Dogg Collective is a Lansing-based event and production group.

"We were like, 'Oh, maybe we could move this into a legitimate venue and try to cultivate what this kind of vibe is,'" lead designer Kameron Chavez said. "(Space Dogg) is what we called our group. We took that name and turned it into an actual business."

Chavez, 31, said he became involved with the group in 2018, along with Kirby. Originally from Muskegon, Chavez now lives in Lansing and works as a freelance graphic designer with a focus on branding.

Chavez, who performs under project name is OBSRVR, said he produces all the music himself and plays the drums live. His music, which can be streamed on most music platforms, is heavily influenced by artists like Tycho and Odesza. Chavez's forthcoming album, "Balance," is set for a June 3 release. The collective is planning an event to celebrate its release.

Kirby, whose project is EDM-leaning, said his strength, right now, is his live DJing skills, so he considers himself to be "more of a live act."

"I haven't dedicated as much time to the production aspect of things such as Kam, so I'm not nearly as refined in that sense as him," Kirby said. "I definitely think I bring out an incredible live energy."

Bass Doggs

8:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.,
April 1

The Avenue Café
2021 E. Michigan Ave.,
Lansing

I usually catch a room of different people at different times and get them moving or keep them engaged. I take pride in that."

But it's not just about their missions. Kirby said the collective is always looking to grow the community and bring in like-minded, positive individuals. If someone comes to the group looking for help with music or show production, the Space Dogg crew will try to help. Chavez said that's where his branding and design expertise comes in.

"Brand strategy is a huge part of that," Chavez said. "Asking a bunch of questions in the forefront to get an idea of what their goals are with their audi-

ence, all that stuff, is really helpful when you're trying to either put on an event or produce a track for someone. There's a lot of overlap there."

Eventually, the group would like to start booking shows outside of Lansing, but the Avenue Café on Michigan Avenue has been a great starting place for Space Dogg to experiment.

"They let us come in and kind of do a trial run around Halloween (2021)," Kirby said. "The owner seemed to really enjoy it. I thought it brought a lot of unique energy to the area."

As the group continues to "hone the craft and have results" to show, they hope to move their vision to venues like the Intersection in Grand Rapids and the UFO Factory in Detroit. Kirby said Space Dogg wants to produce shows of "higher quality at smaller levels" while including local artists and vendors.

"We really want to bring a style of live music to Lansing that is sorely missing," Kirby said. "That being bass music, as well as the more involved production, such as lights and live visuals."

Favorite Things

Casey Elizabeth Holland and her first edition copy of 'Hangsaman'



Courtesy

Casey Elizabeth Holland is a professional bookworm who co-owns a used bookshop, Wayfaring Booksellers, in the REO Town Market-place. Her favorite thing is a sentimental gift from her mother, an original copy of "Hangsaman," a 1951 gothic novel. Holland adores the author and holds this old copy of the book close to her heart.

My favorite thing is a first edition copy of "Hangsaman," by my favorite author, Shirley Jackson. It was a gift for my 26th birthday, a little more than a year ago, from my mother. The first summer of the pandemic, I was living at home with her because of housing issues. I spent a lot of my time during those early COVID months just reading, when I wasn't doing work from home. That's how she discovered my love for Shirley Jackson.

I was reading "Hangsaman" for the first time and sharing it with her. Because of those memories of the summer, it prompted her to find me a really special edition of that specific book because she knew how much I loved the author and

the story. For my birthday the following year, that's what she got me.

I already had a feeling I would love the book, because I had read a lot of Shirley Jackson's other books at that point. What made me love "Hangsaman" is that its part coming-of-age story and part gothic, eerie, horror-mystery story — all wrapped into one. It's also hilarious at times. It kept me on my toes and kept my mind busy while the world was falling apart.

I love old books. I love used books. There's something really special about holding a book in your hands that's been around for decades, or hundreds of years. Having the first edition of something by an author that I love, who is no longer alive ... it's weird to be able to hold something that was around when she was. It's especially sentimental because it was such a thoughtful gift from somebody that I love.

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

SunChef Kitchen food truck brings sun-sational health food to Lansing

By CHLOE ALVERSON

For those in search of comfort food without the guilt, a new option has risen over Great Lansing. SunChef Kitchen Food Truck — a colorful truck adorned with a vibrantly painted sunset — has plenty of both vegetarian and meat dishes to choose from.

Much of the inspiration behind SunChef came from owner Mike Paski's desire to find fresh and healthy local food to enjoy after a workout. Paski, who is also a professional poker player, said

from a variety of chef Andon Grieve-McSweeney's dynamic dishes. Many are free of not only meat, but also gluten. Options include the deluxe grilled cheese (with shaved asparagus, mushrooms, red onion and kalamata olives) and the SunChef burger, which is grass-fed beef topped with lemon garlic aioli. SunChef also has breakfast dishes.

"Mike and I have always been health-oriented," Grieve-McSweeney said. "We wanted to create this restaurant that was oriented around health food, but comfort health food."

Grieve-McSweeney said he's been a vegetarian for most of his life, but Paski said that, while SunChef Kitchen serves



SunChef Kitchen Food Truck

5002 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Wednesday – Saturday
(517) 388-5165



Chloe Alversen/City Pulse

Chef Andon Grieve-McSweeney (left) and owner Mike Paski outside of SunChef Kitchen food truck.

SunChef is a place for people who want to be body conscious but don't want to deal with the cooking and cleaning. He considers the dishes at SunChef to be "healthy comfort food."

SunChef made its debut in late January, and the Delta Township parking lot will be its home for the foreseeable future.

"If you just want healthy food, but you still want it to taste good, this is where you can come," Paski said. "We can also do straight-up healthy food with nothing added. We'll make it custom to what you want."

At the truck, customers can choose

plant-based proteins like tofu and tempeh, it's not an exclusively vegetarian spot. Customers can still choose meat options such as chicken or beef.

"We want to influence the area in a good, impactful way," Grieve-McSweeney said. "We also want to source quality ingredients — support local farmers markets and farms. We're trying to order things from people that will support the community, too."

Paski added that this is just the beginning for him and his team. He hopes to open a brick-and-mortar SunChef Kitchen restaurant within the next year.

The future is here — and it’s a frickin’ laser bong

Georgia company uses beams to burn bud

By KYLE KAMINSKI

If you’re a regular reader of this column, then you already know that I prefer to keep these reviews focused almost exclusively on products from Greater Lansing. The Capital City is home to some pretty bright minds in the cannabis industry — and plenty of good weed, too. So, I rarely feel compelled to travel far in order to bring back some dank recommendations for our readers.

My spam folder must recognize this. Because when the folks at Hitoki reached out from Georgia to tell me about their latest smoking technology, it ended up going straight into my junk mail. And it would’ve stayed there too, had it not been for two words that caught my eye: laser bong.

That’s right. Hitoki somehow managed to travel back from the future to create a \$500 water bong that beams down a high-powered laser onto your bowl to light your weed. The bongs over

at Wild Bill’s simply can’t compete, so I figured I’d introduce Lansing to an out-of-state treat.

Joe Tran, who founded Hitoki in 2019 with his brother Jack, reportedly dreamed up the idea for the futuristic Trident bong after he smoked a joint, got really high and was inspired by those keychain laser pen pointer toys usually found near the checkout lanes at dollar stores.

But after toking on this thing for the last week, I can confirm: The Trident is no cheap gimmick. In fact, it easily takes the title of the most luxurious and high-tech item in my collection.

I’ll admit it: I was downright giddy about this sample package arriving from Georgia last week.

The bong comes in three colors: black, rose gold and 24K metallic gold. Mine was black. It also came along with a USB-C charging cable for its built-in battery and two mouthpiece attachments: a rubber, hookah-like hose and a more traditional, L-shaped silicone attachment. I preferred the latter because, well, it just felt more like a bong. It was

also much easier to clean.

The assembly is cake: Just fill up the water chamber 25% of the way, plug in the battery and wait about 90 minutes for the blue light. Then, pack the ceramic

See Laser bong, Page 14



Lansterdam
in Review:
Hitoki Trident



Hitoki’s state-of-the-art “laser bong.”

Courtesy



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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.

Laser bong

from page 13

ic chamber with ground-up bud, screw it all together, ditch your Bic and get ready to get totally baked George Jetson style.

Simply hold down the button on top of the device to send down a blue beam into the bowl that begins to instantly combust the bud, filling the bottom chamber with thick clouds of smoke. There's also a choke button on the side for those who may have trouble clearing the chamber.

I found that each bowl lasted for about three hits. A full battery supposedly lasts about 280 hits — so long that I still haven't had to recharge mine after about a full week of smoking every day.

That's pretty remarkable considering this bong houses a Class IV laser beam, a cautionary category that is reserved only for the highest-powered lasers that give off enough heat to pose a fire hazard and burn risk, according to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.



But don't worry, paranoid stoners: The beam is totally contained inside a transparent, red-tinted plastic shell that allows you to watch the laser do its job without frying out your eyeballs. It's also designed in such a way that it literally will not operate unless it's securely locked in place.

It took me a few puffs to get the bowl glowing, but it really became a breeze after a bit of practice. And even though the single chamber is small, it still made for remarkably smooth hits.

Those unimpressed with the "state-of-the-art" technology may instead appreciate the cleaner combustion process. Unlike a butane-powered lighter, I felt the laser beam offered a healthier alternative to lighters and perhaps allowed for a truer flavor of the flower to shine through.

All told, this is definitely an eye-catching product that's ridiculously fun to strut out in front of your pothead friends at parties. (I mean, how many people can say they've smoked a laser bong?)

It's also great for luxury-minded smokers with some extra cash to blow on their favorite hobby.

And just in time for the holidays, Hitoki is offering 20% off the Trident from April 18 to 20, as well as other deals and giveaways throughout the month of April. Visit hitoki.com for more details.

Kyle Kaminski is City Pulse's managing editor and a cannabis enthusiast who has been smoking marijuana just about daily for the last decade. Editor & Publisher Magazine has labeled him as "arguably, the state's authority on everything you need to know about cannabis."

East Lansing rescue finds fur-ever homes for animals



By **CHELSEA PHILLIPS**

Ashley Kelley was hospitalized for 10 months following a near-fatal car accident in September 2015. During that time, Kelley's pets, which she calls her "fur babies," were permitted to visit. Kelley said that animals are a "fundamental healing element" in many people's lives, including her own.

She had always been passionate about helping animals and witnessing the love they offered. Her recovery only increased her passion for helping them. This led Kelley to open Willow Haven Animal Sanctuary in October 2020.

When the sanctuary started, workers found themselves very busy because many people working from home wanted pets. Kelley noted that they struggled to keep up with demand at first, but demand is slowing down.

The sanctuary rescues both cats and dogs, but primarily dogs due to the difficulty of rehabilitating and re-adopting cats. Kelley is seeking to purchase property and expanding the sanctuary's operations to include larger animals. The rescue accepts in-kind donations of blankets, crates and toys. Monetary donations will soon be able to be made through their Facebook donation page, which is pending approval. A website for the organization is also in the works.

The rescue takes in animals from local shelters and shelters as far away as Oakland County. Many dogs come from Texas, due to the state having an overpopulation issue. Additionally, they rescue dogs from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands with their sister rescue, Midwest Small Breed Rescue, in Grosse Pointe.

All animals available for adoption are listed through its Facebook page and on the website petfinder.com. Those interested in adopting must fill out an application and be approved before meeting any animals. The animal's foster parents will then reach out via phone to conduct an interview. The rescue sanctuary also conducts a virtual home inspection

Willow Haven Animal Sanctuary

Willow Haven can only be reached by phone or email. willowhavenas@gmail.com
(260) 667-961



Courtesy

Adoptable pets can be found on Willow Haven Animal Sanctuary's Facebook page.

tion or an in-person home inspection. If other animals are in the home, the rescue animals must meet them first. Donation fees for adoption range anywhere from \$75 to \$125 for cats and \$250 to \$450 for dogs. Rates depend on age, breed, size and health of the animal.

While the process may seem extensive, Kelley said that she takes her job very seriously, believing that she owes it to the animals to find a good home because "a lot of them have been through literal living hells." Despite the tragedies that these animals have gone through, Kelley said they are "bent, never broken."

The phrase is something that her mother used to say about willow trees, which is how Kelley got inspiration for the organization's name. Kelley explained that she was not broken after her car accident, and neither are the animals that are rescued.

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Andy Schor, Mayor

Sharon Emery shares her grief and happiness journey

By BILL CASTANIER

Lansing journalist and communications professional Sharon Emery has written a cut-to-the-bone story in her new memoir, "It's Hard Being You: A Primer on Being Happy Anyway." The first sentence in her book grips you like a thriller: "To tell you where I'm coming from — and maybe who I really am — I have to set off a little bomb: I am the mother of a dead child."

Explosive revelations like that are a common experience in Emery's dramatic retelling of her life. It spans the death of her daughter, Jessica, in a drowning, which is intertwined with the suicide of her sister and the loss of her brother.

In August 2002, Emery's 25-year-old daughter drowned in Lake Huron while swimming with her sister and a friend. Like any parent, Emery struggled and moved forward. Six months before the death of her daughter, Emery and her brother made a trip to the site of her

"I wanted to pass along some of the things I have learned along the way, without preaching," she said. "When Jessica died and dreams started, I felt I should write them down."

It's important to emphasize that Emery's book isn't just about the death of her daughter. It is also about the life of her daughter, who at a young age was diagnosed as "developmentally disabled." Emery writes about the joys of raising and living with Jessica, who she describes as "able to light up a room." She calls Jessica her "lodestar."

She also details how close Jessica was with her three siblings, in both life and death. After Jessica's passing, the children each found ways to include Jessica in their life posthumously. Emery points to several examples, but the one unaccompanied groomsman at a son's wedding says it all.

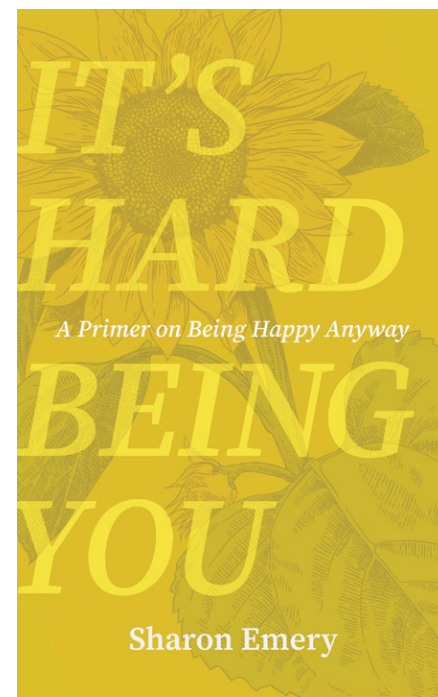
"After her death, we always included Jessica in our conversations," Emery said. "Even after she wasn't with us, I didn't want her to be the elephant in the room. She couldn't be a taboo subject, which is often the case in the loss of a child."

Emery relays one magic moment that occurred a few weeks after the loss of Jessica, when she and her husband returned to their Northern Michigan cottage. While walking along the beach, the couple discovered a lonely sunflower



Courtesy

Lansing journalist Sharon Emery recently published a memoir, "It's Hard Being You."



Courtesy

The sunflower on the cover of Emery's book was drawn by her older son.

Meet the author:

"It's Hard Being You:
A Primer on Being Happy
Anyway"
Sharon Emery
MSU's Community Music
School
4930 Hagadorn Rd., East
Lansing
1 p.m. — 3 p.m. April 3

Her brother died nine years later.

Following those tragic losses, Emery began having vivid dreams and started detailing them in a journal. The book uses those dreams as the beginning point of each chapter.

"There was no specific event, but I had a very compelling feeling that I needed to create some permanency around my experiences and to — and to be brave enough to write a memoir," Emery said.

That should not be a surprise, since Emery has been brave her entire life. She's dealt with a severe stutter, something she struggled with while seeking a variety of unsuccessful treatments. That's also covered in the book. Despite that challenge, Emery pivoted to something she was good at: writing.

Memoirs are one of the most popular genres, but most are poorly written. Not in this case: Emery's writing soars. Emery said she wrote the book primarily for her surviving children. It goes unsaid that she also wrote it for herself. Throughout the book, Emery also provides bullet-like self-help tips for readers who may be dealing with their own grief.

growing in the sand — a seeming tribute to the daughter they loved. A sunflower adorns the cover of Emery's book, which was drawn by her older son.

"It was a miracle and a wonderful symbol of resilience standing in rock and sand washed by the waves," she said.

Important, Emery doesn't duck the difficulty spouses can have when dealing with the loss of a child. She recalls that right after their daughter's death, her husband, John Schneider, a former longtime columnist for the Lansing State Journal, said, "We can't let this tear us apart."

Emery said the healing was helped in part by her husband's daily column in the Journal, where he openly acknowl-

edged the terrible tragedy. Periodically, Schneider followed their beloved daughter during her life, including a tender column about a father-daughter dance.

"Following John's columns, we received hundreds of letters from readers, which I've kept," Emery said.

Accident Fund Insurance Company of America is seeking a Lead Release Engineer in East Lansing, MI to facilitate regular software release planning and approval across all Information Technology (IT) and Product Management Office (PMO) areas. Send resume to Tamie Nolan, 200 N. Grand Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933 or via email at tamie.nolan@emergentholdingsinc.com and reference job title and location.

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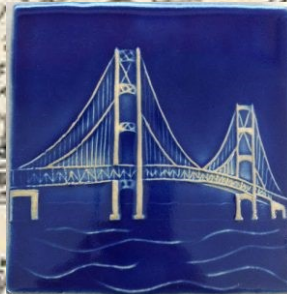
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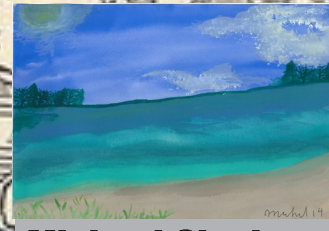
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Elaborate “clean in place” systems scour pipes and holding vats at MWC Glanbia’s St. Johns cheese and whey processing facility.

MADE IN
LANSING

A celebration of things made in greater Lansing

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Welcome to City Pulse’s first-ever “Lansing Made” issue, a tradition we hope to continue for years to come.

Looking statewide, many things are made in Michigan, “a hand as fruitful as the land that feeds us,” as Shakespeare described the Mitten State. (Actually, he was describing something else, so excuse his omission of the Upper Peninsula.)

The value of Michigan’s diverse local agriculture and industries has never been more evident than it has in recent months, in the wake of a pandemic, widespread disruption of the global supply chain and a catastrophic European war. These, and many other future uncertainties, lurk beyond the shores of the Great Lakes, but here in Michigan, at least for the time being, things seem well in hand.

However, this time, we have chosen to focus on a sampling of things that are made near our home base of greater Lansing. We can only showcase a tiny sample of the state’s great bounty in the space we have, but the half-dozen businesses profiled in these pages offer a window into the astonishing diversity of agricultural, manufacturing and high-tech products being made across the state.

With a couple of exceptions, we’ve chosen to showcase things that are made locally but seldom, if ever, get a local retail showcase. You may never buy a circuit board or an air compressor, for example, or even think about them, but every time you drive a car, you are relying on both.

In agriculture alone, the scale of activity represented here ranges from colossal operations like the MWC Glanbia cheese

and whey processing plant in St. Johns, which pumps out 800,000 pounds of cheese a day across the nation, to Agape Organic Farms near Dansville, where Berkshire pigs, nutritious microgreens and artisanal mushrooms are grown by a scientifically minded, determined single mom, to the delight of locally conscious diners.

The area’s diverse industrial output ranges from the hulking cast iron air compressors fabricated by 115-year-old Saylor-Beall Manufacturing Co. of St. Johns to Lectronix Inc. in Lansing, where computer-savvy designers and builders turn out high-tech circuit boards for a variety of complex motor vehicles and other devices.

We’ll see how nimbly Michigan entrepreneurs jump into a niche and adapt old equipment for a new purpose, as Larry Judge of Mitten State Malt in Okemos retooled obsolete dairy and farm equipment to process malt for thirsty local breweries and distilleries.

No tour is complete without a stop at the gift shop. The jam-packed (including jams) gift shop at the Michigan History Center near the state Capitol is a showcase for hundreds of products made in Michigan, from Upper Peninsula copper to neckties made in Detroit.

You can’t buy a 30-horsepower air compressor or a 640-pound block of cheese, but you can take home a pair of Petoskey stone earrings as a reminder that our state is built on a sound bedrock of smart people, big ideas and hard work.

Country Boy Farms



From dirt roads and big dreams, Country Boy Farms (CBF) was founded by a 3rd generation agriculture farmer with the support of family and friends. Farming the banks of Michigan's Shiawassee River, in a small town named Chesaning, we are proud to have planted roots in the same place we are raising our families.

Our founders possess a strong work ethic, and a passion for growing plants. For decades, they researched, dreamed, and worked tirelessly to build this business. CBF has been producing premium cannabis products since the passage of the Michigan Medical Marijuana Program in 2008.

CBF is an independent company that values their employees above all else. We know our greatest assets are the people who show up daily to produce the quality products we stamp our name on.



Made in Lansing

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BIG CHEESE

St. Johns cheese and whey plant ramps up to full capacity at MWC

Hang on to your tuffet, little Miss Muffett. Here comes the biggest wad of curds and whey you've ever seen. Let's hope the spider isn't to scale.

MWC, a spanking new, 400,000-square-foot cheese and whey processing plant near St. Johns, north of Lansing, is designed to handle a staggering 8 million pounds of milk a day — 25 percent of the milk produced in the state. The 120-acre complex came on line in October 2020 and ramped up to full capacity in June 2021, a joint venture of the multinational food giant Glanbia Nutritionals, Dairy Farmers of America and El Paso-based Select Milk Producers.

Manish Paudel came to St. Johns from Glanbia's Gooding, Idaho, plant four years ago, excited at the prospect of helping build and staff a huge new facility.

He describes the mammoth operation as calmly as if it were a quiet artisanal shop, although he admits that "it's a pretty big facility and there's a lot going on."

Before becoming site manager at St. Johns, Paudel was part of the team that hired and trained the plant's 216 employees.

Why park such a giant operation smack in the middle of Michigan? For much the same reason Lansing became the capital.

"Look at a Michigan map," he said. "We're right in the middle of it. It's a strategic location where dairy farmers can bring their product to market without paying high freight costs. Before we were here, all that milk was going out of the state."

Glanbia, a name derived from the Irish words for "pure" (glan) and "food," has its roots in the consolidation of the Irish dairy industry in the 19th and 20th centuries from small farmers to cooperatives to larger processing plants. The St. Johns plant is one of seven U.S. facilities run by MWC Glanbia.

Every day, around the clock, about 100 tankers of milk from a 100-mile ra-



Courtesy

It takes about two hours for milk to separate into cheese and whey.



Courtesy

Holding tanks are frequently inspected at MWC Glanbia's mammoth new cheese and whey processing plant in St. Johns.

dius pull into eight receiving bays. Regular sized tankers hold 50,000 pounds of milk. "Supertankers" hold 110,000 pounds.

"Those are unique to Michigan," Paudel said. "We never saw supertankers in

Idaho."

The raw milk supply is pasteurized and sent into horizontal cheese vats where rennet and cheese cultures are added.

"We basically cook the cheese in those vats," Paudel said.

It takes about two hours for the enzymes to do their mysterious work and turn a vat of milk into a soup of solid cheese curds and liquid whey.

The slurry is fed onto a massive conveyor belt system two stories tall, where the whey and the cheese curds part ways.

The curds are banished to "the towers," where they are pressed into dense, 640-pound blocks about half the size of a refrigerator. Some of the cheese is cut into 40-pound blocks.

The cheese is chilled in a warehouse for about two weeks before being shipped to big users and sellers of cheddar, Monterey Jack, Colby Jack and similar American-style cheeses, mostly in the Midwest and on the East Coast, including many well-known companies.

Meanwhile, the liquid whey is pumped to a processing plant, where lactose and minerals are removed. Multiple filtration stations bring the whey's protein content from 1% to 90%. The result is whey protein isolate, a concentrated powder used in nutritional supplements and similar products for athletes, babies and other voracious humans.

A separate company, Proliant, has a plant at the St. Johns site where it processes lactose permeate — lactose and minerals left over from the cheese making process.

The milky water left over from the process is filtered, used to clean the plant equipment and sent to an in-house wastewater treatment plant.

Paudel thanked the people and the state of Michigan for "one of the best ramp-ups in the industry."

"We're fortunate to have the skill set this area has," he said. "Zero to 8 million gallons a day in six months is pretty impressive. They picked this stuff very quickly, they were in line with our safety and quality values, and did it all in the middle of a pandemic."

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TOP OF THE TOWN WINNER - Throughout our nine years, OTGS has consistently been voted one of the Best Gift Stores in the City Pulse "Top Of The Town" contest, winning the top spot multiple times.

GIFT BASKETS - The Old Town General Store specializes in custom Michigan gift baskets that are created from the large selection of specialty items from small Michigan businesses. Customers are encouraged to create their own mixture of Michigan-made goods and the helpful staff at OTGS will wrap it up into a presentation that will make you proud. If you don't have the time, no worries; we always have ready-made baskets in a variety of sizes available for a quick grab and go. Shipping and local delivery are also options.

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HARVEST FROM THE HANDS

Michigan History Center Gift Shop doubles down on buying local

Touristy trinkets made overseas and slapped with a local logo have never gotten much traction at the Michigan History Center and Library of Michigan gift shop, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., just west of downtown Lansing.

But the fun and pride of buying local took on a new dimension when store manager Kay Ann Schlang joined the shop in October 2019.

“We really pivoted when the pandemic hit,” Schlang said. “The bulk stuff that came from overseas is impossible to get. Container shipping charges and port delays have been ridiculous. So everybody that’s reached out to me, I’ve tried to find a place for them in the store — pottery, consumables, even coffee.”

Dozens of artisans and vendors from around the state bring their best work here, from jewelry to toys, books, honey and jam, clothing and sundry unclassifiable treasures.

Here you can find earrings made of quintessentially Michigan stuff such as Upper Peninsula copper, Petoskey stones and Fordite, the richly patterned, agate-like paint slag salvaged from the paint booths of Detroit’s auto assembly lines.

A big hit at all of the gift shop’s locations are finely crafted ceramic buttons emblazoned with fish, bears, bugs and dozens of other native Michigan creatures, made by Touchstone Pottery in DeWitt.

One of the shop’s most popular stops is a cheery display of candles emblazoned with the logos of some 30 Faygo pop varieties, including obscurities like “Moon Mist,” hand poured at Heart of Michigan in Howell. They’re easy to find, even in these jam-packed aisles. Just look for a group of dreamy looking seniors, with their eyes closed, inhaling the note-perfect smells of Red Pop, Rock & Rye and Vanilla Crème and regressing blissfully into childhood.

Nearby, ultra-sharp ties from Detroit’s Cyberoptix Tie Lab are printed with all manner of inventive designs, from the Detroit Tigers’ Old English “D” to the architectural plans for Detroit’s Michigan Central Train Station.

The shop gleams from all corners with clocks and other things made out



Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Michigan History Center and Library of Michigan Gift Shop manager Kay Ann Schlang is surrounded by hundreds of Michigan-made products, including the Howell-made Faygo pop candle in her hand.

of Michigan copper from Houghton and elsewhere in the Upper Peninsula.

Among the biggest sellers here are Ludington-made Sister Bees lip balm and skin moisturizers, including a mosquito bite balm, and toxin-free nail polish, made in Traverse City, with colors like Copper Country, Sunset on the Lake and Monarch Butterfly.

Candy-apple-red Tawas Point nail polish is especially popular at the History Center’s field gift shop at Tawas Point Lighthouse, where the polish matches the red-roofed service building.

In addition to managing the landlocked Lansing shop, Schlang oversees the Tawas Point shop on Lake Huron and two field locations in the Upper Peninsula, at Fayette State Park and Harbor on the north shore of Lake Michigan and the Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee.

The history center and library don’t stop at marketing Michigan-made products. A home-grown project called Michiganology, spearheaded by state archivist Mark Harvey, makes its own line of products, sold at the Lansing shop and on the Michiganology website.

Two giant printers and a specialized press downstairs at the History Center print, press and cut puzzles based on historic photos of railroads, birds-eye historical views of Michigan and other documents from the archives.

Michiganology also produces decorative prints, including a limited-edition Arctic grayling print, timed for the DNR’s ongoing reintroduction of the arctic Grayling into Michigan waters. Some of the Michiganology shirts are printed by Slick Shirts on Vine Street in Lansing, just a few blocks away from the museum.

“We’re going to start using them more, because they’re local,” Schlang said.

The gift shop has stepped up its efforts to offer items related to exhibits. A major upcoming exhibit of work by Mathias J. Alten, a Michigan Impressionist artist called the “dean of Michigan painters,” will bring prints, magnets, scarves and earrings based on the paintings. For Schlang and the shop staff, each day brings a shipment of something new and different.

“We love it when the coffee shipments come in,” she said. “Everybody walks in and says, ‘Wow, it smells great in here.’”

The best time to visit is after 2 p.m., unless you like to navigate excited throngs of kids on school trips.

As Schlang and I talked, a 7-year-old boy walked purposely to the counter and announced himself.

“I’m coming back here again,” he declared.

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Made in Lansing

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LOW HISS OF A COBRA

Saylor-Beall celebrates 115 years of air compression

You'll find none of your boxy, depressing, pastel-colored, fade-into-the-woodwork air compressors at the Saylor-Beall Manufacturing Co. in St. Johns.

Each Saylor-Beall unit is a bulbous, industrial grade symphony in heavy metal, from the smartly stacked ribs of the cast iron intercooler to the gleaming, manatee-sized tank emblazoned with the retro Saylor-Beall logo. The motor purrs like a barrel-chested panther at 1750 RPM, sending compressed air through the valve with the low hiss of a cobra set to strike.

The 115-year-old business is a notable survivor in an ever-consolidating field. The company moved to St. Johns from Detroit in 1944. The 50,000-square-foot plant was rebuilt in 1955.

Retooling with the latest equipment has helped the company adapt and endure, but it hasn't been easy to fend off competition from overseas companies and domestic giants like Ingersoll Rand.

Bruce McFee joined the firm in 1985 and he's been president since 1994.

"We've tooled the plant up, worked with the UAW and figured out how to build a niche," McFee said. The last four years, he said, have been busier than ever.

About 90 percent of Saylor-Beall's compressors are sold outside Michigan, mainly to auto dealers, small manufacturers or for use in commercial HVAC systems.

"It brings in a lot of revenue from outside the state, money that gets spent here in Michigan," McFee said. Many of Saylor Beall's 44 employees have been with the company for 30, 40 and even 50 years.

"We're probably the most successful independently owned company left in the industry," McFee said. "There's been ups and downs over the years, but orders right now are phenomenal."

McFee estimated that Saylor Beall handles about 25 percent of commercial installations in Michigan, and a smaller share around the country.

This is no mere assembly facility. Here, they fabricate the whole compressor pump — cylinders, blocks, crankshafts, connecting rods and all.



Courtesy

A worker puts a shine on a brand-new Saylor-Beall air compressor, manufactured in St. Johns.

All other components, including motors and air valves, come from domestic manufacturers.

In McFee's view, the benefits of keeping small- and mid-size manufacturers in Michigan go beyond bringing in out-of-state revenue.

"It's good for people to know the value of manufacturing in the area," McFee said. "It brings money in from the outside, the wages are pretty good, employment stability is good. As we convert to a service economy, we're finding out, with worldwide events, that maybe you need some of this basic business still done in the United States, just from a security standpoint."

BRING YOUR OWN WATER, HOPS AND YEAST

Larry Judge brings homemade Mitten State Malt to mid-Michigan

Why is there no malt in heaven? Because we make it here.

Livestock veterinarian Larry Judge recalled sitting in his car in 2014 at the corner of Okemos Road and Grand River Avenue, listening to a news story on the burgeoning craft beer scene.

"The reporter said that with hundreds

of breweries in Michigan, nothing was grown in Michigan, or even processed in the state," Judge said. "It was a light bulb moment."

As any medieval monk knows, beer is the fermented product of water, malt, hops and yeast.

"We grow lots of wheat in Michigan and we can grow barley," Judge said. "Back in the day, Stroh's grew 30,000 acres in Michigan and malted it in Detroit."

The problem, according to the radio report, was a lack of local malt houses.

Two questions flashed into Judge's mind.

First: "Can I start a malt house?"

Second: "What's a malt house?"

As of 2022, there are about a half dozen malt houses in Michigan, in Lansing, Detroit, Grand Rapids, Traverse City and the Upper Peninsula.

"The industry is in its infancy, but we have a national guild now," Judge said. "That's partly because people are starting to ask brewers where the ingredients come from."

There is no place to purchase off-the-rack small malt house equipment, so Judge adapted a variety of farm and industrial gizmos to his small-scale operation.

His steep tank, where the grain is soaked, and kiln tank, where it's dried, are modified stainless steel milk bulk

tanks, built to last, but no longer big enough for modern dairy farms.

Relatives and friends helped Judge fabricate stainless steel fixtures, ducts, fans and electrical panels.

The company logo, designed by Judge's oldest daughter, Ann, depicts a stalk of "two row barley," referring to the two rows of kernels in the head. (Common field barley has six rows.)

The rye, barley and wheat come from various local suppliers, including Judge's own family farm.

"I'm not an owner, but I take advantage of my status as eldest son and tell my brother, 'I'm going to grow some barley in this field,' and they go, 'Oh, OK.' Of course, I do all their vet work for them on their cows."

The first stop for the raw grain is the "steep tank," a stainless-steel bathtub where it soaks under about a foot of water, warmed (or cooled) to about 60 degrees.

"We're trying to raise the moisture content of that grain until it starts growing," Judge said.

Usually, Judge begins the steeping process on Sundays. By Tuesday, tiny rootlets are sprouting from the kernel and it's time to toss the moist grains onto a "malting floor," a steel platform where Judge tosses, flattens and flips the grains with a big shovel until all

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Mitten State Malt man Larry Judge huddles with a fresh batch of beer-ready malt, steeped and dried in his Okemos facility behind Mert’s Meats.

Lawrence Cosentino/City Pulse

Made in Lansing

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growth stops.

“We’re cruel,” he said. “We kill the seed.”

In another repurposing coup, Judge found a cheap and effective way to fit a network of 35 metal baffles under the malting floor to keep the air circulating.

“They aren’t designed for malting,” he said with a grin. “They were designed to hold up network computers, back when network computers filled rooms and generated a lot of heat.”

The malt then rests in a kiln or grain

drier, made from another repurposed milk tank. After about 20 hours of drying, the malt gets a final blast of heat that cooks it brown.

“That’s where the brown color of beer comes from,” he said.

Finally, the grain is fed into “de-bearder” to knock the rootlets, or culm, off the grains, and gets a final screening before the dry, clean seeds are loaded into bags.

“All you have to do is roll it to crush it, soak it in hot water, boil that water, cool it, add your yeast and in a week, you’ve got beer,” he said, as if it all went without saying. “I do it in my garage, just for fun.”

Judge finishes out 350 to 400 pounds

of barley malt or 500 pounds of wheat malt in one batch — about a week’s work.

Locally, his malt is used in a beer called Mitten State White, always on tap at Lansing’s EagleMonk Pub and Brewery. Max’s Crystal Mitten, a beer named after EagleMonk’s brand new grandson, Max, combines Michigan-grown Crystal Hop with Mitten State Malt. Judge also supplies malt to Ozone Brewery in Old Town, Dime’s Brewhouse in Dimondale, Ironbark Brewery in Jackson, Mountain Town Brewing Co. in Mt. Pleasant and several other pubs and restaurants across the state.

The craft brewery market, while still

strong, is showing signs of leveling off, but a new horizon beckons: craft distilleries. The American single malt whiskey market is only beginning to take off. Judge is planning and scouting out a new location where he can scale up to two tons per week.

Michigrain Distillery has already used Judge’s malts to make whiskey, and he hopes to link up with other local distilleries such as Red Cedar Spirits.

“Their stills are huge, and their minimum batch size to steep in is 1,800 pounds,” Judge said. “Right now, that would take me six weeks, but in my new system, I could do two batches a week.”

See Made in Lansing, Page 25



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LANSING SINGULARITY

Lectronix makes a move into the 'Internet of Things'

The “x” in Lectronix could easily stand for the unknown. Physical objects are merging more closely than ever with the electronic circuit boards that govern them, and thousands of those circuit boards are made in Lansing.

Lectronix, in its 20th year, designs and builds circuit boards that perform a dizzying range of tasks, from monitoring the air pressure in a tire to running big and complicated vehicles like a semi-truck or a police car.

Lectronix President Tom Bayerl has seen a lot of changes in high tech, but even he doesn't know what might come next.

Bayerl started out building desktop computers after graduating from MSU in the late 1980s. He co-founded the predecessor of Lectronix, Tel-Gen, specializing in telecommunications, during the dot-com boom of the early 2000s.

The feast didn't last, but Bayerl and his colleagues were in an ideal position to pivot.

When they formed Lectronix in 2002, the auto industry was undergoing a major revolution in computer



Courtesy

Workers assemble circuit boards at the Lansing shop of Lectronix Inc.

technology. It was the perfect time to be a small company in Michigan, specializing in advanced circuit board design and manufacturing.

“It's natural that we fell into these niche markets — police cars, motorhomes, trucks,” Bayerl said. “These are vehicles that are not made in the millions, but they still need all this advanced technology.”

Bayerl still works with some of the same people he met as an undergradu-

ate at MSU in the late 1980s.

“We've stayed together, although it's been through some transitions,” he said.

More than 75 police departments, including the Los Angeles, San Francisco police departments and the Massachusetts state police, use Lectronix systems. Standard police cars often have a potentially dangerous clutter of equipment — a laptop on a pedestal in the passenger space, lights and siren controller, land mobile radio, scanners and other paraphernalia.

Lectronix systems replace much of the clutter with a dashboard screen run by a high-end processor, with steering wheel controls.

After meeting stringent requirements, Lectronix contracted directly with Ford Motor Co. to build the 2020 Ford Interceptor, an integrated package that combines in-dash display, HVAC controls, a PC interface and an Android platform.

This year, Lectronix equipped 3,600 California State Police vehicles with a custom-designed computerized control system, at about \$2500 a pop.

Lectronix also builds advanced navigation systems for trucks and motor homes, and works with major companies like Panasonic and Bose to design state-of-the-art touch screens and “head units” (controls) that help drivers get the most out of their speakers.

Although it's not quite as sexy, Lectr-

onix also builds about a thousand tire pressure sensors, used to ensure tire safety in many types of vehicles, each day.

“We love to work with these different industries, educate others and help them learn,” Bayerl said. “Electronics is becoming so important in so many different industries, compared to 10 years ago.”

You can joke all you want about a smart toaster, but the next frontier for Lectronix is the much-heralded “Internet of Things.” Lectronix is starting to work with big companies that are out to customize and “smarten up” formerly inert devices such as windows and door knobs.

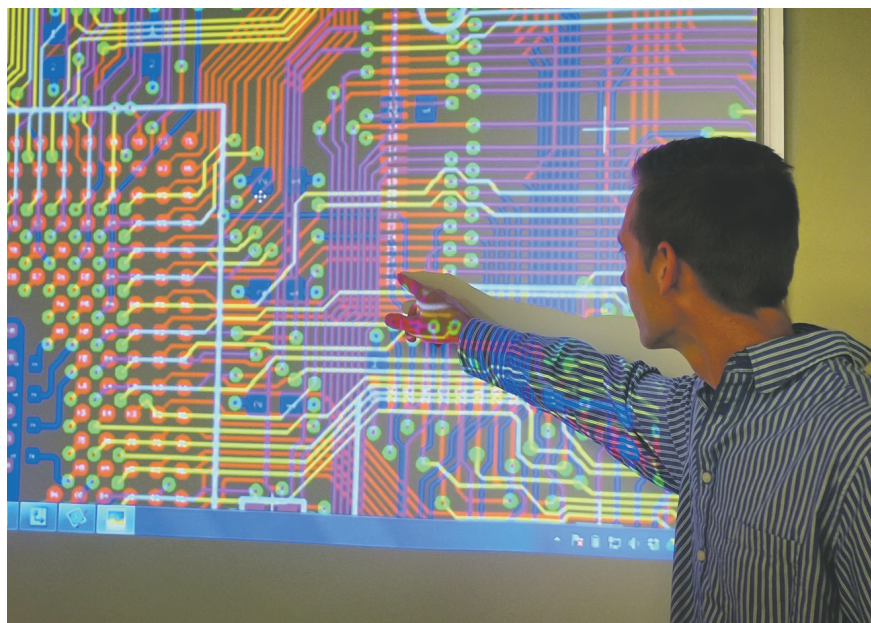
The coming revolution reminds Bayerl of 20 years ago, when the number of communications devices connected to the internet began to explode.

“It started out very low, and then it grew with the explosion of desktop PCs, and then it got five times bigger with smartphones,” he said. “All of that pales compared to the Internet of Things.”

Even an electronics giant like Samsung can't handle all of that work or customize its services like Lectronix can.

“I'm not a home techie, but even I have seven or eight devices that are on the internet — my camera, my thermostat, my doorbells,” Bayerl said. “As these things connect together more and more, even a smart toaster might seem to make sense someday.”

See Made in Lansing, Page 27



Courtesy

Hardware engineer Jeff Judit maps out a custom circuit board job, still in the design phase.

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#MiBeer



Made in Lansing

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MICRO-GREENS AND MACRO-COWS

*Agape Organic Farms raises
purebred Berkshire pigs*

For pioneering Dansville organic farmer Shara Trierweiler, spring means the pitter-patter of tiny ungulates.

Trierweiler raises about 30 purebred Berkshire pigs in an organic rotational grazing system designed to keep them healthy and not to stress them out, following the methods and principles of animal behaviorist Temple Grandin.

One pig had four babies last week. Four pregnant moms, due in April, are expected to produce litters of 10 each.

"So in another month or so, we'll get another 40 pigs," Trierweiler said. "It's been kind of crazy."

Agape Organic Farms is a combination farm, science lab and demonstration of one woman's determination to carve out a place in the world that merits the slogan "no bad stuff, ever."

The farm produces super-nutritious micro-greens, over 30 varieties of mushrooms and the prized, well-marbled pork of organically raised Berkshire pigs.

Trierweiler also has nine dairy goats, but only for the milk and the services they render "defoliating noxious weeds." Chickens provide eggs and gobble up harmful parasites and flies in the pig wallows.

Trierweiler grows over 27 varieties of mushrooms.

She's working on a new setup that will move her mushroom growing operation, laboratory and all, into spacious converted shipping containers.

At present, her dining room serves as her "clean room" and lab for growing mushrooms, complete with Laminar flow hood, ozone generator and other filtering equipment. She has to don a HAZMAT suit to handle the culture and substrate.

"I'm a bit of a science geek," she said.

Trierweiler soaked up a love of ecology when her granduncle, an environmentalist, took her along on trips to rain forests to analyze soil, water and air.

"I was exposed from a young age to some pretty top-notch scientists," she said. "I wanted to become an environmentalist, but my mom thought they lived a semi-nomadic life and don't make money."

Her math acumen made her a success at business school. She got a master's degree in finance and worked as an investment banker for Chase, a wealth manager for Merrill Lynch and a retail manager for PNC Bank.

In 2013, she met a woman at the Ohio State Fair who raised pigs and ran an organic farm.

"She changed the trajectory of my life," Trierweiler recalled. "I'd never seen a woman farming and doing well. She introduced me into the organic movement, and that propelled me to where I am right now."

She took classes, attended workshops and found mentors. She sold her house in Ohio and moved to Michigan with her husband, now her ex-husband.

"I ended up in a domestic violence shelter, and my son and I were homeless while farming for a little over two years," she said. "It was pretty intense. There were many times I thought I was going to quit, but I'm pretty determined."

She bought her Dansville house in 2020, leased land from a neighbor and set to work on building a farm with a reputation for quality produce.

Locally, Trierweiler sells her meat and produce at the Meridian Farmers Market, delivers to customers in a 25-mile radius and supplies produce and meat to a few restaurants in the Grand Rapids area. She has plans to expand the operation, take on employees and distribute her produce more widely.

Trierweiler has plenty on her plate already, but she also feels a unique responsibility to help others succeed at organic farming.

"I'm one of very few Black farmers in the state of Michigan," she said. "My goal is to work with The Fledge to create an immersion program for kids in the inner city, primarily Black kids, excited about farming in a rural setting." The Fledge is a nonprofit community center on Lansing's east side.

There are fewer than 20 Black-



Shara Trierweiler cavorts with her 1,200-pound Berkshire boar, Big John, the herd sire at Agape Organic Farms in Dansville.

Courtesy

owned farms in Michigan, according to Trierweiler. That means that most prospective Black farmers can't meet federal requirements for previous farm experience, ownership or legacy farm family status to apply successfully for startup loans and other forms of aid.

She wants to create a leadership internship to bridge that gap.

"We'll link up interested BIPOC kids with a farmer, with the expectation that they get a leadership and decision-making position on that farm," she said.

The program would not only help young Black farmers learn from a

successful farmer; it would also help them meet the criteria to access federal funds.

"The organic movement gave birth to me," she said. "It's a system I really believe in, and I want to show those kids that it's good for the pigs, good for the environment and good for the humans."

She does it all as a single mom with two kids. Her son, Dominic, is autistic and needs special care. Her 17-year-old daughter, Philomena, goes off to college this year.

"Unfortunately, I'm good at cloning mushrooms, not so much with people," she said.

MICHIGAN POTATOES

Learn more at
mipotato.com



Michiganders are cooking at home more than ever, exploring new cuisines, new techniques, and new ingredients, but it's the humble Michigan potato that is one of the most popular, affordable, and versatile vegetables to include in your daily menu. Roasted, grilled, or even in your favorite dessert, they can be enjoyed countless ways you've never imagined. Best of all, they're grown here in our own backyard.

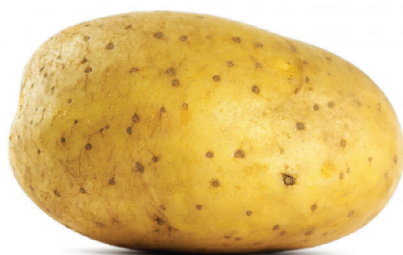


Our Growers

You may not know, but Michigan is home to over 80 potato growers, the majority of which are multi-generational family farms. Michigan's potato farmers aren't big, faceless corporate companies, in many parts of the state they're your neighbors who help support local communities. In fact, the Michigan potato industry contributes approximately \$1.24 billion dollars to Michigan's economy each year, and more than 3,000 jobs in potato production and processing. That's no small potatoes!

The Importance of Buying Local

Nearly everyone wants to care for our environment, and Michiganders are finding new ways to reduce their carbon footprint in their everyday lives. From recycling grocery plastics, or simply turning down the thermostat, there are many things we can do to help the environment, including decisions on how you eat. Buying locally grown food is a great way to do your part in reducing carbon emissions. Michigan potatoes spend just a short time traveling to your dinner plate versus potatoes grown hundreds, or even thousands of miles away. When you're shopping for your next meal, make sure your bag of potatoes is Michigan grown. By choosing locally grown, you not only do your part to help the environment, but your potatoes will be fresh, and last much longer. Plus, you'll know you're supporting your local farmers and their communities across Michigan.



Michigan Potatoes are a Healthy Choice

Let's be honest, sometimes potatoes get a pretty bad wrap. You often see them slathered in butter, deep fried, covered in gravy, or some other over-the-top creation. But potatoes can also be a smart choice for the dinner plate as a key part of a healthy diet. Potatoes are a naturally fat-free, cholesterol-free, and sodium-free vegetable. In addition, potatoes are an excellent source of vitamin C, and an excellent source of potassium. Foods that are good sources of potassium and sodium-free, such as potatoes, may reduce the risk of high blood pressure and stroke. In addition, new research shows that chilling potatoes helps reduce blood glucose level spikes, even when the potato is reheated!

Did you know?

- Michigan is the largest producer of potatoes for potato chips production in the country. In fact, Michigan potatoes fill 1 in 4 bags of potato chips in the US.
- Michigan ranks eighth in the nation for potato production with more than 47,000 acres dedicated to growing potatoes. 1.9 billion pounds of potatoes are harvested in Michigan each year!
- The Michigan potato harvest begins in July and ends in October. Industry leading storage practices extend the availability of Michigan potatoes to almost year-round.
- Michigan potatoes become potato chips, stock local grocery store shelves, frozen, canned, even vodka!
- Michigan Potatoes helps to fund and support state-of-the-art research with Michigan State researchers to increase shelf life, quality, and disease resistance.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

“OK Computer”--each has an integral component.

by Matt Jones

Across

1. When quadrupled, a Crash Test Dummies hit

4. “Dog Day Afternoon” chant

10. Crypto art initials

13. 2010 health law, for short

14. Umpire’s error

16. Gp. with auditors

17. Paste that can be used in breads and meat dishes

19. ___ au vin

20. “The Usual Gang of ___” (Mad Magazine group)

21. Screen that may loop until you start the movie

23. Heat, in Honduras

24. “Night” essayist Wiesel

26. It is, to Iglesias

27. Entity that manages composers’ intellectual property

30. Prepare a slingshot

31. River painted by van Gogh

32. It’s south of Leb.

35. 1998 Matthew Lillard film set in Utah

38. 6-pointers, briefly

39. Complete beginners, slangily

41. It may offer couples packages

42. Pressure-driven apparatuses

49. Last half of a ball game?

50. Alley group

51. “Fiddlesticks!”

53. One of Paul Revere’s signals

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65

55. Possible choice

56. “Addams Family” cousin

57. Nurikabe, Masyu, or sudoku

60. Advanced degree in math?

61. More racy, as humor

62. Snakelike fish

63. Garage opener?

64. Decorated again

65. Source of the skit “Word Crunch,” where players find inappropriate words in a word search

Down

1. Specialty of the late Amazing Johnathan

2. Engineer for whom a type of paving is named

3. Henner of “Evening Shade” and “Taxi”

4. “Roll to Me” group Del ___

5. Eyelid twitches, e.g.

6. Cough syrup amt.

7. “ER” setting

8. “Bodak Yellow” rapper

9. Sussex secondary school exam

10. Compliment from a tennis opponent

11. User interface

12. Drafting tools

15. Was winning

18. “Happy Birthday” playwright Anita

22. Blend together

24. “Lawrence of Arabia,” for one

25. Groups indiscriminately

28. Hall-of-Famer Ripken

29. Tick off

32. Getting some air

33. Vegan coffee shop order

34. Nicholas Sparks’s “Nights in ___”

35. 9-digit no. issuer

36. Bars in supermarkets

37. Time out

40. Telly watcher

43. Commotion

44. Van ___ Mungo (‘30s-’40s baseball player with a novelty song named for him)

45. Tarnished

46. Chrissy of “This Is Us”

47. Game show giveaways

48. Taken dishonestly

52. Tackle box line

54. Links star Ernie

55. Receptive

58. “ ___ be an honor!”

59. 1955 merger with the AFL

SUDOKU

Advanced

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

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 31

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Breznsy

March 31-April 5, 2022

ARIES (March 21–April 19): In 1904, it wasn’t illegal to use performance-enhancing drugs during Olympic competitions. Runner Thomas Hicks took advantage of this in the marathon race. The poison strychnine, which in small doses serves as a stimulant, was one of his boosters. Another was brandy. By the time he approached the finish line, he was hallucinating and stumbling. His trainers carried him the rest of the way, and he was declared the winner. I recommend you make him your inspirational role model in the coming weeks. How might you cheat to gain a great victory? APRIL FOOL! I lied. While it’s true that a meaningful triumph is within your reach, you’re most likely to achieve it by acting with total integrity, following the rules, and imbibing no stimulating poisons.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): Science fiction aficionado Wil Wheaton suggests that all of us should have the following: 1. a nemesis; 2. an evil twin; 3. a secret headquarters; 4. an escape hatch; 5. a partner in crime; 6. a secret identity. Dear Taurus, I have doubts that you possess any of these necessities. Please embark on intensive efforts to acquire all of them. Your deadline is April 21. APRIL FOOL! I half-lied. There’s no way you could add all those things to your repertoire in such a short time. See if you can at least get a secret identity and a partner in crime. It’s time to have wicked fun as you add to your potency and effectiveness.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): “I hate being on my best behavior,” wrote Gemini author Colleen McCullough. “It brings out the absolute worst in me.” In the coming weeks, I hope you avoid the danger she describes. Don’t be on your best behavior! Emulate Gemini filmmaker Clint Eastwood, who said, “I tried being reasonable, but I didn’t like it.” APRIL FOOL! I lied. Here’s the real truth: Being kind and generous and reasonable will be your secret weapon in the next three weeks. Doing so will empower you to make interesting and unforeseen progress.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): A Tumblr blogger named Alyssa complains, “I’m still peeved that I can’t fly or set things on fire with my mind.” You might share that feeling, Cancerian. But here’s the good news: I predict that you could soon acquire, at least temporarily, the power to fly and set things on fire with your mind. Use these talents wisely, please! APRIL FOOL! I lied. In fact, you probably won’t be able to fly or set things on fire with your mind anytime soon. However, you may acquire other superpowers that are only slightly less fantastic. For example, you could change the mind of an ally who has been ridiculously stubborn. You could uncover a big secret that has been hidden. You could mend a wound you thought would never heal. Any other superpowers you need right now?

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): I suspect that only a Leo would say what Leo filmmaker Stanley Kubrick once asserted: “You know, it’s not absolutely true in every case that nobody likes a smart ass.” In accordance with astrological omens, I authorize you to prove his assertion. Be the kind of smart ass that people like. APRIL FOOL! I’m half-joking. The truth is, I hope you will be the kind of smart ass that people absolutely adore and get inspired by.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): In honor of your arrival in the most lyrical and soulful phase of your cycle, I offer you advice from poet Richard Jackson: “The secret is to paint your own numbers on the clock, to brush away those webs that cover the wild country of the soul, to let your star hover between the flowers of the moon and the flowers of the sun, like words you have never spoken yet always hear.” APRIL FOOL! I partially lied. I don’t think you should paint your own numbers on the clock. But the rest of what Jackson said is totally applicable and useful for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): “I want excitement,” declared Libra novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald, “and I don’t care what form it takes or what I pay for it,

so long as it makes my heart beat.” In the coming weeks, I hope you will make that statement your motto. APRIL FOOL! I half-lied. While I do foresee you being able to gather a wealth of excitement, I hope you won’t be as extreme as Fitzgerald in your pursuit of it. There will be plenty of opportunities for excitement that won’t require you to risk loss or pay an unwelcome price.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): “If you can’t make fun of yourself, you don’t have a right to make fun of others,” said comedian Joan Rivers. I agree! So if you are feeling an irresistible urge to mock people and fling sarcasm in all directions, please prepare by first mocking yourself and being sarcastic toward yourself. APRIL FOOL! I lied. I will never authorize you to make fun of others. Never! In the coming weeks, I hope you’ll do the opposite: Dole out massive doses of praise and appreciation toward everyone. To prepare, dole out massive doses of praise and appreciation toward yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): In the traditional opera performed in China’s Sichuan province, magical effects were popular. One trick involved characters making rapid changes of their masks. The art was to remove an existing mask and don a new one with such speed that the audience could not detect it. An old master, Peng Denghuai, once wore 14 different masks in 24 seconds. This is an antic I think you should imitate in the coming days. The more frequently you alter your persona and appearance, the more successful and popular you’ll be. APRIL FOOL! I half-lied. I recommend that you gleefully experiment with your image and exuberantly vary your self-presentation. But don’t overdo it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): A nutritionist named Mark Haub decided to try losing weight by eating only sugary treats. For 10 weeks, he snacked on junk food cakes, cookies, and sweet cereals. By the end, he had lost 27 pounds. In accordance with astrological omens, I suggest you try the metaphorical equivalents of this project. For instance, work on deepening your relationships by engaging your allies in shallow conversations about trivial subjects. Or see if you can enhance your physical fitness by confining your exercise to crossing and uncrossing your legs as you sit on the couch watching TV. APRIL FOOL! I lied. Here’s your real horoscope: For the next four weeks, take better care of your body and your relationships than you ever have before in your life. Make it a point to educate yourself about what that would entail, and be devoted to providing the most profound nurturing you can imagine.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Aquarius-born Giordano Bruno (1548–1600) was bravely heretical in his work as a philosopher, poet, mathematician, and friar. He angered the Catholic Church with his unorthodox views about Jesus and Mary, as well as his belief in reincarnation, his practice of occult magic, and his views that there are other stars besides our sun. Eventually, the authorities burned him at the stake for his transgressive ideas. Beware of a similar outcome for expressing your unusual qualities! APRIL FOOL! Luckily, no punishment will result if you express the rich fullness of your idiosyncrasies in the coming weeks. I’m happy about that, since I’m encouraging you to be as eccentrically yourself as you want to be.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Life is too complicated to accurately comprehend. There’s too much to know! It’s impossible to make truly savvy and rational decisions. Maybe the best strategy is to flip a coin or throw the dice or draw a Tarot card before doing anything. APRIL FOOL! While it’s a fact that life is too complex for our conscious minds to fully master, we have massive resources available on subconscious and superconscious levels: our deep soul and our higher self. Now is an excellent time to enhance your access to these mother lodes of intelligence.

Go to [RealAstrology.com](#) to check out Rob Breznsy’s EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

TURN IT DOWN!

Loud dispatches from Lansing's music scene

BY RICH TUPICA

LIFE CHANGING ALBUMS: JAMES GARDIN TALKS TALIB KWELI



Courtesy

James Gardin is a fixture in the Lansing hip-hop scene. This week, he recalls how Talib Kweli's "Quality" LP changed how he listened to music.

Lansing-based emcee recalls how 2002 'Quality' LP inspired his craft

Over the last 15 years, James Gardin has been a vibrant force in Lansing's music scene. His empowering rhymes are backed by fun, soulful beats and topped off with electrifying live performances.

His lyric books are filled with dynamic words that range from cerebral and reflective to cool and confident. His catalog is bursting with good vibes, while still maintaining a poetic, provocative edge.

That poignantly fresh sound comes from years loving not only top-notch rap albums and mixtapes, but also gospel, soul and funky R&B. His acclaimed solo discography tastefully echoes an array of those inspiring legends — Kirk Franklin, Kanye West and Bill Withers, to name a few. The result? His own releases are often compared to the likes of Chance The Rapper, Anderson .Paak, and Childish Gambino.

Hundreds of shows and stacks of recordings later, his career has been covered in countless rap publications, but also via major outlets like USA Today. His music has also been licensed on major placements for Apple, T-Mobile, Spotify, Tommy Hilfiger and

ESPN, among others.

In this edition of the "Life Changing Albums" series, Gardin digs back to his childhood and recalls how he first discovered a now-classic hip-hop LP, released by Rawkus Records in 2002.

What is the album that changed your life and when did you discover it?

It's Talib Kweli's album "Quality." I had to be around 16. I was in high school, it was 2002, and I was just a shy kid still trying to find my voice in this world.

Who introduced you to the LP?

I remember the exact person, but I don't want to get them in trouble. So, someone sold me a burnt copy of the album for \$5 in our geometry class. I ended up purchasing it the legit way later on. If you want a representation of some of hip hop's best in 2002 — listen to this album. If you want to hear and feel what Brooklyn was like through the eyes and voice of one of their citizens — listen to this album.

Did the album have an immediate impact on you, or did it take time to grow on you?

The album was the first time I real-

ly fell in love with an album that had conscious content. I was raised by the radio, so before then, I only listened to what would be deemed a hit. This was the first time I was getting introduced to Talib's music, Black Thought and Kanye.

Music or lyrics — which one touched you the most on "Quality"?

The lyrics! This album had some of the best rapping I had heard at that time, and the content is so honest and human. "Get By" was of course a hit, but songs like "Where Do We Go" had such a strong emotional connection and message. It really resonated with me. This album was probably one of the catalysts that let me know my content could reflect my real life and I didn't have to push fantasy or a facade in my lyrics. This album also made me really care about my lyrics being thought provoking and clever.

Can this album change your mood? When is the best time to listen to "Quality"?

This album can definitely change my mood. It's an album that reminds me of simpler times. As I answer this question, I think the best time to listen

to this album is right now. It's wild that a couple years ago I was able to open up for Talib. I really wish I would've told him all of this in person. I don't think I would be the artist I am today without his album.

During the shutdown, what were you up to?

During the pandemic, I released my first self-produced album "I Probably Wrote This While Crying." I made it at home and it's probably one of my most personal records. I'm super proud with how vulnerable and raw it feels. The pandemic was a time of self-discovery and growth and this album really shows an honest snapshot of that journey.

What's next for James Gardin?

I'm wrapping up an album that should be out by fall of 2022. I plan on dropping singles starting in the spring of 2022. I am also back to booking shows as the world keeps opening up. You'll be seeing a lot more from me.

Visit supercleanjames.com for more information on James Gardin.



OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 9 a.m. Monday 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
Keith Minaya
Thurs., March 31, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Blue Owl
1149 S Washington, Lansing
Elden Kelly and Gregg Hill
Thurs., March 31, 6-8 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill
16219 N. US 27, Lansing
The New Rule
Fri.- Sat., April 1-2, 8 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.
204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Deacon Earl
Fri., April 1, 7-10 p.m.
Matt Adkins
Sat. April 2, 7-10 p.m.

Green Door
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Soulstice
Fri., April 1, 8:30 p.m.
Bourbon Legends
Sat., April 2, 8:30 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Company
518 E. Shiawassee St., Lansing
Lucid Vibe
Sat., April 2, 8-11 p.m.

One North
5001 W. Saginaw, Lansing
Darin Larner Jr.
Sat., April 2, 6:30 p.m.

Peanut Barrel
521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
The Swift Brothers
Fri., April 1, 8-10 p.m.

Robin Theatre
1120 S. Washington, Lansing
James Gardin
Wed., March 30, 8 p.m.

Urban Beat
1213 N. Turner St., Lansing
Creative Collective Presents Black Balloon
Wed., March 30, 6-7:30 p.m.
Absolute Music Presents Ralph Votapek
Thurs., March 31, 7:30-10 p.m.
Olivia Van Goor
Fri., April 1, 7-10 p.m.
Paxton/Spangler Septet
Sat., April 2, 7-10 p.m.

The Spartan Dischords: 40th Anniversary Concert

East Lansing Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing
7:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. April 2

Saturday, April 2 — The Spartan Dischords, Michigan State University's oldest all-male a cappella group, are celebrating 40 years. Enjoy the blend of harmony and humor from generations of Spartan Dischords from the '80s to the 2010s. The vocalists will perform a setlist of "songs from when they were cool." Proceeds from the concert, which is appropriate for all ages, will support the current Spartan Dischords and their effort to overcome performing challenges caused by the pandemic. Tickets start at \$15 (\$10 for students) and can be purchased online at dischordsturn40.com.

Wednesday, March 30

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

Leslie Friends of the Library Book Sale - March 30-31, 2-6 p.m. Woodworth Elementary School, 212 Pennsylvania, Leslie. cadl.org.

March is Reading Month - Daily events at GLADL. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org

Michigan History Center Presents: I Voted: Michigan's Struggle for Suffrage - Michigan History Center and Archives of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo, Lansing. michigan.gov.

Spring Break Activity - We will be showing the movie "Encanto" in the library at 1:30. No Library Card or registration is required. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradi.org.

Threads of Wisdom: Witches' Pyramid - Online or in person for discussion. 6-8 p.m. Weavers of the Web, ATC, 809 Center #7A, Lansing. Weaversoftheweb.org

Thursday, March 31

America at Crossroads Conference - Discover practical answers on how to enjoy better health and maintain vitality. 6:30-8 p.m. Lansing Church Auditorium, 5400 W. St. Joseph Hwy, Lansing. crossroads.to.

International Chamber Soloists with violinist Dmitri Berlinsky - performing a variety of string works celebrating the birthday of Johann Sebastian. 8:30 p.m.

Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Rd, East Lansing. 517-355-1855. events.msu.edu.

LAFCU Write to Educate Scholarship Contest - The deadline is today for the 2022 LAFCU Write to Educate Essay Contest. 12 a.m.-11:30 p.m. LAFCU, 106 N. Marketplace Boulevard, Lansing. lafcu.com.

Make & Take Pop Up: Cesar Chavez Day Screen Printing - Screen print a set of postcards featuring United Farm Workers themes. 1-4 p.m. MSU Main Library, 366 W. Circle, East Lansing. msu.edu.

Sights and Sounds: All Things Composition, Part I - Tour History Told Slant while hearing a sneak-peek of works by Martha Redbone, Meg Okura, and Pascal Le Boeuf. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu

Spring Break Activity - Straw Weaving Kits will be available in our vestibule starting Thursday, March 31st. 10 a.m.-7

p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradi.org.

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.

The Ukulele Kings - performance 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson, Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org

What About Worms? - The Eaton County Resource Recovery is bringing their Worm Bin to the Playground of Dreams! 4:30-5:30 p.m. 100 Howe Dr., Eaton Rapids. eradi.org.

Friday, April 1

April Daily Events @ GLADL - It's time for April Showers! 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. 517-627-7014. gladl.org.

See Events, Page 32

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
From Pg. 29

M	M		A	T	T	I	C	A		N	F	T		
A	C	A		M	I	S	C	A	L	L		I	R	S
G	A	R	L	I	C	P	U	R	E	E		C	O	Q
I	D	I	O	T	S			D	V	D	M	E	N	U
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I	T	T		L	O	G	I	C	P	U	Z	Z	L	E
N	T	H		S	A	L	T	I	E	R		E	E	L
G	E	E			R	E	D	O	N	E		S	N	L

SUDOKU SOLUTION
From Pg. 29

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

Events

from page 31

Fish Fry Fridays - through April 15. 5:30-7:30 p.m. VFW Post 701, 123 N. Rosemary St., Lansing.

Focus Tour: Solace - One artwork. One guest. One theme. Artwork Recovery by artist Beverly Fishman. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu

Indoors/Outdoors Art Show - Andrea Jeris' Art Show: "Indoors/Outdoors" 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through April. Framers' Edge and Gallery, 1856 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. framersedge.net.

Interconnected: Chamber Work Premieres - This concert presents six chamber work premieres. 9 p.m. MSU Murray Hall, 333 W. Circle Dr., East Lansing. events.msu.edu.

Lansing 2600 Meeting - a monthly gathering of local hackers, phreaks, nerds, geeks, sympathizers, and others of various labelability. 6-8 p.m. The Fledge, 1300 Eureka St, Lansing. 517-230-7679.

Long Hair Utopia - A 70's Themed Art Show - Long Hair Utopia is coming April 1st and 2nd! 5-8 p.m. Keller's Plaza, 100 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston.

Rock Painting Kit (All ages) - Decorate a rock and donate it to an upcoming Haslett Beautification Association project. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street, Haslett. 517-339-2324. cadl.org.

Sally Rogers and Claudia Schmidt - 7:30-10 p.m. University United Methodist Church, 1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Spring Break Activity - Squish Monsters kits will be available in our vestibule starting Friday, April 1st. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eaton Rapids Area District Library, 220 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. eradl.org.

Saturday, April 2

Contra and Square Dance - All dances taught - no partner needed. 7-10 p.m. Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Family Day: Observe - First Saturday means Family Day at the MSU Broad! 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, 547 E Circle Dr, East Lansing. broadmuseum.msu.edu

Rainbow Homes Annual Silent Auction & Dinner - 6-9 p.m. St. Mary's Cathedral, 219 Seymour Ave., Lansing. rainbow-homes.org.

Sabbath Meeting Trial - New Assembly of Yahweh - for like-minded believers in Yahweh and Yahshua. 1-4:30 p.m. Candlewood Suites, 3545 Forest Rd., Lansing.

The Spartan Dischords: 40th Anniversary Concert - 7-10 p.m. East Lansing Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. dischordsturn40.com.

Sunday, April 3

Advance Studies Gateway at FRIB Seminar - virtual featuring Lisa Randall. 1-3 p.m. Facility for Rare Isotope Beams. Virtual via Zoom. frib.msu.edu.

Keys to Manifestation Workshop - Presenter: Terri Bedford. 3-4 p.m. info and tickets at weaversoftheweb.org

Sensory Friendly Movies - 1-3 p.m. Downtown Lansing Branch Library, 401 S. Capitol Ave., Lansing. 517-367-6350. cadl.org.

Monday, April 4

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

Creative Writing Kits (Age 5 & up) - fun writing projects that include instructions and supplies. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Dansville Branch Library, 1379 E. Mason St., Dansville. 517-623-6511. cadl.org.

Scrabble Hour - Recreational Scrabble 6-8 p.m. East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Rd., East Lansing. 517-351-2420. elpl.bibliocommons.com.

Workshop - Goals and Vision for 2022 - Learn some valuable tools to help you develop meaningful goals and a vision for your life that aligns with your needs and values. 6-8:30 p.m. Foster Community Center, 200 N Foster Ave, Lansing. 517-483-4233. parksonline.lansingmi.gov.

Tuesday, April 5

America at Crossroads - Discover how to enjoy better health and maintain vitality at Crossroads Conference. 6:30-8 p.m. Lansing Church Auditorium, 5400 W. St. Joseph Hwy, Lansing. crossroads.to.

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

Brian Charette - Modern organ jazz with dueling B3s! Jordan Young on drums 7:30 p.m. Moriarty's Pub, 802 E Michigan Ave, Lansing.

Make & Take Pop Up: Painting Pride - After taking a look at Special Collections Queer Radicalism collection, celebrate pride at the Makerspace! 2-5 p.m. MSU Main Library, East Lansing. msu.edu.

\$mart Money MI Kids Read Kit and Storytime - Listen to a story and take home a free kit. 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org

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

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

Toastmasters Meeting - Improve your speaking skills. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Zoom capitalcitytoastmasters.toastmastersclubs.org.

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FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

Ring in spring with these chimichurri and carrot fried noodles

By **ARI LeVAUX**

Some of my favorite recipes come from vegetable growers. Farm cooks know how to feed a bunch of people efficiently, producing mountains of delicious nourishment to energize the farm hands without weighing them down.

I am friends with some farmers who can really cook and are generous with their recipes. Luci Brieger of Lifeline Produce Farms has this carrot pasta dish that she's perfected over many years. It's sweet, earthy and comforting, and makes you ravenous. Josh Slotnick of Clark Fork Organics recently came up with a noodle recipe, based loosely on pad thai, as a way of burning through mountains of excess parsley. He makes a tangy chimichurri — a steak sauce from Argentina — and tosses it into fried noodles.

It's nice to have brilliant friends whose shoulders you can stand on while

you steal their recipes and mix them together. Combining these recipes entails some tough choices, like deciding which type of noodle to use. If we go with a semolina-based pasta, a la carrot pasta, then we'll add grated hard cheese and perhaps anchovy for extra umami. If we use rice noodles, a la chimichurri pad thai, we'll get our umami from fish sauce and soy sauce.

After some taste tests, rice noodles were clearly the best choice for this carrot and parsley sauce. They have a pleasing elasticity, can be pan-fried crispy and hold the sauce admirably. I prefer the extra-wide rice noodles, which have a supple quality that makes chewing extra-fun.

Rice noodles are also less finicky than pasta and easier to prepare perfectly. You don't even have to boil them. Simply dunk dried noodles in a pot of room temperature water and turn your atten-

tion to other matters. By the time you are ready to fry, your perfect noodles will be waiting.

Chimichurri and carrot fried noodles

With vivid colors and vibrant earthy flavors, these noodles will ring in spring, blow everyone's mind and won't make too much of a mess. It may be Asian-style, but this luxurious dish is rich enough to handle a glass of Italian red.

1 14-oz package of rice noodles, preferably the wide kind

1-pound carrots, peeled and cut into coins about 1/4 inch thick

2 tablespoons butter

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 medium-sized onion, chopped

1/2 cup olive oil

3 cloves garlic, pressed or minced

See Chimichurri, Page 35



Ari LeVaux

The recipe for the noodles was inspired by two friends.

FLASH
in the pan



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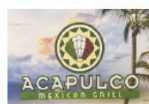
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Chimichurri

from page 34

2 tablespoons rice vinegar
Zest and juice of a lemon
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 cup water
1 bunch of parsley, including stems,

chopped

1 tablespoon fish sauce
2 tablespoons soy sauce

Optional: red pepper flakes as a garnish

Fill a large pot or bowl with about a gallon of water. Add the noodles and let them soak for about 45 minutes, until they are limp but not completely done, with a bit of stiffness still. Drain the noodles and set aside until it's time to fry them.

Add the butter and two tablespoons of olive oil to a heavy-bottomed pan, with the heat between low and medium. Add the carrot coins, spreading them out so that they are all touching the pan, with no double-decker carrots. Let them simmer for 15 minutes, lightly softening.

Stir the carrots and spread them again. Add the onions atop the carrots, but don't stir them in right away. Let it continue cooking quietly on the low side with the lid on. The onions will add moisture and steam the carrots. After 10 minutes, stir again. Keep cooking on low.

Meanwhile, make the chimichurri. Add 1/2 cup olive oil to a blender, along with the garlic, rice vinegar, lemon zest, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Blend.

Stop the blender. Add the minced parsley. Blend again until it has become the savory green puree known as chimichurri.

Remove the carrots and onions from the pan. Add the noodles and spread them out so as many are touching as possible. Turn the heat up to medium and add the carrots back on top of the noodles.

After about five minutes, the noodles on the bottom will start to develop a browned crisp. Add of the chimichurri on top of the carrots, but don't mix it in. Yet.

After another five minutes or so, add the soy sauce and fish sauce and stir everything together. If the noodles are too stiff, add 1/4 cup of water, put the lid on, turn off the heat and wait 10 minutes. After it cools a little bit, stir in the rest of the chimichurri and serve, garnished with pepper flakes.

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